

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017  
ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY  
6:30 PM**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with a roll call. Chairman Fran Newton, Vice Chairman Harold Lamos, Selectman Casey Barney, Selectman Leigh Sharps, Selectman Tejasinha Sivalingam present. Others Present: Town Administrator Charles Smith and Administrative Assistant Wendy Smith.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

November 20, 2017- Pg. 3, ln. 43 add "and his impression of perceived disrespect of Ms. DeWolfe by Selectman Sivalingam" after word Board. Pg. 3, ln.44 add "which expressed his confidence that she would do a good job." after word letter. Pg. 3, ln. 45 add "on behalf of the Board to Kathleen and Mardean Badger who had a similar experience." after word apology. Pg. 4, ln. 46, strike "not a public meeting." at beginning of line.

**MOTION:** By Vice Chair Lamos

*Approve 11/20/17 minutes as amended and attach letters mentioned in minutes.*

**SECOND:** By Selectman Sivalingam

**VOTE:** 4-0-1 (**Yes:** Newton, Lamos, Barney, Sharps; **Abstain:** Sivalingam)

**MOTION PASSED**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- General Fund Manifest and Payroll Manifest for the weeks of November 20, 2017 and November 27, 2017 signed by majority of the Selectmen.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**Tax Collector:** Tax Collector Tucker presented Sanders Searches Title contract to the Board for approval.

**MOTION:** By Vice Chair Lamos

*To approve the contract with Sanders Searches, LLC for 567.63.*

**SECOND:** By Selectman Sivalingam

**VOTE:** 5-0 (**All in favor**)

1 **MOTION PASSED**

2  
3 Tax Collector Tucker requested the upgrading of the tax billing program with BMSI along with  
4 changing our assessing software from VISION to SUMMIT. The change would allow the bridging of  
5 the two systems. The cost of the new software, the conversion of all data and installation is \$8,500.00.  
6 Maintenance for the assessing program is \$1,250.00 per year. Currently the Town pays \$5,510.00 per  
7 year for maintenance. Ms. Tucker confirmed that we are under no contractual obligation which would  
8 increase the budget.

9  
10 **MOTION:** By Vice Chair Lamos

11 *To encumber \$8,500.00 from Expense and Tax Map Update (01-4152-10-312) for the purpose of*  
12 *purchasing new assessing and tax billing software programs.*

13 **SECOND:** By Selectman Sivalingam

14 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)

15 **MOTION PASSED**

16  
17  
18 **NEW BUSINESS**

19 **Ashland Economic Development Committee report:** Steve Felton of the Ashland Economic  
20 Development Committee (AEDC) presented an update of the committee. He went over the  
21 Mission Statement and the discussed its current major initiative of developing a vision and  
22 action plan for redevelopment and productive use of the LW Packard Mill site. Chair Newton  
23 read a letter from Meredith Village Saving Bank (MVSF) regarding their sponsorship of the  
24 recent Ashland Economic Development Committee Summit held in November. Chair Newton  
25 thanked MVSF for their support. Mr. Felton went over next steps of the AEDC. Discussion  
26 followed regarding the summit.

27  
28 **2018 Warrant:** TA Smith spoke on the preparation of the warrant which needs to be done  
29 within six weeks to post for public hearing by January 9<sup>th</sup>. The attached Articles were discussed  
30 and voted on to be included in the warrant:

31  
32 **Article 2:** TA Smith explained that the Town was accepted for funding of this project through  
33 the State Revolving Fund which has lower interest rates and a loan forgiveness aspect not found  
34 in a regular loan. Further discussion ensued involving the article.

