

# ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 18, 2012

## DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Badger (voting member) I. Heidenreich, C. Austin, S. Felton, D. Ruell, D. Toth, M. Scaano. P. Preston

MEMBERS EXCUSED: M. Brown, S. Coleman

OTHERS PRESENT: A. Cilley, J. Hughes, F. Newton, P. Branscombe, P. Tucker, L. Pack, B. Boyle

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm in the Ashland elementary library.

Petition warrant articles are due January 8, 2013.

Upcoming meetings: December 20 (6pm), December 29 (1pm at CAP), January 3 (6pm), January 9 (school public hearing), January 10 (town public hearing).

The \$5.00 fee per vehicle will be a warrant article in 2013 (to be put into revenues)

At 6:15pm the Water & Sewer presented their budget. A. Cilley, L. Pack, J. Hughes, B. Boyle

Pack explained that she did not enter the last billing. That is why the figures was what they were the week before. Pack explained what is entailed in paying bills.

### WATER:

Water revenue is going down—customers aren't using water like they have in the past.

Two hydrants (50 plus years old) to be replaced each year. There are 110 hydrants in Ashland. Three have been replaced so far.

Preston asked about hydrant flushing.

Ruell asked if there were grants out there to replace hydrants. They were not sure but could look into it.

They will be in the black on the water side.

They will be needing a new truck next year. ½ of the \$35,000 will be paid by water, the other half by sewer.

Scarano asked about testing of wells. They are done on a cycle.

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Emory & Garrett to be paid out of testing wells. The cost runs between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

EPA is monitoring salt intake into the wells. They will be monitoring for at least another year.

Scarano asked about the contract with Utility Partners.

SEWER:

\$16,000 to \$17,000 of billing in December added to sewer income.

Sewer rates will increase 20% in January 2013.

Misc. revenues: \$155,000 in water

\$200,000 in sewer

\$180,000 in septic receiving

Hauling trucks hold between 2,500 to 3,000 gallons per truck

Receiving station study is being done now. Hughes said the building to be built in 2013-2014. Machine brought in 2014-2015.

Sludge cleaning of the lagoons might be able to wait 30 years. Better to say 20 years. This coming from the engineers.

Expenses:

Lagoon maintenance (6560) is overspent due to screening and purchase of float.

\$74,500 was used for the Collins St. Bridge.

\$68,000 was used for engineering.

Misc. expense is over spent. Pack to email Felton with what made line overspent.

At this time sewer income will not pay sewer expenses.

Commissioners are going to revisit Utility Partners maintenance line.

There is \$46,000 in capital improvements put into the budget.

\$35,000 for truck

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\$5,000 for hydrants

\$3,000 for lab equipment

\$3,000 to put foam insulation in all 3 sewer pump stations (which are being heated by electricity)

They are in year 2 of 5 of the contract with Utility Partners.

Water & Sewer was done at 7:10pm.

Scarano made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Toth to accept the budget figure for revenue of water of \$159,850. All members aye.

Scarano made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Felton to accept the budget figure for expense of water of \$147,068. All members aye.

Scarano made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruell to accept the default budget figure for water to be \$145,216. All members aye.

Changes to the default budget as follows:

Contract Operations: \$84,193.

Fica \$1,350.

Health Insurance \$5,000.

Life & disability \$200.

Medicare \$350.

Payroll expense \$17,500.

Retirement \$1,600.

Workman's comp \$100.

Well testing \$1,200.

Administrative fee to stay at \$500.

Electric \$0.00

Felton made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruell to accept the budget figure of \$381,800 for sewer income. All members aye.

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Badger made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruell to accept the budget figure of \$275,420 for sewer expense. All members aye.

Scarano made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Felton to accept the default budget figure for sewer to be \$273,542. All members aye.

Changes to the default budget as follows:

Contract Operations	\$216,496
Fica	\$1,350.
Health insurance	\$5,000.
Life & disability	\$200.
Medicare	\$350.
Payroll expense	\$17,500.
Retirement	\$1,600.
Testing—Lagoons	\$4,000.
Workman's comp	\$100.

Scarano made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Toth to accept the default budget figure for Electric to be \$3,124,444. All members aye.

Changes to the default Electric budget as follows:

Superintendence	\$35,999.
Maint structure & equip.	\$12,388.
Maint. substation	\$4,130.
Maint. distribution	\$15,882.
Maint. primary	\$14,717.
Maint. secondary	\$12,388.
Maint trees & ROW	\$26,470.
Maint. meters & transformer	\$5,082.

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Maint. streetlight equip	\$5,294.
Customer meter reading	\$15,882.
Billing & accounting	\$87,879.
Stores & shop	\$19,960.
Life & disability	\$3,500.
Workman's comp.	\$14,000.
In lieu of taxes	\$42,000.
Interest bond	\$43,832.

Town Revenues:

Felton made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Badger to accept the budget figure for revenues/other fees to be \$276,000. All members aye.

Ruell made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scarano to change Payments in lieu of taxes from \$58,462. to \$59,252. All members aye.

Felton made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scarano to accept the budget figure for revenues from taxes to be \$54,255. All members aye.

Ruell made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heidenreich to accept the budget figure and the default figure for long term debt to be \$178,545. All members aye.

Scarano made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heidenreich to accept the budget figure and the default figure for long term bond to be \$121,874. All members aye.

Scarano made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Badger to accept the budget figure of \$4,500. and the default figure of \$0.00 for TAN notes. All members aye.

Preston made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Toth to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. All members aye.

Christine Austin, Secretary

