



TOWN OF ASHLAND

2019 Warrant – Voters Guide

**TOWN OF ASHLAND
2019 WARRANT**

<u>ARTICLE</u>		<u>APPROPRIATION</u>
ARTICLE 1	Election of Officers	N/A
ARTICLE 2	Thompson St road reconstruction project	\$1,799,420
ARTICLE 3	Water and Sewer septage receiving	N/A
ARTICLE 4	Town operating budget	TBD
ARTICLE 5	Electric Department operating budget	N/A
ARTICLE 6	Water Department operating budget	N/A
ARTICLE 7	Sewer Department operating budget	N/A
ARTICLE 8	Lease payment fire apparatus	\$107,789
ARTICLE 9	Lease payment Public Works loader	\$27,142
ARTICLE 10	Final lease payment for Transfer Station mini loader	\$5,391
ARTICLE 11	Road Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$100,000
ARTICLE 12	Property Tax Map Capital Reserve Fund (no taxation)	\$39,300
ARTICLE 13	Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund	\$25,000
ARTICLE 14	Department of Public Works Capital Reserve Fund	\$25,000
ARTICLE 15	Police Department Capital Reserve Fund	\$25,000
ARTICLE 16	Ashland Library Building Capital Reserve Fund	\$20,000
ARTICLE 17	Building Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve Fund	\$5,000
ARTICLE 18	Establish revaluation Capital Reserve Fund	\$20,000
ARTICLE 19	Change Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund	N/A
ARTICLE 20	Transfer Station scale (no taxation)	\$55,000
ARTICLE 21	Transfer Station building structure (no taxation)	\$43,400
ARTICLE 22	Transfer Station compact containers (no taxation)	\$17,500
ARTICLE 23	Contingency fund (no taxation)	\$25,000
ARTICLE 24	Fire Department per diem firefighters	\$55,000
ARTICLE 25	Ashland Conservation Commission membership	N/A
ARTICLE 26	PETITIONED: Town Manager	N/A
ARTICLE 27	PETITIONED: Board of Selectmen membership	N/A
ARTICLE 28	PETITIONED: Pemi-Baker Community Health	\$9,700
ARTICLE 29	PETITIONED: Grafton County Senior Citizens Council	\$6,000
ARTICLE 30	PETITIONED: Lakes Region Mental Health Center	\$3,500
ARTICLE 31	PETITIONED: Tri-County CAP	\$3,107
ARTICLE 32	PETITIONED: Voices Against Violence	\$3,000
ARTICLE 33	PETITIONED: Day Away Program	\$1,500
ARTICLE 34	PETITIONED: CADY	\$1,000

TOWN OF ASHLAND
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
2019 WARRANT

To the inhabitants of the Town of Ashland, in the County of Grafton in said State, qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

First Session – You are hereby notified to meet for the First (Deliberative) Session of the Annual Town Meeting, to be held at the William J. Tirone Gymnasium, 27 Highland Street, Ashland, New Hampshire, on the 2nd day of February 2019, being Saturday at 10:00 A.M. The First (Deliberative) Session will consist of explanation, discussion and debate of each of the following articles and will afford those voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to each warrant article, except those articles whose wording is prescribed by state law.

Second Session – You are also notified to meet for the Second Session of the Annual Town Meeting, to elect Town Officers by official ballot and to vote by official ballot on the warrant articles as they may have been amended at the First Session, to be held at the William J. Tirone Gymnasium, 27 Highland Street, Ashland, New Hampshire on the 12th day of March 2019, being Tuesday, the polls to be open at 8:00 A.M. and may not close prior to 7:00 P.M. to act upon the following:

ARTICLE 1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Board of Selectmen: 3-year term – 1 position
- Budget Committee: 3-year term – 1 position
- Trustee of the Trust Funds: 3-year term – 1 position
- Library Trustee: 3-year term – 1 position
- Electric Commissioner: 3-year term – 1 position
- Water and Sewer Commissioner: 3-year term – 1 position
- Cemetery Trustee: 3-year term – 1 position

ARTICLE 2. No Tax Impact in 2019, tax impact beginning in 2020 for duration of the loan.