35  
36 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sivalingam

37 *To put Article 2 as written on the 2018 Warrant.*

38 **SECOND:** By Vice Chair Lamos

39 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)

40 **MOTION PASSED**

41  
42  
43 *In favor of Article 2.*

44 **Recommend:** 5-0 (All in favor)

45  
46 **Articles 8 and 9:**

1  
2 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sivalingam  
3 *To put Articles 8 and 9 as written on the 2018 Warrant.*

4 **SECOND:** By Vice Chair Lamos

5 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)

6 **MOTION PASSED**

7  
8 *In favor of Articles 8 and 9.*

9 **Recommend:** 5-0 (All in favor)

10  
11 **Article 10:**

12  
13 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sivalingam

14 *To put Article 10 as written on the 2018 Warrant.*

15 **SECOND:** By Vice Chair Lamos

16 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)

17 **MOTION PASSED**

18  
19 *In favor of Article 10.*

20 **Recommend:** 5-0 (All in favor)

21  
22 **Article 11:**

23  
24 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sivalingam

25 *To put Article 11 as written on the 2018 Warrant.*

26 **SECOND:** By Selectman Sharps

27 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)

28 **MOTION PASSED**

29  
30 *In favor of Article 11.*

31 **Recommend:** 5-0 (All in favor)

32  
33 **Article 12:**

34  
35 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sivalingam

36 *To put Article 12 as written on the 2018 Warrant.*

37 **SECOND:** By Selectman Barney

38 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)

39 **MOTION PASSED**

40  
41 *In favor of Article 12.*

42 **Recommend:** 5-0 (All in favor)

43 **Article 13:**

44  
45 **MOTION:** By Vice Chair Lamos

46 *To put Article 13 as written on the 2018 Warrant.*

1 **SECOND:** By Selectman Sivalingam

2 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)

3 **MOTION PASSED**

4  
5 *In favor of Article 13.*

6 **Recommend:** 5-0 (All in favor)

7  
8 **Article 14:**

9  
10 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sivalingam

11 *To put Article 14 as written on the 2018 Warrant.*

12 **SECOND:** By Selectman Sharps

13 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)

14 **MOTION PASSED**

15  
16 *In favor of Article 14.*

17 **Recommend:** 5-0 (All in favor)

18  
19 **Article 15:** TA Smith read rewording of the article from the Library Trustees. Inserted the  
20 following sentence after 2015: “for the purpose of purchasing building and/or renovating a  
21 facility including furnishing and equipment for the Ashland Town Library”

22  
23 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sivalingam

24 *To put Article 15 as amended on the 2018 Warrant.*

25 **SECOND:** By Vice Chair Lamos

26 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)

27 **MOTION PASSED**

28  
29 *In favor of Article 15 as amended.*

30 **Recommend:** 5-0 (All in favor)

31  
32 **Article 16:** Selectman Sivalingam asked that the \$1,000.00 being added to the Emergency  
33 Management Capital Reserve Fund be increased to \$2,000.00.

34  
35 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sivalingam

36 *To put Article 16 as amended on the 2018 Warrant.*

37 **SECOND:** By Vice Chair Lamos

38 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)

39 **MOTION PASSED**

40  
41 *In favor of Article 16 as amended.*

42 **Recommend:** 5-0 (All in favor)

43  
44 **Article 17:** Discussion regarding the benefits of the Land and Community Heritage Investment  
45 Program (LCIP) grant ensued.

1 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sharps  
2 *To put Article 17 on the 2018 Warrant.*  
3 **SECOND:** By Selectman Barney  
4 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)  
5 **MOTION PASSED**

6  
7 *In favor of Article 17.*  
8 **Recommend:** 4-1 (Yes: Newton, Lamos, Barney, Sharps; No: Sivalingam)  
9

10 **GIS Mapping Article:** Discussion on the benefits of upgrading the town tax maps through  
11 Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping took place.  
12

13 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sharps  
14 *To put GIS Mapping Article as written on the 2018 Warrant.*  
15 **SECOND:** By Vice Chair Lamos  
16 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)  
17 **MOTION PASSED**

18  
19 *In favor of GIS Article.*  
20 **Recommend:** 4-1 (Yes: Newton, Lamos, Barney, Sharps; No: Sivalingam)  
21

