

1                                   **ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**  
2   **WORK SESSION**  
3   **MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017**  
4   **ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
5   **6:30 PM**  
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7 Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM with a roll call. Chairman Fran Newton,  
8 Selectmen Tejasinha Sivalingam, Casey Barney, Leigh Sharps, and Vice Chairman Harold Lamos,  
9 present. Others present: Town Administrator Charles Smith and Administrative Assistant Wendy  
10 Smith.  
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13 **PUBLIC HEARING**

14 Public hearing was called to ratify the March 16, 2017 town vote, as the March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 town vote  
15 was postponed due to blizzard conditions. Chairman Newton asked if there were any public or board  
16 comments before the board signed the resolution. There were none from the public. Selectmen  
17 Sivalingam commented his vote reflects his feeling that municipalities should have the right to make  
18 decisions based on the safety of its citizens. Selectman Sharps made motion to adopt the resolution  
19 and certify the vote of March 16, 2017, Lamos seconded. Four in favor, Sivalingam opposed. Motion  
20 passed four to one. Ratification signed by Select Board.  
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23 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

24 There were no public comments on agenda items.  
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27 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

28 May 1, 2017- Selectman Sivalingam made motion to approve as amended, Sharps seconded. All in  
29 favor.  
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32 **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 33 a. General Fund and Payroll Manifests signed by majority of Selectmen.
- 34 b. NHDOT-Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Local Project Agreement signed by the  
35 Board and returned to the NHDOT.
- 36 c. NH Department of Revenue MS 232 form signed at Town Hall office.  
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39 **DEPARTMENT HEADS**

- 40 a. **Parks & Recreation**: Director Ann Barney gave an update on the removal of stove by the  
41 Common Man restaurant. The Common Man expressed interest in the removing the existing  
42 hood and offered to pay for a new stove, hood, and all associated work in exchange for the  
43 existing hood. Selectman Lamos asked about removal of propane lines. Director Barney said  
44 there is a shut off line remaining, which is not hooked up to anything. Selectman Sivalingam  
45 motioned to approve acceptance on the stove and hood agreement with the Common Man.  
46 Lamos seconded, Barney abstained, rest in favor. Motion passed.

- 1 b. **Fire Department:** Chief Heath updated the Board on the purchase of a new fire apparatus.  
2 The lowest bidder, Eastern Fire Apparatus from Milton, NH also was the only bidder who  
3 offered the type of body the Fire Department is interested in. The apparatus would be ready  
4 approximately 340 to 360 days from date of order. The estimated price is less than what was the  
5 warrant article approved. Selectman Sivalingam made motion to approve the purchase, Lamos  
6 seconded on grounds of receiving final price. Chief Heath said the final price would need to be  
7 authorized. All in favor, motion passed.  
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10 **OLD BUSINESS**

11 **Project List:**

- 12 • Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant was approved by the Governor. TA  
13 Smith became LPA certified for the project. Town now waits for NHDOT to approve  
14 agreement letter and schedule a scope meeting for next steps in the sidewalk project.  
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16 • Thompson Street – High Street – Smith Hill road project. Due to the warrant article failing no  
17 further action at this time per RSA 32:10, I (e). Selectman Sivalingam brought up that the  
18 project should be discussed at an ATAC meeting.  
19  
20 • GIS-TA has received data from Cyber Fern but it is not ready for the town website at this  
21 time.  
22  
23 • Ashland Board of Selectmen goals and objective meeting with PRIMEX set for June 7, 2017  
24 at 9:00 AM.  
25  
26 • River Walk maintenance-walkthrough occurred with DPW Director, Selectman Lamos, and  
27 Memorial Park Trustee. DPW will remove overgrowth and spread mulch and wood chips.  
28 Selectman Sivalingam asked about the possibility of PSU students being involved with river  
29 walk. TA Smith said he did email the contact but is waiting for a reply. It was brought up that  
30 the students are out of classes now and may not be available until the fall.  
31  
32 • LW Packard Mill Site-Chairman Newton asked about status on the brown fields grant. TA  
33 Smith said he will follow up on this.  
34  
35 • Town Hall fire alarm system- Steve Mango from Mango Security will be discussing the fire  
36 alarm system later in the meeting.  
37  
38 • LRPC town culvert inventory and paving plan - Project to start later this year.  
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40 • Whipple House-BOS approved removal of trees and repairs to railing and fan at last meeting.

