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**TOWN OF ASHLAND  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021  
ASHLAND TOWN OFFICE  
5:30 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Town of Ashland Chairman of the Board Eli Badger called the meeting to order at 5:30 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. PUBLIC HEARING – Health Trust unanticipated revenue**

a. Ashland Chairman of the Board Eli Badger opened the public hearing at 5:32 p.m. after a vote of the Board to open the public hearing. Motion made by Selectman Newton and Seconded by Vice Chairman DeWolfe – All in favor. Public hearing was for the Board to accept \$18,898 as unanticipated revenue from a surplus refund with Health Trust (town employee benefits provider). A portion of the surplus refunded will be reimbursed to town employees enrolled in medical and dental insurance. Board voted to accept the funds and closed the public hearing at 5:36 p.m.

**MOTION:** Selectman Newton

*To accept \$18,898 unanticipated revenue from Health Trust.*

**SECOND:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe

**VOTE:** 5 – 0

**MOTION PASSED**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe

*To approve the meeting minutes of December 28, 2020.*

**SECOND:** Selectman Newton

**VOTE:** 5 – 0

**MOTION PASSED**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

a. **2021 Virtual Town Meeting** – the Select Board discussed concerns they received from constituents about holding an in person Deliberative Session during a pandemic. Board members continued to discuss the option of having a virtual town meeting and location of drive thru voting, if needed. Town Manager mentioned the timeframe being about a week to notify registered voters (provision as part of holding a virtual town meeting). Selectman Newton to attend Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 School Board meeting at which

1 the School Board will vote on allowance of having the town use the school gymnasium  
2 as the location for the deliberative and town vote. Board scheduled a meeting on Janu-  
3 ary 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to determine next steps.  
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5 **V. SELECTBOARD ITEMS**  
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- 7 a. **Ashland Electric Billing** – the Selectmen mentioned concerns they have and are re-  
8 ceiving about Ashland Electric bills being sent late and showing outstanding balances  
9 after payment. Town Manager is working on administration procedures to expedite the  
10 payment process. Staff to send out letter to customers which will further explain the  
11 issue with billing.  
12 b. **Next Selectmen Meeting** – the Board of Selectmen moved their regularly scheduled  
13 second Monday meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Civil Rights Day) to the following day  
14 Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 3 p.m.  
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16 **VI. ADJOURNED** – the Board of Selectmen adjourned their meeting at 6:24 p.m.