22 **No-Means-No Contingent Article:**  
23

24 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sivalingam  
25 *To put No-Means-No Article as written on the 2018 Warrant.*  
26 **SECOND:** By Vice Chair Lamos  
27 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)  
28 **MOTION PASSED**

29  
30 *In favor of No-Means-No Article.*  
31 **Recommend:** 5-0 (All in favor)  
32

33 **Dissolve Disability Fund Article:** Selectman Sivalingam suggested including the amount of  
34 the disability fund in the Voter's Guide.  
35

36 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sivalingam  
37 *To put Dissolve Disability Fund Article as written on the 2018 Warrant.*  
38 **SECOND:** By Vice Chair Lamos  
39 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)  
40 **MOTION PASSED**

41  
42  
43 *In favor of Dissolve Disability Fund Article.*  
44 **Recommend:** 5-0 (All in favor)  
45

1 **Rescind Municipal Budget Act Article:** Selectman Sivalingam suggested putting in the  
2 wording “this would disband the Budget Committee” in the Voter’s Guide.

3  
4 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sharps

5 *To put Rescind Municipal Budget Act Article as written on the 2018 Warrant.*

6 **SECOND:** By Chair Newton

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

8 **MOTION PASSED**

9  
10 *In favor of Rescind Municipal Budget Act Article.*

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

12  
13 **Reduce Size of Budget Committee Article:** Reported on history of low participation in filing  
14 for budget committee positions. Selectman Sivalingam suggested it may be better as a  
15 petitioned warrant article.

16  
17 **MOTION:** By Selectman Barney

18 *To put Reduce Size of Budget Committee Article as written on the 2018 Warrant.*

19 **SECOND:** By Selectman Sharps

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

21 **MOTION PASSED**

22  
23 *In favor of Reduce Size of Budget Committee Article.*

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

25  
26 **Rescind SB2 Article:**

27  
28 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sivalingam

29 *To put Rescind SB2 Article as written on the 2018 Warrant.*

30 **SECOND:** By Selectman Barney

31 **VOTE:** 5-0 (**All in favor**)

32 **MOTION PASSED**

33  
34 *In favor of Rescind SB2 Article.*

35 **Recommend:** 5-0 (**All in favor**)

36  
37  
38 **SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

- 39 • Rights Based Ordinances: on November 20, 2017, the Board of Selectmen received a letter  
40 from Representative Vincent Migliore regarding the opposition of Northern Pass and moving  
41 forward with a Rights-Based Ordinance (RBO) for Ashland. Discussion followed regarding  
42 Ashland’s history with Rights-Based Ordinances (RBO) in the case of wind power and the  
43 protection of its assets. The timeliness of enacting an RBO was stressed. Michelle Sanborn,  
44 representative from Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) gave a  
45 presentation on how CELDF can assist the Town in drafting an ordinance and holding an  
46 educational workshop on the subject. The challenges of enforcing an RBO were discussed

1 along with the impact of RBOs on helping to amend the NH Constitution. Arlene Stoppe  
2 volunteered as the point person and the name of the community group was established as  
3 Residents of Ashland for a Rights Based Ordinance. Selectman Barney brought up that the  
4 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will ultimately have the final decision on  
5 Northern Pass and there is potential for incurring legal costs to the Town by enacting an RBO.  
6 Michelle Sanborn offered to send the Board an engagement letter to be signed at tonight's  
7 meeting. Board asked Town Administrator to send the engagement letter to legal counsel for  
8 further review.

