

Ashland Budget Committee meeting
Tuesday, November 26, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stewart with a roll call vote. Present were David R, Sandra C, Lee N, Sue H, Eli B, and Sherrie D.

The chairman asked everyone to stand to recite the pledge allegiance.

Present as department heads were Patsy T, Craig M and Town Manager, Charlie S.

Patsy started by presenting the budget for the town clerk/tax collector. There wasn't any big increase in any line. Patsy explained everything out. Patsy stated to the board that she was the only one that did not get a raise. She is asking for a 3% raise. Chairman Stewart asked why she does her job, shows up for work and has been in that position for over 29 years. The Town Manager did not have an answer for that question. She gave the budget committee a paper explaining all the figures and the 3% increase. She said she it didn't matter what line we put it in, it could all be in the longevity line if the board chose to do that. Patsy also stated that there would be 4 elections in 2020, which cost the town more money.

Craig Moore presented the highway budget. Chairman Stewart asked why the internet line was so high. It was suggested that the internet be shared with water and sewer and electric. Charlie will check into this. Craig mention that there is a \$200 allowance a year for boots for this employees. Craig mentioned that they changed companies for the uniforms for the employees. They have been getting there sand from Mike Latulippe to save the town money. Craig mentioned that they had installed the new truck scale and the new tent for the transfer station. He also talked about the paving of the transfer station road. A few questions were asked, but nothing was a really huge increase in his budget.

Chairman Stewart mentioned that they needed to vote to tape the meeting, because before they voted not to tape the meeting. Sherrie D. Got very upset and stomped out. She later came back as a tax payer and not as a budget committee member.

The committee voted that anyone can take the budget committee meeting. Motion by David R, seconded by Jeanette S. It was a unanimous vote.

The Town Manager, Charlie talked about the financial and general government. He stated that they had changed printers for the Town Report. Charlie mentioned that the restoration of books was up to date Charlie said that the 42,000 for the electric and town is a wash.

There wasn't a huge jump in any of the lines for the financial and the general government.

We discussed the private cemeteries in the town. There are 7 of them. Charlie received a raise, because he went from the town administrator position to the town manager position. Some of this money comes from electric and water and sewer.

We talked about the school public hearing for January 6th and the town public hearing for January 17th.

The next meeting of the budget committee will be December 10th and the school will present their budget to the budget committee on December 23rd. A tentative date of December 31st was set. The chairman said we would discuss these dates at the next meeting. The chairman also said, because of people having other meetings it is difficult to choose a date for meetings.

Sandra mentioned that we should all look up the GASB 54 as there has been a lot of changes in this.

Sandra said that we should up the legal line as \$20,000 is not enough. Chairman Stewart stated she was against doing that, because two of the selectmen caused this themselves. There will be further discussion at the next meeting.

There were a few other questions by the board that Charlie answered.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette I. Stewart
Chairman