

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45

**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021
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 Andy Fitch, and Chairman Eli Badger all acknowledged they were present via the video conference. Selectman Frances Newton and Selectman Alan Cilley were absent. 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 January 8, 2021.

SECOND: Selectman Fitch

VOTE: 3 – 0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Vice Chairman DeWolfe
To approve the meeting minutes of January 13, 2021.

SECOND: Selectman Fitch

VOTE: 3 – 0

MOTION PASSED

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Property Tax Map Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) Expenditure – the Selectmen voted on an expenditure in the amount of \$3,580 from the Property Tax Map CRF for payment toward the geographic information system (GIS) project with CAI Technologies. CAI has completed the parcel compilation phase of the project.

MOTION: Vice Chairman DeWolfe
To expend \$3,580 from the Property Tax Map CRF for payment towards the town par.

SECOND: Selectman Fitch

VOTE: 3 – 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Vote on Petitioned Warrant Articles (27-29)

1. Article #27: Ashland Historical Society (AHS) – \$2,000 appropriation request for repairs to the Whipple House Museum.

1 **MOTION:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe
2 *To not recommend petition warrant article 27 from Ashland Historical Society.*

3 **SECOND:** Selectman Fitch

4 **DISCUSSION:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe referenced item number six (6) from
5 the lease agreement the town has with the Ashland Historical Society, tenant of
6 the Whipple House, in which AHS shall at their own expense make repairs to
7 the building. Vice Chairman DeWolfe also referenced how AHS has not pro-
8 vided a report about the premises of the property. Report is mentioned under
9 item number eight (8) of the lease agreement, report was to be received by No-
10 vember 1. Selectmen did not want to recommend an appropriation warrant ar-
11 ticle that causes taxation and instead preferred to have more dialogue with AHS
12 about the necessary repairs.

13 **VOTE:** 3 – 0

14 **MOTION PASSED**

- 15
16 2. Article #28: Day Away Program - \$1,200 appropriation request for nonprofit

17
18 **MOTION:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe

19 *To recommend petition warrant article 28 from Day Away Program.*

20 **SECOND:** Selectman Fitch

21 **VOTE:** 3 – 0

22 **MOTION PASSED**

- 23
24 3. Article #29: Fourth of July Committee

25
26 **MOTION:** Selectman Fitch

27 *To not recommend petition warrant article 29 from Fourth of July Committee.*

28 **SECOND:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe

29 **DISCUSSION:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe mentioned how the Fourth of July
30 Committee was recently dissolved by the Board and how it was not considered
31 a statutory committee. Vice Chairman DeWolfe mentioned for the voters of
32 this warrant article that at the Selectmen meeting on November 13, 2019 the
33 board put forth next steps for the Fourth of July Committee. Chairman Badger
34 felt the event has become more than a town event, help was needed more than
35 just from the town, and the committee could benefit from other input, which
36 cannot happen from a town committee. Chairman Badger referenced how the
37 board previously recommended this committee pursue being a non-profit which
38 they would have more flexibility. Board members supported the celebration
39 and the use of the field for the event. Board is concerned how the event puts the
40 town at risk – liability exposure.

41 **VOTE:** 3 – 0

42 **MOTION PASSED**

43
44 **IV. SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

1 A. Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA): was federal law, created in 2020,
2 that required “certain employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave or ex-
3 panded family and medical leave for specific reasons related to COVID-19.” The law
4 which provided up to 80 hours of paid leave for employees effected by COVID-19 ex-
5 pired on December 31, 2020. Employers were given the voluntarily option of extending
6 the law through March 31, 2021. Board members were conflicted about extending the
7 policy for town employees, as a few had budgetary and employee responsibility con-
8 cerns. Board decided to extend the policy for another two weeks and will revisit at their
9 meeting in February.

10 B. Town Audit Questionnaire: Chairman Badger discussed with the Selectmen receiving
11 the questionnaire from town auditors. Chairman Badger to forward a copy of the ques-
12 tionnaire onto the Selectmen.

13 C. Municipal Resources Inc. (MRI): Chairman Badger provided a copy of an agreement
14 with MRI for service to help with the Town Manager position. Chairman Badger asked
15 for confirmation from the Selectmen about the conditions of the agreement. Board
16 agreed they were acceptable and voted to allow the Chairman sign on the town’s behalf.
17

18 **MOTION:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe
19 *To have Chairman Badger sign the MRI contract.*

20 **SECOND:** Selectman Fitch

21 **VOTE:** 3 – 0

22 **MOTION PASSED**
23

24 D. Life Safety Inspection – as ex officio to the Ashland Planning Board, Vice Chairman
25 DeWolfe received an email complaint about a land use issue and asked that the town
26 Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer investigate the complaint. Board con-
27 firmed to the request. Building Inspector to review and report back to the Selectmen.

28 E. Parks and Recreation After School Program – Director Barney informed the Board that
29 an employee was diagnosed with COVID-19. Director Barney worked with Depart-
30 ment of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and decided to close the program for a
31 week.
32

33 V. **ADJOURNED** – the Board of Selectmen adjourned their meeting at 4:29 p.m.