9  
10 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sivalingam

11 *For the Board of Selectmen in partnership with the Residents of Ashland for a Rights Based*  
12 *Ordinance to engage the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) for*  
13 *purposes of having CELDF draft a Rights Based Ordinance and having the draft ordinance*  
14 *completed by 12/31/17.*

15 **SECOND:** By Vice Chair Lamos

16 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)

17 **MOTION PASSED**

18  
19 **MOTION:** By Selectman Sivalingam

20 *To hold a public educational workshop on 12/16/17 at 1:00 PM with CELDF for purpose of*  
21 *educating public and public officials at a location to be determined by Town Administrator.*

22 **SECOND:** By Vice Chair Lamos

23 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)

24 **MOTION PASSED**

- 25  
26 • Yield Tax Levy:

27  
28 **MOTION:** By Vice Chair Lamos

29 *Motion to approve Yield Tax on Timber Cut for the amount of \$2,480.52.*

30 **SECOND:** By Selectman Sivalingam

31 **VOTE:** 5-0 (All in favor)

32 **MOTION PASSED**

- 33  
34 • Other Items: Selectman Sharps thanked all those involved in making Christmas Night in  
35 Ashland a great success.

36  
37 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

38 None

39  
40 There being no other business, Vice Chair Lamos made **Motion to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-**  
41 **A:3, II (c) at 8:16 PM.** Selectman Sivalingam seconded. **Roll Call Vote:** Barney, yes, Newton, yes, Lamos,  
42 yes; Sivalingam, yes, Sharps, yes.

43  
44 Board of Selectmen came out of non-public session at 8:25 PM. Non-Public meeting was followed with further  
45 discussion regarding RBO, CEDLF, and the Ashland Residents for a Rights Based Ordinance (ARRBO).  
46 Volunteers of ARRBO were announced.

1  
2 Vice Chair Lamos made **Motion to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) at 8:39 PM.**  
3 Selectman Sivalingam seconded. **Roll Call Vote:** Barney, yes, Newton, yes, Lamos, yes; Sivalingam, yes,  
4 Sharps, yes.

5  
6 Board of Selectmen adjourned their meeting at 8:44 PM.  
7

8  
9  
10 Respectfully submitted,

11  
12 Wendy Smith

13 December 7, 2017



TOWN OF ASHLAND  
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
2018 WARRANT – BOS DRAFT

To the inhabitants of the Town of Ashland, in the County of Grafton in said State, qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

First Session – You are hereby notified to meet for the First (Deliberative) Session of the Annual Town Meeting, to be held at the William J. Tirone Gymnasium, 27 Highland Street, Ashland, New Hampshire, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2018, being Saturday at 12:00 pm. The First (Deliberative) Session will consist of explanation, discussion and debate of each of the following articles and will afford those voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to each warrant article, except those articles whose wording is prescribed by state law.

Second Session – You are also notified to meet for the Second Session of the Annual Town Meeting, to elect Town Officers by official ballot and to vote by official ballot on the warrant articles as they may have been amended at the First Session, to be held at the William J. Tirone Gymnasium, 27 Highland Street, Ashland, New Hampshire on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017, being Tuesday, the polls to be open at 8:00 am and may not close prior to 7:00 pm to act upon the following:

**ARTICLE 2** No Tax Impact in 2018; Estimated Tax impact for 2019 is \$0.34

[Passage of this article shall override the 10 percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the budget committee.]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,799,420 for the purpose of a road and utility reconstruction project on Thompson Street, High Street, and Smith Hill Road, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,799,420 of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; Recommendations required (3/5 ballot vote).

Board of Selectmen vote  
Budget Committee vote

**ARTICLE 8** Estimated Tax impact for 2018 is \$0.34

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Three Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$53,500) for the first-year payment of the four-year lease purchase agreement for fire engine as authorized by vote on March 14, 2017.

Board of Selectmen vote  
Budget Committee vote

**ARTICLE 9** Estimated Tax Impact \$.05

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Eight dollars (\$12,938) for the final payment of the four-year lease purchase of the Transfer Station mini loader as authorized by vote on March 10, 2015.

Board of Selectmen vote  
Budget Committee vote

**ARTICLE 10** Estimated Tax impact is \$0.53

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) to be placed into the Road Improvements Capital Reserve Fund established in 2012 for the purpose of repairing roads.

