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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020
ASHLAND WATER & SEWER CONFERENCE ROOM
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 read a preamble that notified attendees this 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Vice Chairman DeWolfe

To approve the meeting minutes of November 9, 2020 as amended.

SECOND: Selectman Fitch

VOTE: 5 – 0

MOTION PASSED

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. **2021 Ashland Town Tax Rate** – the Selectmen set the town portion of the 2021 tax rate. Total town rate increased \$0.09 to \$10.39 from the 2020 rate of \$10.30. Warrant articles 11, 13, 20, 21 passed in March used unassigned fund balance and reduced the tax levy \$131,300. Board declined to further use unassigned fund balance to lower the rate. Town unassigned fund balance was reduced from \$1,007,307 to \$876,007 and a retainage of 10.82% which falls between the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) 5 -17%. Total tax rate; \$28.43 (+\$0.48 from 2020) broken down as follows: Town \$10.39; County \$1.71; Education \$14.37; State Education \$1.96. Board to sign the warrant and Tax Collector to send bills by end of the week with receipts due in 30 days.

MOTION: Selectman Newton

To set the town tax rate at \$10.39.

SECOND: Vice Chairman DeWolfe

VOTE: 5 – 0

MOTION PASSED

b. **Eaton Corporation** – representatives from Eaton Corporation made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen about purchasing and installing a new “Advanced Metering Infrastructure” (AMI) system for Ashland Electric customers. AMI would allow for the

1 department and customers to better track their electric usage.
2

3 **IV. SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

- 4 a. **Park basketball courts and lights** – members of the board received concerns and com-
5 plaints from constituents that students from PSU that may have been exposed to the
6 Covid virus are playing basketball at the park. Accusations could not be confirmed as
7 the town has not heard from PSU. Out of safety for the public the board decided it was
8 best to remove the basketball rims and turn the park lights off.
9

10 **V. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

- 11 a. Board entered nonpublic session at 4:27 p.m. under RSA 91: A-3, II (b) – all in favor.
12 Board reconvened at 5:28 p.m. and announced the Town Manger to repost for hiring a
13 Building Inspector/Inspector.
14

15 **VI. ADJOURNED** – the Board of Selectmen adjourned their meeting at 5:29 p.m.