41 TA Smith asked if there were any items on the Project List which the board would like removed. Chair  
42 Newton said that completed items can be archived.  
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1 **Certificate of Appreciation:** Chair Newton expressed concern over the certificates and overlooking  
2 prior volunteers voted on at the last BOS meeting. Chairman Newton motioned to eliminate the  
3 certificate idea and come up with a more feasible way to show appreciation such as the Norm DeWolfe  
4 Day on 7/30/17. Discussion followed and a motion passed with a three to one vote. Selectman Lamos  
5 abstained.

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8 **NEW BUSINESS**

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10 **Ashland 150<sup>th</sup> Committee:** Jane Sawyer and Bob Baker presented the board with plans for the 150<sup>th</sup>  
11 celebration. The committee received approval from the DMV for the design of a commemorative  
12 license plate. Selectman Sharps motioned to approve the letter to DMV to pursue the license plate  
13 project. Selectman Lamos seconded. Selectman Sivalingam expressed reservation with the working  
14 environment at the state prison where the license plates will be made. Four in favor, Sivalingam  
15 opposed. Motion passed.

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17 An Ashland 150<sup>th</sup> logo for the event was presented to the board for approval. The logo artist gave the  
18 town permission to use the logo. Chair Newton made a motion to approve the logo. All in favor. Ms.  
19 Sawyer requested that the funds approved in the warrant article be placed into a non-lapsing account.  
20 Selectman Sharps motioned for this request, Chair Newton seconded. All in favor. Discussion of  
21 banners, a proposed monument involving the bell from the Packard Mill building, parade, and other  
22 celebration activities ensued. It was determined that town counsel should review the form for parade  
23 participants.

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25 **Fire Alarm System for Town Hall:** Steve Mango of Mango Security presented a proposal to install a  
26 fire alarm system at the Town Office building. Chief Heath was involved in discussion as to what type  
27 of system would be appropriate to ensure the Fire Department would be alerted if a fire were to occur  
28 in the building. The building is not required by code to have a monitored fire alarm system, but a  
29 system would be beneficial for the life safety and the building. Mr. Mango was asked by the board to  
30 break down the estimate into stages to make the proposal more affordable. Mr. Mango said he would  
31 have the quote by the end of the week.

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33 **Ashland Historical Society:** Chair Newton read a letter from Historical Society requesting permission  
34 to install electrical outlets as needed in the Whipple House. Selectman Sivalingam motioned to give  
35 permission, Lamos seconded. All in favor.

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38 **SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

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- 40 • Selectman Sivalingam motioned to add public comment to the beginning and end of meeting,  
41 Lamos seconded. Discussion followed. Selectman Sivalingam motioned to amend to keep  
42 comments limited to items discussed by the board at the meeting with a three-minute time limit  
43 per person. Selectman Lamos seconded, all in favor.
  - 44 • Selectman Sivalingam spoke with the board members on democratic rules of order and asked  
45 that they be considered at a special work session along with his proposed revisions to guidelines  
46 for ethical conduct.

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- The status of the Ashland Transportation Alternative Committee was discussed. Members and organization of the committee was gone over and it determined that further organization needs to occur.
- Selectman Sivalingam suggested having a special town meeting to reduce the budget. Chair Newton said it is a mistake to set an artificial number and that the town strives to keep the budget low. Selectman Sharps added that they spent a year working on that budget and that Selectman Sivalingam can talk to the Department Heads directly for further information.
- Chair Newton said she felt the agenda attachments are too long and it was agreed that citizens can ask for information at the Town Hall if they need it.
- A letter from the Ashland Water and Sewer Commission was read regarding their impression that Selectman Sivalingam is biased and should not be the Board liaison to Water & Sewer Commission. Chair Newton recused herself due to conflict of interest. Vice-chair Lamos took chair responsibility. Selectman Sivalingam read statement regarding his position and feeling that the parties involved should work together. Selectman Sharps motioned to leave things as they are for now unless they get advice from attorneys to do otherwise. Selectman Sivalingam seconded, all in favor.

There being no other business, Selectman Sivalingam made **Motion to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) at 8:07 PM.** Selectman Barney seconded. All in favor 5-0 **Roll Call Vote:** Lamos, yes; Sivalingam, yes, Barney, yes, Newton, yes, Sharps, yes.

Left non-public at 8:29 PM. No announcements to the public made. Board adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Smith  
May 16, 2017