



# TOWN OF ASHLAND

## 2021 Warrant – Voters Guide

20 Highland Street – P.O. Box 517 – Ashland, NH, 03217

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**TOWN OF ASHLAND  
2021 WARRANT VOTERS GUIDE**

<u>ARTICLE</u>		<u>APPROPRIATION</u>
ARTICLE 1	Election of Officers	N/A
ARTICLE 2	Town operating budget	\$2,924,276
ARTICLE 3	Electric Department operating budget (no taxation)	\$2,798,945
ARTICLE 4	Water Department operating budget (no taxation)	\$224,900
ARTICLE 5	Sewer Department operating budget (no taxation)	\$496,911
ARTICLE 6	Lease payment Public Works loader	\$27,142
ARTICLE 7	Road Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$125,000
ARTICLE 8	Police Department Capital Reserve Fund	\$20,000
ARTICLE 9	Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund	\$25,000
ARTICLE 10	Department of Public Works Capital Reserve Fund	\$25,000
ARTICLE 11	Ashland Library Building Capital Reserve Fund	\$25,000
ARTICLE 12	Building Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve Fund	\$10,000
ARTICLE 13	Contingency fund (no taxation)	\$25,000
ARTICLE 14	Fire Department Defibrillator (no taxation)	\$30,000
ARTICLE 15	Police Department Mobile Data Terminal (no taxation)	\$32,000
ARTICLE 16	Police Department Police Officer Body Cameras (no tax)	\$9,100
ARTICLE 17	Change Road Improvement CRF to include bridges	N/A
ARTICLE 18	Change Fire Department Apparatus/Equipment Fund	N/A
ARTICLE 19	Establish Scribner Library and Park Trust Fund	N/A
ARTICLE 20	Adopt RSA 31:19, Board to accept gifts	N/A
ARTICLE 21	Adopt RSA 202-A, Library retain income	N/A
ARTICLE 22	PETITIONED: Discontinuance of Class VI Road	N/A
ARTICLE 23	PETITIONED: Pemi-Baker Community Health	\$9,760
ARTICLE 24	PETITIONED: Grafton County Senior Citizens Council	\$6,000
ARTICLE 25	PETITIONED: Lakes Region Mental Health Center	\$3,500
ARTICLE 26	PETITIONED: Voices Against Violence	\$3,000
ARTICLE 27	PETITIONED: Ashland Historical Society	\$2,000
ARTICLE 28	PETITIONED: Day Away Program	\$1,200
ARTICLE 29	PETITIONED: Ashland 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Committee	N/A

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**TOWN OF ASHLAND**  
**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**2021 WARRANT VOTERS GUIDE**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Ashland, in the County of Grafton in said State, qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

First Session – You are hereby notified to meet for the First (Deliberative) Session of the Annual Town Meeting, to be held at the William J. Tirone Gymnasium, 27 Highland Street, Ashland, New Hampshire, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021, being Saturday at 10:00 A.M. The First (Deliberative) Session will consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each of the following articles and will afford those voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to each warrant article, except those articles whose wording is prescribed by state law.

Second Session – You are also notified to meet for the Second Session of the Annual Town Meeting, to elect Town Officers by official ballot and to vote by official ballot on the warrant articles as they may have been amended at the First Session, to be held at the William J. Tirone Gymnasium, 27 Highland Street, Ashland, New Hampshire on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021, being Tuesday, the polls to be open at 8:00 A.M. and may not close prior to 7:00 P.M. to act upon the following:

<b>ARTICLE 1.</b>			<b>ELECTION OF OFFICERS</b>		
Board of Selectmen	Three-year term	Two positions			
Board of Selectmen	Two-year term	One position			
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	Three-year term	One position			
Trustee of the Trust Funds	Three-year term	One position			
Library Trustee	Three-year term	One position			
Budget Committee	Three-year term	Two positions			
Budget Committee	One-year term	One position			
Cemetery Trustee	Three-year term	One position			

**ARTICLE 2.**

Estimated tax impact is \$11.65

Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate as the Town General Government operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the First Session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling \$2,924,276. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,000,462 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Ashland or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-2

*This article relates to the Town of Ashland operating budget.*

**ARTICLE 3.**

No tax impact

Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate as the Ashland Electric Department operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the First Session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling \$2,798,945. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,058,970 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Ashland or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-2

*This article relates to the Ashland Electric Department operating budget [rate payer based-no taxpayer funding].*

**ARTICLE 4.**

No tax impact

Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate as the Ashland Water Department operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the First Session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling \$224,900. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$224,971 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Ashland or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-2

*This article relates to the Ashland Water Department operating budget [rate payer based-no taxpayer funding].*

**ARTICLE 5.**

No tax impact

Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate as the Ashland Sewer Department operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted

separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the First Session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling \$496,911. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$502,290 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Ashland or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-2

*This article relates to the Ashland Sewer Department operating budget [rate payer based-no taxpayer funding].*

**ARTICLE 6.** Estimated tax impact \$0.11

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty-Two dollars (\$27,142) for the fourth payment of the five-year lease purchase for the Public Works loader.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-0

