

ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
September 15, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Jeanette Stewart. Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call vote: Present: Sherrie Downing, Sandra Coleman, David Ruell, Eli Badger, Bobbi Hoerter and Fran Newton.

Moved by Coleman seconded by Downing to accept minutes of July 31, 2017, Motion passes. Newton abstains. Coleman asked for the Electric Department to be rescheduled and to appear before the Budget Committee on September 25, 2017. Budget Committee unanimously agreed to reset Electric. Chairman Stewart started she would contact Mr. Toth to see if Water & Sewer was interested in meeting with the Budget Committee on September 25, 2017.

By consensus Budget Committee has tentatively approved the Police Department budget, but has not voted.

Ms. Stewart announced Jamie Lyford has resigned from the Budget committee. There are now 2 open positions. Interested parties can e-mail, send a letter of interest to Ms. Stewart or stop at Town Hall.

Ann Barney, Park & Rec Director, presented the Budget Committee with information on the Committee's questions for her department. She gave information on her salary increase, campground improvements line and other lines of interest. Badger suggested for the future an equipment line might be established for purposes such as the recent mower purchase. Coleman complimented Barney on her department head presentation and preparedness this year.

Patsy Tucker, Town Clerk/Tax Collector presented both her budgets. Hoerter mentioned if we were on a default budget, the Budget Law book states raises aren't allowed (non-union) for town employees. Charlie Smith, Town Administrator, said their counsel said it was OK. Newton said the BOS made the decision to give non-union employees raises anyway.

Craig Moore, Acting Public Works Director, presented his budget. Newton told Budget Committee 11 applications were received for the Public Works Director position, and the BOS and TA were interviewing 4 applicants. Moore indicated a few employees still needed to take training classes in this calendar year.

Downing inquired if the town employee who was driving a truck this past winter and had an accident, was administered a drug test. Moore and Stewart both said they did not believe that was in the union contract or town policy handbook. Moore was complimented on the superior

Moore said the 2005 5 mag truck needs a new axle (approx. \$6,700); has overspent the vehicle expense line in the thousands. Moore has sent a letter regarding purchasing salt, in order to lock in the price early.

Hoerter departed at 7:30 p.m.

Moore continued with his Transfer Station presentation of his 2018 budget.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbi Hoerter, Budget Committee Member
Jeanette Stewart, Chairman, Budget Committee

CONTINUATION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE NOTES FOR FRI 9/15/17

Bobbi left at 7:28pm so Jeanette finished taking the minutes. Finished up summer maintenance line and rest of Public Works budget with Craig Moore. Went over operating budget with Charlie. Eli Badger presented the ZBA and Planning Board budget. We talked about the \$850 for the land use clerk. Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 by Chairman, Jeanette Stewart.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette I. Stewart