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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020
ASHLAND TOWN OFFICE
5:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER – Town of Ashland Chairman of the Board Eli Badger called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and requested a roll call of the Selectmen; Vice Chairman Kathleen DeWolfe, Selectman Frances Newton, Selectman Alan Cilley, Selectman Andy Fitch and Chairman Eli Badger all acknowledged they were present via the video conference. Chairman Badger notified attendees that the meeting was occurring over video and teleconference, a provision authorized by the Governor’s Emergency Order #12 that waived the physical presence of board members during the Covid-19 pandemic.

II. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Ashland Public Works proposal to pave around Highway Garage** – Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Moore forwarded the Selectmen two proposals from contractors to pave the roadway around the Highway Garage. The paving proposals are to help with the water runoff from the electric building on Rt. 132 and to divert the water from running into the substation area. DPW had previously installed stone and rip wrap around the electric building to help with water running into the salt shed. Each year the roadway washes out and DPW adds gravel and reclaim asphalt. Selectmen discussed other ideas to remediate the water flow, such as new vegetative swales, installing a catch basin and culverts. Before deciding on which proposal to move forward with the Selectmen are going to tour the site with Director Moore.

b. **Ashland Electric auction used bucket truck** – Director Moore informed the board that the used bucket truck cannot pass a dielectric test and be certified for safety, therefore it should be sent to the auctioneer, J.J. Kane. The auctioneer estimated the truck could auction for as high as \$20K as many tree companies could use the 55ft extension.

MOTION: Selectman Newton

To send the 2006 bucket truck to auction and have the Town Manager sign the title on behalf of the town.

SECOND: Vice Chairman DeWolfe

VOTE: 5 – 0

MOTION PASSED

c. **Ashland Transfer Station Ordinance** – the Board reviewed changes to the Transfer Station Ordinance. Sections of the ordinance had to be updated for billing purposes after the installation of the weighing scales earlier this year. Board agreed to the changes and asked that the ordinance be dated to reflect the change.

1 **MOTION:** Selectman Newton
2 *To amend the Transfer Station Ordinance effective October 5, 2020.*
3 **SECOND:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe
4 **VOTE:** 5 – 0
5 **MOTION PASSED**

6
7 **III. OLD BUSINESS**

- 8 a. **Social media policy** – Selectman DeWolfe expressed concerns about the recent
9 PSU/Quality Inn matter and the misinformation about town government being sent
10 along social media platforms. Board asked that all employees follow social media
11 policy and not post government business on private websites.

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13 **IV. SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

- 14 a. **Use of public buildings** – the Selectmen have been approached by town committees
15 and other community organizations about using public buildings. Board agreed to allow
16 town committees to use public buildings under certain guidelines (also meet over zoom,
17 wear masks at meeting, social distanced, and surface cleaned before and after). At this
18 time, the board decided not to open public buildings to outside agencies.

19
20 **MOTION:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe
21 *Motion to not open town government buildings to outside agencies.*
22 **SECOND:** Selectman Newton
23 **VOTE:** 4 – 1
24 **MOTION PASSED**

- 25
26 b. **Ashland Personnel Handbook** – after previous review and town counsel advisement,
27 the board adopted a new personnel policy handbook. If needed at a future date the board
28 can update the policy.

29
30 **MOTION:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe
31 *To accept new town personnel policy handbook.*
32 **SECOND:** Selectman Newton
33 **VOTE:** 4 – 0 – 1
34 **DISCUSSION:** Selectman Fitch abstained as majority of the policy review and
35 changes occurred before his appointment.
36 **MOTION PASSED**

- 37
38 c. **Non meeting with town counsel** – the Selectmen entered a nonmeeting with town
39 counsel at 6:40 p.m. and reconvened public session at 7:02 p.m.

- 40
41 d. **Walter Durack** – requested a nonpublic session with the Board of Selectmen. Since
42 the board did not have enough information to enter nonpublic session the board
43 requested further information be submitted in writing.

44
45 **V. ADJOURNED** – the Board of Selectmen adjourned their meeting at 7:20 p.m.