*Passage of this article provides funding for the fourth payment to the Public Works Department loader – as approved by vote on March 13, 2018.*

**ARTICLE 7.** Estimated tax impact is \$0.50

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) to be deposited into the Road Improvements Capital Reserve Fund established in 2012 for the purpose of repairing roads.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-3

*Passage of this article will continue the funding of the capital reserve fund to be used for road improvements.*

**ARTICLE 8.** Estimated tax impact is \$0.08

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be deposited into the Police Department Capital Reserve Fund established in 2013 for the purpose of repairing or purchasing Police Department vehicles.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-0

*Passage of this article will continue the funding of the capital reserve fund to be used for repairing or purchasing Ashland Police Department vehicles.*

**ARTICLE 9.** Estimated tax impact is \$0.10

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added into the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund established in 2013 for the purpose of repairing or purchasing fire department vehicles.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-0

*Passage of this article will continue the funding of the capital reserve fund to be used for repairing or purchasing Ashland Fire Department vehicles.*

**ARTICLE 10.** Estimated tax impact is \$0.10

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be deposited into the Department of Public Works Capital Reserve Fund established in 2016 for the purpose of vehicle or equipment purchase, replacement, or repairs.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-3

*Passage of this article will continue the funding of the capital reserve fund to be used for purchase, replacement, or repairs of DPW vehicles or equipment.*

**ARTICLE 11.** Estimated tax impact is \$0.10

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be deposited into the Ashland Library Building Capital Reserve Fund, established in 2015 for the purpose of purchasing, building and/or renovating a facility (including furnishing and equipment) for the Ashland Town Library.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-3

*In order to make much-needed improvements and create more space for the library, the capital reserve fund must continue to grow. At this time there is no other location in mind, but the trustees are hoping to be able to use the current building and property to upgrade and expand the Ashland Town Library. Discussions are beginning for this purpose.*

**ARTICLE 12.** Estimated tax impact is \$0.04

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added into the Building Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of maintaining and repairing all Town Buildings.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Budget Committee does not recommend this article. Vote to recommend failed 3-4

*Passage of this article will continue the funding of the capital reserve fund to be used for maintaining and repairing town buildings.*



**ARTICLE 13.** No tax impact

To see if the town will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to be deposited into the fund. This sum to come from the undesignated fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left in the contingency fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Budget Committee does not recommend this article. Vote to recommend failed 2-5

*Passage of this article would allow for appropriation expenditures that may not be fully funded in the operating budget. Appropriation request has no tax impact as approval of the article allows for the funds to come from unassigned fund balance. Any unexpended funds from this article would roll back into the general fund at the end of the year.*

**ARTICLE 14.** No tax impact

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for the purpose of purchasing a defibrillator for the Ashland Fire Department. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-0

*In late 2019 we received word that all cardiac monitors/defibrillators would need FDA approval. We are currently using a Zoll E Series unit that was purchased in 2011. Unfortunately, our device was not on the FDA approved list, and as of February 3, 2021 will no longer be supported by the manufacturer. This means that if the unit needs repair or maintenance, we cannot get parts or service. We have looked at several options and are proposing the purchase of a new Zoll X series monitor/defibrillator which is FDA approved.*

**ARTICLE 15.** No tax impact

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$32,000) for the purpose of purchasing and installing mobile data terminal technology for the Ashland Police Department cruisers. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-0

*The Ashland Police Department submitted this warrant for updating our computer systems and adding Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs). These in vehicle computers allow an officer to perform some of the dispatch duties from within their vehicle. Currently, officers must run everything through dispatch for information on people or vehicles. An officer obtaining this information on their own allows the officer to get the full information without dispatch filtering information and in a timelier fashion. If dispatch is busy, the officer may be waiting for their information which can present an officer safety issue where they are delayed in getting important safety information. The system would integrate with our current systems and allow an officer to spend*

*more time on the road since they can do several functions that they would normally have to go to the station to perform.*

**ARTICLE 16.** No tax impact

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$9,100) for the purpose of purchasing Police Officer body cameras for the Ashland Police Department. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-0

*Many police agencies have cruiser cameras now because they have proven to be beneficial in transparency, prosecution, mitigating lawsuits and protecting the public and staff. Technology has caught up to allow several options for body worn cameras that go with the officer wherever an incident takes them. These cameras will integrate seamlessly with our cruiser camera setups and allow an unbiased and objective perspective of an incident, from the officers' viewpoint. The Governor's recent Law Enforcement Accountability, Community, and Transparency (LEACT) Commission included in their recommendations: "Encourage all law enforcement agencies to use body and/or dash cameras."*

**ARTICLE 17.** No tax impact

To see if the town will vote to change the name and purpose of the existing Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund to the Road and Bridges Capital Reserve Fund; for the purpose of maintaining and repairing town roads and bridges; and further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. 2/3 majority required.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

*Passage of this article would change the name and purpose of the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund to allow for expenditures also be used toward town bridge repairs.*

