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**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 17th, 2018
ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
6:30 PM**

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with Selectmen – Fran Newton, Harold Lamos, Kathleen DeWolfe, and Casey Barney, all present, Selectman Leigh Sharps was absent with advanced noticed. Others present: Town Administrator Charles Smith.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Selectman DeWolfe
To approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes from December 3rd, 2018.

SECOND: Selectman Barney

VOTE: 4-0 (All in favor)

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Selectman DeWolfe
To approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes from December 12th, 2018.

SECOND: Chairman Newton

DISCUSSION: Selectman Lamos requested a change to line #11 the word “early” as the meeting did not start until 12:30 P.M.

VOTE: 2-0-2 (All in favor – Lamos and Barney abstained; not present for meeting)

MOTION PASSED

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **2019 Town Warrant Articles and Default Budget** – Town Administrator Smith presented to the Board of Selectmen a draft of 2019’s town warrant and default budget. The Board of Selectmen reviewed the warrant articles, excluding petition warrant articles as those aren’t due until January 8th. TA Smith mentioned how many of the requested monetary articles are carried over from last years warrant. Department Heads explained the need for continued funding of the Capital Reserve Funds (CRF). New articles proposed at the meeting were;
- i. Capital infrastructure needs at the Transfer Station; a new truck scale, structure for storage, and compact containers, these appropriation requests also ask for the amount to come from unassigned fund balance and won’t have taxation.
 - ii. To prepare for the next town wide property revaluation a new CRF has been requested to be on the warrant, request appropriation is \$20,000. Board reduced the line item in the budget that funds the revaluation from \$33,000 to the requested amount. Tax impact would be a \$13,000 reduction.
 - iii. Board was presented an article to change the Building Maintenance and Repair Fund to the “Building Maintenance and Grounds Capital Reserve

- 1 Fund.” Requested change would allow the Board to expend CRF on town
2 buildings and land.
- 3 iv. Contingency fund; this warrant article would only be legal for one calendar
4 year and to be continued it would take a revote of the legislative body. If
5 approved, the article would allow for the requested appropriation to be transfer
6 from the unassigned fund balance and be used for unanticipated expenses. If
7 the appropriation wasn’t completely used the remaining balance would lapse
8 back into the general fund.
- 9 v. Default Budget – the Board of Selectmen scheduled a meeting on December
10 27th at 12PM in the Town Office to discuss the default budget and continue
11 discussion about the warrant articles.

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13 **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

- 14 a. **Town Administrator updates** – general update report from the town departments for
15 the month of November was discussed with the Board of Selectmen.
- 16 b. **Project List** – updates on Board of Selectmen projects.
- 17 i. NHDOT – TAP grant; TA and DPW Director me with KV Partners and
18 NHDOT District 3 about the engineering design for the sidewalk project on
19 Rt. 3.
- 20 ii. Ashland Properties/L.W. Packard Mill Site – town was awarded a \$12,000
21 feasibility grant from CDFR to study potential use of the property.
- 22 iii. LCHIP grant (Town Office building) – an extension to complete the study was
23 requested and agreed to by LCHIP.
- 24 iv. Building Permit fees – the Planning Board agreed to a joint meeting with the
25 Selectmen about the potential increase to fees.
- 26 v. Solar Energy – ReVision Energy attend a recent Board meeting and discussed
27 the benefits of solar energy.

28 **V. SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

- 29 a. **Town counsel support** – before discussion on the topic began, Chairman Newton
30 immediately recused herself. TA Smith mention how the town faces litigation on a
31 “right-to-know” claim and two Selectmen received dismissal claims. TA Smith asked
32 for a vote from remaining Board members on legal support for their fellow board
33 members.

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35 **MOTION:** Selectman DeWolfe

36 *To continue support per legal advice until further notice.*

37 **SECOND:** Selectman Barney

38 **VOTE:** 2-0-1 (Vice Chairman Lamos abstained)

39 **DISCUSSION:** Selectman Barney felt support should be regardless on who the
40 litigation is against. We should stand by our public officials or else nobody might run
41 for public office if we decided against support. Selectman DeWolfe concurred with
42 Selectman Barney.

43 **MOTION PASSED**

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- 1 b. **Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) memo to Federal Communication**
2 **Commission (FCC)** – LPRC requested support from the town in sending a memo to
3 FCC about correcting the 4G LTE cell service coverage maps in the Lakes Region.
4 Board agreed to the memo and signed.
5 c. **Christmas Night in Ashland** – the Selectmen thanked all those involved that helped
6 with this wonderful event.
7 d. Board requested the Town Administrator send a memo/email to the Ashland 150th
8 Committee about end of year activities for the committee.
9 e. “Restoration of Books” encumbrance; board voted to encumber \$2,000 for the
10 restoration of historic books in the town office. Town Clerk provided the board an
11 invoice to restore the books.

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13 **MOTION:** Selectman DeWolfe

14 *To encumber \$2,000 from line item 01-4130-10-611 for the restoration of books.*

15 **SECOND:** Selectman Barney

16 **VOTE:** 4-0 (All in favor)

17 **MOTION PASSED**

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19 **VI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

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21 **MOTION:** Selectman DeWolfe

22 *To enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A;3, II (a).*

23 **SECOND:** Selectman Sharps

24 **VOTE:** 4-0 (All in favor)

25 **MOTION PASSED**

26 The Board of Selectmen entered nonpublic session at 7:14 P.M. and reconvened at
27 7:37 P.M. Board announced a \$1/hour salary increase for the DPW Foreman position.
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29 **VII. Board of Selectmen adjourned their meeting at 7:38 P.M.**

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31 *These minutes were written by Town Administrator Charles Smith on December 19, 2018.*
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