

1                                   **ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**  
2                                   **REGULAR MEETING**  
3                                   **MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2017**  
4                                   **ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
5                                   **6:30 PM**  
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7 Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM with a roll call. Chairman Fran Newton,  
8 Vice Chairman Harold Lamos, Selectmen Leigh Sharps, Casey Barney, Tejasinha Sivalingam present.  
9 Others Present: Town Administrator Charles Smith and Administrative Assistant Wendy Smith.

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11 Chairman Newton opened the meeting announcing a non-meeting was held immediately prior with  
12 the Electric Department Commissioners. The non-meeting discussed reopening negotiations of the  
13 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the union to increase linemen wages. Vice Chairman Lamos  
14 motioned to not reopen negotiations with the union. Selectman Sivalingam seconded. No discussion,  
15 all in favor.

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17 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

18 There was no public comment.

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20 **MINUTES**

21 May 15, 2017-Selectman Sivalingam approved as written, Sharps seconded. All in favor.

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23 **CONSENT AGENDA**

24 Board approved signing of General Fund Manifest and Payroll Manifest for week of May 29, 2017;  
25 River Street Bond payment; and SAU #2 estimated assessment payment schedule.

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27 **DEPARTMENT HEADS**

- 28       • River Street paving: Chairman Newton announced the bids for paving River Street. Bids were  
29       from P & D Paving of Franklin, Bryant Paving, and GMI Asphalt of Belmont. The bids ran  
30       from 61.30/ton to 68.40/ton for shim and overlay plus extras. DPW Director Paquette will  
31       review and give his recommendation to the Selectboard for vote.
- 32       • Smith Hill Road drainage: Selectman Sivalingam read a statement he prepared regarding legal  
33       risks with property owners. TA Smith reached out to Department of Revenue for clarity around  
34       the “no means no provision” of a failed bond warrant article to pave Thompson St/Smith Hill  
35       Road and the ability of the board to CRF after the article failed. (Board of Selectmen are agents  
36       to expend with the Road Improvement CRF). DPW Director Paquette respectfully disagreed  
37       with the comment from Selectman Sivalingam that the town caused the drainage problem. He  
38       went on to say that the culvert existed thirty years prior to the current ownership. A prior  
39       Selectboard voted to hold off on drainage repairs due to the high cost. Director Paquette also  
40       noted that there were other people in Ashland with culverts with drainage onto their property.  
41       Further discussion followed which determined that the responsibility for the culvert lies with  
42       the Selectboard and not the DPW Director. Selectman Sivalingam motioned to continue  
43       discussion at the next meeting upon receiving more information from the Department of  
44       Revenue. Vice Chairman Lamos seconded. All in favor. Michael O’Hara, a member of the  
45       public who lives on River Street commented that his property gets water, erosion and pollution  
46       from the culvert and it will get worse upon paving.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Mark Liebert, Memorial Park Trustee, requested removal of a sugar maple tree at the park. Two arborists have determined the tree needs to be taken down along with two other invasive trees in the park. Chippers will be doing the work which costs \$1,950 and will be paid by the Memorial Park Association. Trustee Liebert also requested the Board sign a DES Shoreland permit to replant a tree on site. DPW Director Paquette has offered to help with the planting. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of saving the tree, but it was confirmed that it will fall eventually and is a safety hazard. Donation of the wood will be looked into, along with the potential of converting the stump into a planter or sun dial. Selectman Sivalingam asked about grafting the tree. Mr. Liebert said that would have to be a private endeavor as the Memorial Park Association is limited on time and money. Vice Chairman Lamos motioned to approve signing the DES Shoreland permit. Selectman Sharps seconded. Four in favor, Sivalingam opposed. Mr. Liebert gave a flyer on the Music in the Park summer series which will be posted at the Town Hall and emailed to Mardean Badger for posting on the website.
- Ashland Planning Board recommended the Board nominate Mardean Badger as Commissioner to the Lakes Region Planning Commission: Selectman Barney motioned to nominate Mardean Badger, seconded by Sharps. Selectman Sivalingam asked for examples of nominee’s commitment to ecological sustainability, green energy and reducing municipal expenditures. Chairman Newton, Vice Chairman Lamos and Mardean all stated positive examples of these commitments. Four in favor, Sivalingam opposed. Motion passed.
- Mango Security Town Office building fire alarm system proposal: TA Smith presented a revised proposal from Mango Security. The first phase involves installing a manual system for the entire building at a charge of \$14,625. It was agreed that this is a good first step to a problem which needs to be taken care of. Selectman Sharps motioned that the funds be taken out of Capital Reserve, Lamos seconded. Selectman Sivalingam brought up that the building currently meets code and also stated that though he sees the benefit it should be voted on at Town Meeting. Chairman Newton stated that the building needs to be monitored and Lamos stated that not monitoring the building is a fire hazard especially since there is only one handicap accessible exit. Four in favor, Sivalingam opposed. Motion passed.
- Primex Contribution Assurance Program: TA Smith reported to the Selectboard that this three year contract would put a cap on increasing the Worker’s Comp and Property & Liability insurance premium over the three years. Selectman Sivalingam motioned to approve signing the contract, Lamos seconded. All in favor.
- Trustees of the Trust Funds: TA Smith explained that the Trustees of the Trust Fund have requested the Board pay a legal bill under RSA 31:24 - incidental charges. The legal bill is from a case the TOTF are involved in with the Electric Department over not releasing CRF for construction of the new Electric Department building. It was discussed that the case has not been resolved and there would be more legal expenses. Vice Chair Lamos made a motion to postpone any decision on paying this bill until the legal matter has been settled. Sharps seconded. Selectman Sivalingam said that the town should pay the bill now because he feels that they are entitled to legal defense. Four in favor, Sivalingam opposed. Motion passed.

1 **SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

- 2 • Board liaison reports: It was discussed that the Selectboard liaisons report be on a regular basis  
3 at the Selectboard meetings. The Selectboard liaison's then reported on the Planning Board, the  
4 Ashland Economic Committee, and the Conservation Commission meetings.
- 5 • Citizen inquiry: Selectman Sivalingam requested Citizen Inquiry's be included as a regular  
6 Selectboard meeting item. Vice Chair Lamos suggested that it be a part of the Town  
7 Administrator's report. Selectman Sivalingam read a citizen inquiry regarding a complaint of  
8 the quality of the cold patching on a road in town. DPW Director Paquette responded that the  
9 area patched is a poor section of the road and he did talk with the workers about the complaint.  
10 He also checked out the work and feels the work was done well.
- 11 • TA Smith requested the town employees also have Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> off and enjoy a long  
12 weekend since July 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Tuesday. Vice Chairman Lamos motioned that July 3<sup>rd</sup> be a  
13 paid, Sivalingam seconded. Motion passed. Vice Chairman Lamos also brought up that there  
14 is a Fourth of July Committee meeting on 6/12/17 at 6 PM.
- 15 • ATAC: TA Smith contacted existing members and found that two members were no longer  
16 interested in serving on this committee and another's term has expired. Chairman Newton said  
17 we need to see if anyone else is interested.
- 18 • Joint meeting with the Board and PRIMEX to discuss goals and objectives for the board is  
19 scheduled for meeting is Wednesday, June 7 at 9 AM.

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21 There being no other business, Chairman Newton made a motion to adjourn, Vice Chairman Lamos  
22 seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

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25 Respectfully submitted,

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28 Wendy Smith  
29 June 7, 2017  
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