**ARTICLE 18.** No tax impact

To see if the town will amend the article passed in 2005, which created the Fire Department Apparatus or Equipment Fund, to allow funds in this account to be used additionally for the purpose of paying the billing fees associated with ambulance transports. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. 2/3 majority required.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

*Passage of this article would allow for the Board of Selectmen to expend from the Fire Department Apparatus/Equipment Fund.*

**ARTICLE 19.** No tax impact

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Trust Fund, to be known as the Scribner Building and Park Trust Fund, with the Trustees of Trust Funds to be responsible for the financial administration of that trust, and for which the Library Trustees will be responsible for decisions on expenditures

to repair and maintain the building and grounds; and further to authorize the acceptance and deposit into this fund of the corpus of the Emma H. Scribner Trust, which is being terminated in accordance with a Nonjudicial Settlement Agreement with the New Hampshire Division of Charitable Trusts.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

*At the order of the NH Division of Charitable Trusts of the Attorney General's Office, the Emma H. Scribner Trust has been terminated because the principal was being depleted and the trust fund was no longer sufficient to maintain the Scribner building and grounds. The remaining balance is to be transferred to a new "Scribner Building and Park Trust Fund." The purpose of the new trust is aligned with the intent of Emma Scribner's will, for the maintenance of the building and grounds occupied by the Library.*

**ARTICLE 20.** No tax impact

To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, expend, and hold in trust gifts, legacies, and devises for any public purpose without further action by the town pursuant to RSA 31:19. This authority shall continue in effect until rescinded.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

*Passage of this article would adopt RSA 31:19 that allows the Board of Selectmen to accept, expend, and hold in trust gifts.*

**ARTICLE 21.** No tax impact

Shall we permit the public library to retain all money it receives from its income generating equipment to be used for general repairs and upgrading and for the purchasing of books, supplies and income-generating equipment, as per NH RSA 202-A: 11-a.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

*This article authorizes the Library to keep the fees charged for the copier and fax machine. The fees will be used to buy supplies (mostly paper and ink) for the machine and to help with the cost of its eventual replacement.*

**ARTICLE 22.**

PETITIONED

To see if the Town of Ashland will vote to unconditionally, completely, and absolutely discontinue an unmaintained Class VI Town road known as Parkway (formerly known as Hill Street) ("the Road") pursuant to New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated 231:43. The Road to be discontinued is described as follows: A two-lane road approximately 228 feet in length beginning at the intersection of the Road with the right-of-way of Mill Street and ending at the intersection of the Road with the right-of-way of Depot Street. Upon the discontinuance of the Road under the

terms of this Article, the Voters hereby authorize and direct the Selectmen to relinquish the Town's interest in the land under the Road, whether by deed or other recorded instrument, to the abutting property owners, L.W. Packard & Company, Inc. and Commerce Property, LLC, or their designees.

Board of Selectmen do not recommend this article vote 5-0

**ARTICLE 23.** Estimated tax impact \$0.04  
PETITIONED Pemi-Baker Community Health

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Dollars (\$9,760) for Pemi-Baker Community Health.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-0

**ARTICLE 24.** Estimated tax impact \$0.02  
PETITIONED Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc.

Shall the voters raise and appropriate Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. for services for Ashland residents in 2021.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-0

**ARTICLE 25.** Estimated tax impact \$0.01  
PETITIONED Lakes Region Mental Health Center

Shall the voters raise and appropriate Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500) to Lakes Region Mental Health Center for the delivery of Emergency Mental Health Services.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-0

**ARTICLE 26.** Estimated tax impact \$0.01  
PETITIONED Voices Against Violence

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) for the fiscal year 2020-2021 to support Voices Against Violence, a non-profit Crisis Center and shelter providing emergency shelter, court and hospital accompaniment and general support to women, men and children who are victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-0

**ARTICLE 27.** Estimated tax impact \$0.01  
PETITIONED Ashland Historical Society

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000)

to be deposited into the account of the Ashland Historical Society for the purpose of maintenance and repairs to the Whipple House Museum, owned by the Town of Ashland.

Board of Selectmen do not recommend this article vote 3-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-0

**ARTICLE 28.** Estimated tax impact \$0.01  
PETITIONED Day Away Program

To see if the Town of Ashland – 2021 to 2022 will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200) for the Day Away Program, a non-profit organization for those people having dementia or a related form of dementia, whose purpose is to provide the caregiver a time of respite and help the participant to maintain their independence and encourage socialization.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 3-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-0

**ARTICLE 29.** Ashland Fourth of July Committee  
PETITIONED

To see if the Town will vote to have the Ashland Fourth of July Committee remain as a Town of Ashland Committee. The Committee will have the continued free use of the L.W. Packard Field and its facilities for the Independence Days celebrations. The Committee will use town properties to raise funds for current and future celebrations and the Committee's expenses. The Committee's funds will remain as Ashland 4<sup>th</sup> of July funds as a non-lapsing fund until the purpose no longer exists. The funds for the Safety Services during the Independence Days celebrations shall continue to be included in the annual Town budget. The Warrant Article will remain in effect until voted to rescind by Town meeting vote.

Board of Selectmen do not recommend this article vote 3-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 5-0-2