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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020
ASHLAND TOWN OFFICE
3:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER – Town of Ashland Chairman of the Board Eli Badger called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.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 read a preamble that notified attendees this 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Vice Chairman DeWolfe

To approve the meeting minutes of December 7, 2020.

SECOND: Selectman Newton

DISCUSSION: Vice Chairman DeWolfe added “for meetings” on pg. 3 line 10.

VOTE: 5 – 0

MOTION PASSED

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Public Works Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) Expenditure** – DPW Director Moore requested and expenditure from the Public Works CRF in the amount of \$55,000. Total amount to be used for the purchase of a new one-ton truck, estimate amount of the truck \$125,000. Warrant article number 11 on this year’s ballot approved the full purchase. Board approved encumbrance of funds from Highway Street Improvement line (Block Grant) to also pay for new truck. Estimated delivery of the truck is January 2021 – pandemic pushed back production of vehicles and caused a late delivery.

MOTION: Selectman Newton

To approve an expenditure of \$55,000 from the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund as part of the funding to purchase a new truck.

SECOND: Selectman Fitch

VOTE: 5 – 0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Selectman Newton

To encumber \$38,478 from the HWY Street Improvements line for the purchase of new one-ton dump truck.

SECOND: Selectman Fitch

VOTE: 5 – 0

1 **MOTION PASSED**

- 2
- 3 b. **Virtual 2021 Deliberative Session** – recent state legislation, HB 1129, allowed for
- 4 towns the option of having a virtual and drive thru town meeting, as a safety response
- 5 to ‘the novel coronavirus disease’ (Covid-19). Selectmen discussed the procedures that,
- 6 if decided by the Board, would require notification to all registered voters seven (7) days
- 7 prior to the first of two hearings, second virtual meeting would be held seven days later
- 8 in which the Selectmen would consider questions and comments about the warrant. Af-
- 9 terward the Selectmen would post the final warrant. First article on warrant shall ask
- 10 voters if they approved of this option (virtual) meeting that occurred. If article failed all
- 11 remaining articles are deemed disapproved and town would have to reconvene before
- 12 September 1 to adopt a budget. Before deciding on this format, the Selectmen asked
- 13 the Town Manager to confirm with the school if the deliberative session and voting can
- 14 be held in the gym.

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16 **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

- 17 a. **Use of public buildings by officials** – Chairman Badger, also Selectmen representative
- 18 to the Budget Committee, followed up on a request from the committee about whether
- 19 they can use the Water and Sewer Conference room for their upcoming meetings. At
- 20 previous meeting, the Selectmen voted to close the use of town public buildings by
- 21 boards and committees for their meetings. Decision was made after concerns with the
- 22 resurgence spread of Covid-19. Consensus of the board was not to change their decision
- 23 at this time and will reconsider at later date.

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25 **V. SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

- 26 a. **Discontinuance of road warrant article** – Town Manager Smith and the Board of
- 27 Selectmen received an inquiry from a resident about discontinuing town road – Parkway
- 28 Road. Resident had interest in purchasing the lot next to the road. Discontinuing a town
- 29 road would require town vote. Board recommended Town Manager contact resident
- 30 about working with the Planning and Zoning Boards.
- 31
- 32 b. **Department Updates** – Town Manager Smith thanked staff for all their hard work dur-
- 33 ing the recent snowstorm. Town Manager also provided an update to the Board about
- 34 the various projects and new staffing within each department.

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36 **VI. NONPUBLIC SESSION** – Board entered nonpublic session at 4:07 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3,

37 II (a) with all in favor. Board reconvened at 4:18 p.m.

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39 **VII. ADJOURNED** – the Board of Selectmen adjourned their meeting at 4:19 p.m.