Board of Selectmen vote  
Budget Committee vote

**ARTICLE 11** Estimated Tax impact is \$0.21

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added into the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund established in 2013 for the purpose of repairing or purchasing fire department vehicles.

Board of Selectmen vote  
Budget Committee vote

**ARTICLE 12** Estimated Tax impact is \$0.15

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) to be added into the Department of Public Works Capital Reserve Fund established in 2016 for the purpose of vehicle or equipment purchase, replacement or repairs.

Board of Selectmen vote  
Budget Committee vote

**ARTICLE 13.** Estimated Tax impact is \$0.13

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be placed into the Police Department Capital Reserve Fund established in 2013 for the purpose of repairing or purchasing Police Department vehicles.

Board of Selectmen vote

Budget Committee vote

**ARTICLE 14.** Estimated Tax impact is \$0.11

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added into the Building Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of maintaining and repairing all Town Buildings.

Board of Selectmen vote

Budget Committee vote

**ARTICLE 15.** Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.11

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed into the Ashland Library Building Capital Reserve Fund established in 2015. This article will be null and void if warrant article 3 passes.

Board of Selectmen vote

Budget Committee vote

**ARTICLE 16.** Estimated Tax Impact \$0.00

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to be added to the Emergency Management Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of covering expenses as needed during the activation of the towns' Emergency Operation Plan.

Board of Selectmen vote

Budget Committee vote

**ARTICLE 17.** LCHIP Grant

Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.03

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,500 for a Town Hall Planning Study, to evaluate its physical condition and its future use, and to fund one half of this appropriation by a grant from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) in the amount of \$18,250, which has already been awarded to the Town for this purpose, with the required matching amount balance (\$18,250) to have Ten Thousand (\$10,000) come from the

Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund and Eight Thousand Two Hundred Fifty dollars (\$8,250) come from other grants and donations, if available, or from general taxation.

Board of Selectmen vote

Budget Committee vote

**ARTICLE: GIS Mapping**

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of upgrading the town tax maps to be named the Property Tax Map CRF and to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred (\$39,300) to be placed into the fund and to further appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. This sum to come from the fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.

Board of Selectmen vote

Budget Committee vote

**ARTICLE: No-means-no contingent article**

Shall the Town of Ashland, if Article 2 is defeated, authorize the governing body to expend from the Road Improvements Capital Reserve Fund to repair the roads.

Board of Selectmen vote

**ARTICLE: Dissolve Disability Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Employee Disability Payment Fund created in 2002. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required).

Board of Selectmen vote

Budget Committee vote

**ARTICLE: Rescind Municipal Budget Act**

Shall the Town of Ashland rescind the adoption of the Municipal Budget Act, RSA Chapter 32?

Reason – this would result in the voters being able to review and vote on the Board of Selectmen's proposed budget. This budget would have been submitted by department head, review and amended by the Board of Selectmen and then goes directly to the voters.

Board of Selectmen vote

## **ARTICLE: Reduce Size of Budget Committee**

Shall the Town of Ashland reduce the number of members of the Municipal Budget committee from 9 to 7 [5 elected members at large and 1 BOS representative and 1 Ashland School Board representative]? This would be effective March 2019.

Reason – history of filing for budget committee position

2017 – 3yr. term-3 positions – 1 filing

2017 - 2 yr. term -1 position – no filing

2016 – 3 yr. term – 3 positions – 1 filing

2015 – 3yr. term – 3 positions – 1 filing

2015 – 1 yr. term – 1 position – 1 filing

Board of Selectmen vote

## **ARTICLE: Rescind SB2**

Shall the Town of Ashland rescind the adoption of RSA 40:13 [SB2]?

Reason – we average 30-50 voters attending the deliberative session which is where voters have a chance to learn about the warrant articles and suggest amendments. The second session which is the voting of the warrant articles attracts 300-400 voters. At a traditional town meeting the articles are read, discussed, amended if needed and decided yea or nay by vote of those voters in attendance. This would also eliminate the “default budget”.

Board of Selectmen vote