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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020
ASHLAND TOWN OFFICE
10:00 A.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER – Town of Ashland Chairman of the Board Eli Badger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and requested a roll call of the Selectmen; Vice Chairman Kathleen DeWolfe, Selectman Frances Newton, Selectman Alan Cilley, Selectman Andy Fitch and Chairman Eli Badger all acknowledged they were present via the video conference. Chairman Badger notified attendees that the meeting was occurring over video and teleconference, a provision authorized by the Governor’s Emergency Order #12 that waived the physical presence of board members during the Covid-19 pandemic.

II. NEW BUSINESS

a. Ashland Parks & Recreation

i. **Use of park during after school program:** Ashland Parks & Recreation Director Barney followed up with the Board of Selectmen after the decision to close the park during the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. for the public health safety of the after school kids that attend the program. Director Barney inquired board interest in changing the vote to during those hours town residents only can use the park. Social media posts in opposition of the board’s decision were discussed. Board tabled the inquiry until next meeting.

b. 2021 Budgeted Expenditure request

i. Town Manager Smith forwarded the Board of Selectmen the 2021 budgeted expenditure requests from all the departments. Town Manager Smith gave a general review of the 2021 budget explaining department request, Town Manager recommendations and certain budget requirements such as collective bargaining agreement commitments, group benefits, and town debt obligations. Board scheduled Public Works for a department budget presentation on Thursday, September 24th at 9 a.m.

c. Plymouth State University and Quality Inn

i. The Board of Selectmen had received comments and concerns from the public about PSU sending Covid-19 patients to the Quality Inn for quarantine and isolation. Board asked that the Police Chief make a comment at their next scheduled meeting on September 21, 2020.