[Passage of this article shall override the 10 percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the budget committee.]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,799,420 for the purpose of a road and water and sewer reconstruction project on Thompson Street, High Street, and Smith Hill Road, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,799,420 of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; 3/5 ballot vote required.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Not recommended by the Budget Committee vote 3-3

Passage of this bond article provides funding to reconstruct the roads, water, sewer and drainage on Thompson Street. High Street and Smith Hill Road do not have water and sewer lines. We will be reconstructing these roads and replacing the drainage only. The water and sewer line replacement on Thompson St. will be paid for by Ashland Water & Sewer with no tax impact. Town has preliminary been accepted for funding through the NHDES Clean Water State Revolving Fund, pending town approval of article. Benefits of SRF funding, town saves on financing from, below market interest rates, no closing costs, no prepayment fees, and principal loan forgiveness, as much as 10% of the loan.

ARTICLE 3. No tax impact

To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$500,000 (gross budget) for the construction and equipping of a new Septage Receiving Station and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$500,000 in bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and Water and Sewer Commissioners to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. 3/5 ballot vote required.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 5-0

There is no cost to taxpayers or ratepayers for this loan. The Sewer Department would like the ability to borrow up to \$500K in additional State Revolving Fund (SRF) funding for the Septage Receiving Station in order to cover potential cash flow issues and some of the additional costs that were not part of the original project listed below:

- *Upgrade of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) - \$141K*
- *Increased cost of the Steel building due to tariffs - \$25K*
- *Increased cost of Engineering Oversight during construction - \$125K*

- *Increased cost of construction due to NHDES approval delays - \$80K*
- *Delays in NBRC grant reimbursement due to government shut down (up to \$220K)*

The department currently has about \$1.1M in cash that can be used for the project in addition to the \$1.5M SRF loan that was approved in 2018. About \$1.05M in cash will be needed to complete the project if there are no additional cost increases or delays. That would leave approximately \$500K for operating and other capital expenses, including the Thompson St. project, if approved. The department also anticipates having approximately \$250K in septage receiving revenues by the end of the project, and a total of over \$500K by the end of the year. We have significantly reduced unplanned maintenance and emergency repair by replacing, upgrading, and maintaining infrastructure and equipment, and we have reducing some of our operating costs by reducing leaks. This means that the department should have enough funding to complete the project. However, there could be cash flow issues - a shortage of cash on hand - during or at the end of the project because of several factor. The first is that the Northern Border Regional Commission has been closed because of the government shutdown and is not reimbursing funds we have already spent on the project. If the shutdown continues, \$220K in reimbursements could be delayed during the construction period. Second, the department normally experiences cashflow issues during the first four months of the year. There is a significant decrease in revenues due to decreased usage and septage receiving while expenses remain constant. Since the cash used to cover expenses during this period comes from the same unassigned funds that we are using to pay for the project, we could experience short fall during construction, especially if the government remains shut down. The department intends to borrow only what is needed to make up for short falls that may occur and to maintain enough cash for operations.

ARTICLE 4. Estimated tax impact is \$11.31
 Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate as the Town General Government operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the First Session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling \$2,832,844, a 1.9% increase on current year budget.. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$2,779,788 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Ashland or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.
 Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-0

This article relates to the Town of Ashland operating budget.

ARTICLE 5. No tax impact
 Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate as the Ashland Electric Department operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the First Session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling \$3,254,040. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$3,204,185 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Ashland or by law; or the governing

body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-0

This article relates to the Ashland Electric Department operating budget [rate payer based-no tax payer funding].

ARTICLE 6. No tax impact

Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate as the Ashland Water Department operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the First Session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling \$239,189. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$271,665 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Ashland or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 5-1

This article relates to the Ashland Water Department operating budget [rate payer based-no tax payer funding].

ARTICLE 7. No tax impact

Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate as the Ashland Sewer Department operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the First Session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling \$480,935. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$456,366 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Ashland or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 5-1

This article relates to the Ashland Sewer Department operating budget [rate payer based-no tax payer funding].

