

ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

JANUARY 5, 2017

Members Present: Ruell, Badger, Hoerter, Downing, Lyford, Stewart, Cilley, Lamos, Coleman

Others Present: Eli Badger, Alan Cilley, Tejashinha Sivalingam, Walter Durack, Kathleen DeWolfe

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. in the Ashland School library.

Town Budget. The Committee continued to review the Town Operating Budget. The motions and votes were as follows:

Parks and Recreation. Ruell read a memo from Parks & Recreation Director Barney on the Building Expense line. A motion by Coleman, seconded by Stewart to recommend \$1000 for Building Expense failed on a 4 to 4 tie vote. A motion by Cilley, seconded by Ruell, to recommend \$2500 for Building Expense failed on a 3 to 5 vote. A motion by Hoerter, seconded by Downing, to recommend \$1400 for Building Expense failed on a 2 to 6 vote. On a motion by Cilley, seconded by Downing, it was voted to table the Building Expense line.

Conservation Commission. After discussion with Conservation Commission members Durack and DeWolfe, it was voted 8 to 0, on a motion by Hoerter, seconded by Stewart, to recommend \$1250 for the Conservation Commission.

General Assistance. On a motion by Downing, seconded by Coleman, it was voted 5 to 3 to recommend \$5000 for the General Assistance line. On a motion by Cilley, seconded by Downing, it was voted 5 to 3 to recommend \$14,478 for the entire General Assistance account.

Estimated Town Revenues. The Committee reviewed the proposed Estimated Revenues. A number of questions were asked. (See attached.) On a motion by Cilley, seconded by Hoerter, it was voted to table Estimated Revenues.

Water and Sewer Budgets. The Committee discussed the two budgets with Water and Sewer Commissioners Badger and Cilley. A motion was made by Downing, seconded by Hoerter, to cut \$30,649 from the proposed Sewer budget, but was withdrawn. On a motion by Stewart, seconded by Cilley, it was voted 5 to 2, with 1 abstention, to recommend \$322,018 for the Sewer budget. On a motion by Cilley, seconded by Stewart, it was voted 5 to 2, with 1 abstention, to recommend \$202,906 for the Water budget.

School District Warrant Articles. On a motion by Hoerter, seconded by Badger, it was voted 7 to 0, with 1 abstention, to recommend Article 2 on the salaries of district officers. On a motion by Stewart, seconded by Hoerter, it was voted 7 to 0, with 1 abstention, to recommend Article 5, \$50,000 for the School Safety, Security, and Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. On a motion by Badger, seconded by Stewart, it was voted 7 to 0, with 1 abstention, to recommend Article 6, \$20,000 for the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund.

Electric Department. On a motion by Stewart, seconded by Hoerter, it was voted 7 to 0, with 1 abstention, to recommend \$3,183,053 for the Electric Department budget.

Town Warrant Articles. The Committee briefly reviewed the various Town warrant articles. Several questions were asked. (See attached.)

The meeting ended after four members and the alternate had left, and there was no longer a quorum.

David Ruell, Chairman