I. CALL TO ORDER

The Town of Ashland Chairman of the Board Frances Newton called this meeting to order at precisely 6:30 p.m. with a full board present – Vice Chairman DeWolfe, Selectmen Badger, Sharps and Barney.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Selectman Sharps
To approve the meeting minutes from August 5, 2019.
SECOND: Vice Chairman DeWolfe
VOTE: 3-0-2 (Chairman Newton and Selectman Barney were absent)
MOTION PASSED

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Ashland Town Library tree removal – Town Manager Smith read a memo received from a “majority of the Scribner Trustees” that thanked the Public Works Director for offering to remove the decaying tree at the Ashland Town Library. Trustees accepted the offer to have Public Works remove the tree. Board members debated about acceptance of the letter as being a formal approval from the Trustees. Board members conferred about instead of receiving a letter, preference would have been the Trustees hold a public meeting to vote on sending a memo with documentation of their public minutes. Based on the imminent danger of having a decaying tree collapse the Board agreed to move forward with allowing Public Works remove the tree.

MOTION: Selectman Barney
To have Department of Public Works remove the decaying tree at the Ashland Town Library.
SECOND: Vice Chairman DeWolfe
VOTE: 5-0
MOTION PASSED

b. Ashland Fire Station; use of the Fire Department building by a private agency – a group of teachers for crisis intervention approached the Fire Department about using the building for a meeting. Board agreed to allow the use of the property for this time. But, requested the Town Manager work on developing policy for the use town public buildings by outside agencies and the public in general.

c. Ashland DPW and Ashland School District – equipment sharing agreement. The Town drafted an agreement that would allow DPW and the Ashland School
District to share their equipment. Board agreed in principle to the agreement but wanted clarification of wording in the agreement by legal counsel. Board moved the vote on the agreement to their next meeting.

d. **Ashland Electric – Squam River Hydro agreement**: Ashland Electric currently buys power from Squam River Hydro that is in excess than the current need and is above and beyond what’s supplied by their major supplier Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA). In 2018 Ashland Electric purchased from VPPSA 26.7 million/kwh’s and sold 22 million/kwh’s leaving an excess of 4.7 million/kwh’s. Town Manager referenced the need for the department to be fiscally responsible and save for future capital expenditures as over the course of three-years the department has a loss of $208,766 after depreciation. Terminating the Squam River Hydro agreement would save the department an estimated $100,000 annually.

**MOTION**: Vice Chairman DeWolfe
To terminate the Purchase Power Agreement between Squam River Hydro, LLC, and the Town of Ashland Electric Department.
**SECOND**: Selectman Badger
**VOTE**: 5-0
**MOTION PASSED**

e. **Ashland Water user charge/base fee charge**: Board members discussed the Ashland Water user charge and water rate. Town Manager reported Ashland Water has had a three-year loss of $69,925 after depreciation. Water rates are to be at a level that supports the operations of the department. At their next work session meeting the Board will hold a public hearing about increasing the user charge and/or water rate.

f. **L.W. Packard Mill Building – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA)** – the town was awarded a $12,000 feasibility grant with CDBG/CDFA to study the feasibility of the L.W. Packard Mill building. Board previously agreed to have Warren Street Architects complete the study. Board voted on finalizing the agreement.

**MOTION**: Selectman Badger
To enter into an agreement with Warren Street Architects for a feasibility report on the former L.W. Packard Mill building and have the Town Manager sign the agreement on behalf of the town.
**SECOND**: Selectman Sharps
**VOTE**: 5-0
**MOTION PASSED**

IV. OLD BUSINESS

a. **Town Manager updates and Board of Selectmen project list** – the Town Manager provided updates on town departments and a current status with on going projects before the board. Town Manager also gave an update on the Headworks/Septage Receiving Project. Expectations are the project will be completed by the first week in
December. Board would like to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony once the project is completed. Board also reviewed a few alternatives from DPW for completing the Thompson Street project.

V. SELECTBOARD ITEMS
a. Town meeting – the Select Board voted on a date for Town Meeting/Deliberative Session.

MOTION: Vice Chairman DeWolfe
To have the Town Meeting (Deliberative Session) on Saturday, February 1st at 10 a.m. with a snow date of Saturday, February 8th.
SECOND: Selectman Sharps
VOTE: 5-0
MOTION PASSED

b. Primex and VPPSA meetings – Selectman Badger and Vice Chairman DeWolfe followed up with the Board about their meetings with town liability insurer Primex and Ashland Electric’s power supplier VPPSA.

c. Town Manager evaluation form – Chairman Newton proposed the Board meet to finish the evaluation form for the Town Manager position. Board agreed to meet Tuesday, August 27th at 10 a.m. in the Ashland Water & Sewer Conference Room.

d. Ashland Heritage Commission – Selectman membership; Vice Chairman DeWolfe resigned her position as the Selectman representative on the Ashland Heritage Commission. As the designated alternate Chairman Newton will become the new member and Selectman Barney agreed to be the new alternate.

VI. NONPUBLIC SESSION
a. MOTION: Selectman Sharps
To enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (l).
SECOND: Vice Chairman DeWolfe
VOTE: 5-0
MOTION PASSED
ENTERED: 7:43 p.m.
RECONVENED: 7:53 p.m.
ANNOUNCEMENT: The Board announced the approval of a letter to Ashland Historical Society saying the lease agreement will be sent and the town will not to accept funds for the AHS/Whipple House lease payment.

VII. ADJOURNED – Board adjourned their meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Town Manager Charles Smith wrote these meeting minutes on August 20, 2019.