ARTICLE 8. Estimated tax impact is \$0.44

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Eight Nine dollars (\$107,789) for the second-year payment of the four-year lease purchase agreement for the Fire Department fire engine as authorized by vote on March 14, 2017.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-0

Passage of this article provides funding for the second payment to the Ashland Fire Department fire engine.

ARTICLE 9. Estimated tax impact \$0.11

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty Two dollars (\$27,142) for the second payment of the five-year lease purchase for the Public Works loader.

Passage of this article provides funding for the second payment to the Public Works Department loader – as approved by vote on March 13, 2018.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-0

ARTICLE 10. Estimated tax impact \$0.02

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-One dollars (\$5,391) for the final payment of the four-year lease purchase of the Transfer Station mini loader as authorized by vote on March 10, 2015.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-0

Passage of this article provides funding for the final payment toward the mini loader used at the transfer/recycling center.

ARTICLE 11. Estimated tax impact is \$0.41

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be added into the Road Improvements Capital Reserve Fund established in 2012 for the purpose of repairing roads.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 5-1

Passage of this article will continue the funding of the capital reserve fund to be used for road improvements.

ARTICLE 12. No tax impact

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred (\$39,300) to be added into the Property Tax Map Capital Reserve Fund. This sum to come from the fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-1

Passage of this article, at no taxation to the town, will continue the funding of the capital reserve fund being used for our parcel mapping project that will generate accurate parcel maps/indexes. These maps will show the correct size, shape, location, and ownership of every property in the Town of Ashland. It is a tool for property tax assessment purposes. The mapping system will also be the basis for the town's Geographic Information System (GIS), that allows residents to "visualize, question, analyze, develop maps, interpret parcel and assessment data."

ARTICLE 13. Estimated tax impact is \$0.10

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added into the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund established in 2013 for the purpose of repairing or purchasing fire department vehicles.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-0

Passage of this article will continue the funding of the capital reserve fund to be used for repair/purchase fire department vehicles.

ARTICLE 14. Estimated tax impact is \$0.10

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added into the Department of Public Works Capital Reserve Fund established in 2016 for the purpose of vehicle or equipment purchase, replacement or repairs.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-0

Passage of this article will continue the funding of the capital reserve fund to be used for purchase, replacement, or repairs of DPW vehicles or equipment.

ARTICLE 15. Estimated tax impact is \$0.10

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added into the Police Department Capital Reserve Fund established in 2013 for the purpose of repairing or purchasing Police Department vehicles.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-2

Passage of this article will continue the funding of the capital reserve fund to be used for repairing or purchasing Ashland Police Department vehicles.

ARTICLE 16. Estimated tax impact is \$0.08

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be added into the Ashland Library Building Capital Reserve Fund, established in 2015 for the purpose of purchasing, building and/or renovating a facility (including furnishing and equipment) for the Ashland Town Library.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-2

Passage of this article will continue the funding of the capital reserve fund to be used for purchasing, building or renovating a facility for the Ashland Town Library.

ARTICLE 17. Estimated tax impact is \$0.02

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added into the Building Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of maintaining and repairing all Town Buildings.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-2

Passage of this article will continue the funding of the capital reserve fund to be used for maintaining and repairing town buildings.

ARTICLE 18. Estimated tax impact is \$0.08

To see if the town will authorize the establishment of a capital reserve fund to meet our constitutional and statutory requirement that assessments are at full and true value at least as often as every fifth year. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 towards this purpose and appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. It is anticipated that a revaluation will take place in 2024.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-2

Passage of this article will establish a capital reserve fund for the purposes of our town property assessment – our state requirement. This appropriation request was previously in the town operating budget but reduced to \$1 for future expenditures. Overall, this appropriation request is a \$13,000 reduction from the town operating budget.

ARTICLE 19. No tax impact

To see if the town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Building Maintenance and Repair Fund to the Building Maintenance and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund; further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. 2/3 majority vote required.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Not recommended by the Budget Committee vote 3-3

Passage of this article would allow for expenditures from the Building Maintenance and Repair Fund to also be used for town grounds or land.

