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**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019
ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
6:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Frances Newton called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 6:30 PM with a roll call vote; Vice Chairman Harold Lamos, Selectman Leigh Sharps, Selectman Kathleen DeWolfe, and Selectman Casey Barney all signified they were present. Others present: Town Administrator Charles Smith.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Selectman DeWolfe

To approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes from January 21, 2019.

SECOND: Vice Chairman Lamos

DISCUSSION: Selectman Sharps recommended changes to page 1 line 38; replace word “from” with “due to.” Vice Chairman Lamos recommended updating page 5 line 16 and 24; replace “Selectman” with “Chairman.”

VOTE: 5-0 (All in favor)

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Selectman DeWolfe

To approve the Board of Selectmen public hearing/meeting minutes from January 31, 2019.

SECOND: Selectman Sharps

VOTE: 5-0 (All in favor)

MOTION PASSED

III. OLD BUSINESS

a. Ashland 150th Anniversary Committee donation

- i. Chairman Newton made a general comment about the donation made by the Ashland 150th Anniversary Committee to AARA and then proceeded to read the town attorney’s legal comment about the donation. Town counsel said the 150th Committee nor the Board of Selectmen have the legal authority to make such donation without the approval of the legislative body. Chairman Newton proceeded by reading a response from Mardean Badger (town website manager) about a recent letter to the editor posted in the *Laconia Daily Sun* about the donation and posting of the 150th Committee meeting minutes to the town website. General response was; how the website manager has never been directed to remove minutes from the website, never made a unilateral decision to remove minutes, the committee minutes currently posted, and a

1 timeline of activity from the committee and posting to the town website. All
2 minutes remain intact as submitted on town website.

- 3 ii. Members of the 150th Anniversary were also present, and they had a
4 discussion with the Board of Selectmen about the fiscal responsibility of funds
5 for the celebration. Chairman of the 150th Committee – Jane Sawyer,
6 requested a copy of the email sent to the town attorney about the donation.
7 Board of Selectmen agreed to allow the release of the email. 150th Committee
8 asked that DPW help with transferring the souvenirs from the railroad station
9 to the Ashland Town Office.

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11 **IV. SELECTBOARD ITEMS**
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- 13 a. Selectman DeWolfe made an inquiry about the 4th of July Committee entering into
14 contracts, as the manifest had a check disbursement for a “DJ” at the festivity.
15 Members of the 4th of July Committee were in attendance and said the request was
16 made in error. The committee said they understand about submitting contracts to the
17 town office for retention and review and will continue to bring updates to the board.
18 b. Selectman Sharps reviewed with the Board about her attendance at a recent Ashland
19 Electric Commission meeting and their discussion about solar energy. Commissioners
20 are going to gather and review further information about the subject matter before
21 moving forward, to a proposed round-table presentation by PAREI in April or May.
22 c. As ex officio to the Ashland Planning Board – Selectman Sharps gave an update about
23 recent activity with this board. Board mentioned their next work session meeting is
24 joint with the Planning Board to discuss updating the building fees.
25 d. Selectman Sharps concluded by making a public comment as an Ashland resident not
26 a Selectman. As such, Leigh commented from a historic and current perspective,
27 about the governance of a Board of Selectmen, requirements of a Board to follow state
28 law, legal obligations, allowance of our democratic process, and the importance of
29 volunteerism (she said volunteerism is at a person’s free will and not Select Board
30 orientated).

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32 **V. Board of Selectmen adjourned their meeting at 7:40 P.M.**
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34 *The minutes for this meeting were written by Town Administrator Charles Smith on February 5, 2019.*
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