

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019
6PM ASHLAND FIRE STATION

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6pm with a roll call. David Ruell here, Sue Harville here, Lee Nichols here, Eli Badger here. Also present Charlie Smith, Town Manager and Bobbi Hoerter, resident. Sandra Coleman was absent with notice.

Eli Badger said that the line was up for the postage for land use as the ZBA charges fees and also sends out letters.

Some of the cost of the scale at the transfer station will be paid out of the General Government Building Repairs line.

Chairman Stewart asked Charlie if we have a building inspector yet. Charlie said they had an offer and are waiting to hear back.

Lee stated that the selectmen should level fund or cut the budget to help on taxes. Chairman Stewart stated that they should use some of the undesignated fund balance to lower the taxes as people cannot afford the taxes in Ashland.

The board asked why the part time line for police officers was over and Charlie said they were short and officer then.

Vehicle maintenance for the fire department was an encumbrance. Charlie was going to check on the line for the forestry equipment.

The DPW line on page 7. Charlie discussed the over time and said they had a town employee that worked for DPW and also for the fire department and if he goes over 40 hours he receives overtime pay. He also said the DPW was over for winter maintenance and Charlie said that was because of all the snow we had.

The library line on page 11 was questioned and it was an encumbrance.

On page 17 Charlie said that the electric salary line was for Charlie's increase in pay due to him becoming town manager.

Lee stated that on page 4 of the budget the Fica and sick buy out Med should be under each department.

Charlie is working on having the water and sewer and the electric budgets the same Template as the town budget.

Sherri Downing asked about the change of the date for the court hearing and Chairman Stewart stated again that she would have to ask the selectmen.

The committee discussed the time and date of the next meeting and it will be Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 6pm at the fire station. The committee will meet with one or two of the department heads at this time.

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Stewart at 7:41 pm.