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**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 31st, 2017
ASHLAND FIRE STATION
7:00 PM**

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a roll call. Chairman Fran Newton, Selectmen Tejasinha Sivalingam, Casey Barney, Leigh Sharps, and Vice Chairman Harold Lamos, all present. Others present: Town Administrator Charles Smith.

• **JOINT MEETING WITH THE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

- Thompson St/Smith Hill Rd. reconstruction project:
 - Chairman Newton opened the meeting with the committee by starting a conversation on how to move the Thompson St./Smith Hill Rd. project forward if the warrant article is defeated again next year? Budget Committee Chair Jeanette Stewart recommended writing separate warrant articles that coincide with repairing each street in the project. Another option considered was writing a warrant article that would allow for the use of Capital Reserve Funds if the bond article failed again. Consensus among the members was the project cannot move forward and will not be completed without town approval.
 - Selectman Lamos initiated discussion about other options on how to have the road paved. Members continued the discussion about how to repair the water runoff and the drainage issues in this area of town.
- The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee concluded their session with the possibility of having future joint meetings. The Board of Selectmen continued their meeting after the joint session.

• **Department of Public Works Director and Foreman job descriptions**

- The Board of Selectmen continued their discussion from the morning meeting about revisions to the Public Works Director and Foreman job descriptions. Selectmen absent from the morning meeting reviewed the suggested revisions from the members present. Board members talked about the CDL requirement for the Foreman position and education requirements. Selectman Sivalingam expressed strong reservations about a High School diploma requirement for both positions. Selectman Sivalingam felt the job requirements of the positions could be completed without the education requirement.

MOTION: Selectman Sharps

To approve the DPW Director job description as amended

SECOND: Selectman Barney

VOTE: 4-1 (**Yes:** Sharps, Newton, Barney, Lamos; **No:** Sivalingam)

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Selectman Barney

To approve the DPW Foreman job description as amended

SECOND: Selectman Newton

VOTE: 3-2 (**Yes:** Barney, Sharps, Newton; **No:** Sivalingam, Lamos)

MOTION PASSED

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- Open DPW Director position: the Board of Selectmen decided to post the Director position internally for five days before posting to the public with the expectations of having applicants be received by August 31st, 2017. Board also voted to have the Interim Director be paid at the Foreman hourly wage until the position was filled.

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MOTION: Selectman Sharps
To approve the interim DPW Director be compensated at the same wage as the Foreman until the Director position has been filled

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SECOND: Selectman Newton

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VOTE: 5-0 (All in favor)

MOTION PASSED

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- **Other Business:** the Board of Selectmen reviewed the decision made by the Grafton Superior Court between the Town of Ashland Electric Department/Commissioners v. Trustees of the Trust Funds for the Town of Ashland. The court determined the Electric Department’s Capital Reserve Fund should be dissolved with the funds returned to the department based on the improper setup of the CRF. Also, the request for reimbursed attorney fees was denied. Upon receipt of this decision the board moved forward with payment of the TOTF attorney fees.

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MOTION: Selectman Sivalingam
To pay the legal fees for the Ashland Trustees of Trust Funds regarding the suit v. the Ashland Electric Department and Commissioners

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SECOND: Selectman Lamos

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VOTE: 5-0 (All in favor)

MOTION PASSED

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There being no other business, Selectman Lamos made a **Motion to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) at 7:50 PM**. Selectman Sivalingam seconded. All in favor 5-0 **Roll Call Vote:** Lamos, yes; Sivalingam, yes, Barney, yes, Newton, yes, Sharps, yes.

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Board of Selectmen adjourned their meeting at 8:44 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Charles Smith

August 1, 2017