ARTICLE 20. No tax impact

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000) for the purpose of installing a new truck scale at the Transfer Station. This sum to come from the fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Not recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-2

Passage of this article would install a truck scale at the Transfer Station to properly weigh trucks disposing items at the Transfer Station. No taxation if the article is approved. This Article is projected to save the town approximately 30 to 40 thousand dollars the first year of use.

ARTICLE 21. No tax impact

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$43,400) for the purpose of erecting a building structure for storage at the Transfer Station. This sum to come from the fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-2

Passage of this article would install a building or tent structure at the Transfer Station. No taxation if the article is approved. Because of new regulations on recycling we need to keep our recycling bales longer requiring more storage area. Also, the original storage trailers are rotting away. This building will eliminate the maintenance and repair cost of the current storage trailers that are well over 30 years old.

ARTICLE 22. No tax impact

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$17,500) for the purpose of purchasing two compact containers at the Transfer Station. This sum to come from the fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-2

Passage of this article would allow for the purchase of two containers that haul away recycling at the Transfer Station. No taxation if the article is approved. The current containers

being used are rusting away and have been repaired many times. The hauling company stated we need to take them off the road for safety reasons.

ARTICLE 23. No tax impact

To see if the town will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to go into the fund. This sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Not recommended by the Budget Committee vote 3-3

Passage of this article would allow for appropriation expenditures that may not be fully funded in the operating budget. Appropriation has no tax impact as approval of the article allows for funds to come from unassigned fund balance. If approved, remaining balance of the appropriation rolls back into the general fund as the article's approval is only for one year.

ARTICLE 24. Estimated tax impact \$0.22

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand dollars (\$55,000) to be added to the Fire Department salary line for the purpose of staffing two per diem firefighters (no benefits) during the daytime at the fire station.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-2

Passage of this article would staff two firefighters at the Fire Department station. Positions are per-diem and since they are not full time do not come with benefits.

ARTICLE 25. No tax impact

Ashland Conservation Commission

To see if the town will vote to reduce the Ashland Conservation Commission membership from five to three.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 3-2-1

Passage of this article would reduce the membership from five to three.

ARTICLE 26. No tax impact

PETITIONED. Town Manager

Do you favor adoption of town manager plan as provided in Chapter 37 of the Revised Statutes Annotated?

ARTICLE 27. No tax impact

PETITIONED. Board of Selectmen membership

To see if the town will vote to change the Select Board from 5 Selectmen to 3 Selectmen.

ARTICLE 28. Estimated tax impact \$0.04

PETITIONED. Pemi-Baker Community Health

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$9,700) for Pemi-Baker Community Health.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 4-1

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-1-1

ARTICLE 29. Estimated tax impact \$0.02

PETITIONED. Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc.

Shall the voters raise and appropriate Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. for services for Ashland residents in 2019.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 4-1

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-0

ARTICLE 30. Estimated tax impact \$0.01

PETITIONED. Lakes Region Mental Health Center

Shall the voters raise and appropriate Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500) to Lakes Region Mental Health Center for the delivery of Emergency Mental Health Services.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 4-1

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-0

ARTICLE 31. Estimated tax impact \$0.01

PETITIONED. Tri-County Community Action Grafton County

Shall the voters raise and appropriate Three Thousand One Hundred Seven Dollars (\$3,107) for Tri-County Community Action Grafton County for the purpose of continuing services of the Fuel Assistance Program for the residents of Ashland.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 4-1

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-0

ARTICLE 32. Estimated tax impact \$0.01

PETITIONED. Voices Against Violence

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) for the fiscal year 2018-2019 to support Voices Against Violence, a non-profit Crisis Center and shelter providing emergency shelter, court and hospital accompaniment and general

support to women, men and children who are victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 4-1

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-0

ARTICLE 33. Estimated tax impact \$0.01

PETITIONED. Day Away Program

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) for the Day Away Program.

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 3-2

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 5-0-1

ARTICLE 34. Estimated tax impact \$0.01

PETITIONED. Communities for Alcohol and Drug Free Youth (CADY)

Shall the voters raise and appropriate One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) for Communities for Alcohol and Drug Free Youth (CADY) a non-profit organization serving Ashland and nearby towns.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 4-1

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-0