

## ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

MARCH 2, 2016

### MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** D. Ruell, C. Cilley, N. DeWolfe, H. Lamos, W. Durack, B. Hoerter, S. Coleman, G. Dion, S. Downing

**OTHERS PRESENT:** A. Cilley, J. Lyford

The meeting started at 7:00pm in the Ashland Café.

Ruell started the meeting by reviewing what happened with the changing of the signature page from the budget paperwork. Ruell explained that the selectmen changed their recommendation on a warrant article on Monday, January 25, 2016. The change to the budget form had to be approved by DRA. That approval was not obtained until late afternoon. The law reads that the budget form needed to be accurate and posted on the last Monday of January, which was the 25<sup>th</sup>. So, Ruell proceeded to have the budget form changed to reflect the selectmen's vote and to have it posted to the posting places before the close of day. Ruell sent an email on the 25<sup>th</sup> stating what happened.

Following statements were made by members.

Hoerter (with background in law) said that what was done was illegal.

Downing did not like the idea that her signature was changed to another budget without her knowing it was being done. She feels that this matter is being "snuffed under the rug". DeWolfe asked her what she would like to see done to be productive to move on. Downing said several times "she did not know".

Hoerter said that a resolution to move forward is when the budget committee asks for documents for the committee to receive correct documents in a reasonable time frame.

DeWolfe said moving forward, he would work on getting forms done earlier.

Coleman mentioned the problem with the position of the financial officer. Coleman said she called both DRA and LGC and they told her that as she is the assistant moderator she needs to calculate the 10% rule. Coleman went in to ask the financial officer to print her out the new calculations so she could calculate the 10% rule. Coleman was told that the finance officer already did it and gave Coleman a copy of what the FO calculated. But did not give Coleman the sheets she asked for.

DeWolfe commented that this was a learning experience for everyone on the budget committee. And now we can move forward knowing this will never happen again.

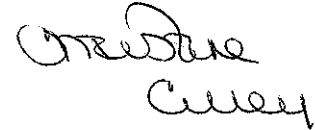
ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

MARCH 2, 2016

MINUTES—PG 2

Coleman made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hoerter to adjourn the meeting at 7:37pm.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine Cilley".

Christine Cilley