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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 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 Frances Newton, Selectman Alan Cilley, Selectman Andy Fitch and Chairman Eli Badger all acknowledged they were present via the video conference, constituting a quorum of the board. 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. Health Officer

The BOS has received a letter from Scott Vien expressing his interest in becoming Ashland's Health Officer.

MOTION: Fran Newton

To appoint Scott Vien as the Ashland Health Officer

SECOND: Kathleen DeWolfe

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0

MOTION PASSED: The appropriate paperwork will be submitted to NH DHHS.

III. OLD BUSINESS

a. Ashland Electric Department

Craig Moore updated the BOS on meter pricing from VPPSA. It may be another 2 to 3 weeks for more accurate meter costs to be available from VPPSA. After conducting a meter inventory in December, the AED is still working on obtaining a more accurate breakdown among residential, commercial and industrial meters. Craig is still gathering information to compare the VPPSA and Eaton proposals.

Craig will contact both vendors (VPPSA and Eaton) about meeting with the BOS to clarify proposal costs and services.

Data (electric usage and rates) is being gathered to help with a rate analysis, which is also being done by VPPSA. If a rate increase is proposed, a public hearing will be held for the rate payers.

Craig provided an update on repairs resulting from our recent town-wide power outage. Eaton's proposals for repairing a transformer and other service needs are being reviewed.

1
2 **b. Campground**

3 Ann Barney updated the BOS on a damaged trailer at the campground, caused by
4 a falling tree branch. The owner will need to remove the trailer to get it fixed.
5 Campers at the campground must provide their own insurance. The BOS and the
6 Finance Officer asked Ms. Barney to also notify Primex, the town's insurance
7 company, about the incident.
8

9 Ms. Barney is getting proposals from three tree companies (Hixon, Chippers, and
10 Donovan) for tree maintenance in the campground.
11

12 **IV. SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

13 **a. Plymouth State University and COVID**

14 Mr. Badger has asked PSU for more information regarding the status of COVID
15 cases and quarantining or isolating students at the Quality Inn in Ashland.
16 Concerns have been expressed about students being seen outside and using the
17 parking lot at Common Man Commons. Police Chief Ulwick noted that they are
18 receiving less information from PSU. Marlin Collingwood of PSU would like to
19 be on the agenda of the next BOS meeting.
20

21 **V. NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

22 **a. Non-Public Session #1**

23 A concern was expressed by a BOS member about security in the Town Hall after
24 business hours.

25 **MOTION:** Kathleen DeWolfe

26 *To enter Non-Public Session for the purpose of NH RSA 91-A:3(c), Matters*
27 *which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any*
28 *person*

29 **SECOND:** Fran Newton

30 **ROLL CALL VOTE:** 5-0

31 **MOTION PASSED:** The Board entered Non-Public Session at 3:47 pm.
32

33 **VI. PUBLIC SESSION:** The Board returned to public session at 4:07 pm. No decisions were
34 made.
35

36 **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

37 **a. Franklin Savings Bank**

38 Linda Guyotte, Town Treasurer, has clarified that the Town will not have to pay
39 any fees on the FSB account for the next year.
40

41 Eventually, the utilities may consider taking credit cards for payments. That issue
42 is on a list for future consideration. It was noted that the Tax Collector accepts
43 credit cards, with fees charged to the user.
44
45

1 **b. Issue List**

2 BOS members suggested that a list should be reinstated for tracking issues and
3 projects, which will provide useful information for an incoming town manager.
4

5 **c. Water & Sewer Reimbursement**

6 The BOS granted the BOS Chair the authority to sign a reimbursement from the
7 Northern Borders Grant for the Water and Sewer Superintendent.
8

9 **d. Town Report Update**

10 Financial information from the 2019 Audit has been added to the Town Report,
11 which will be sent off for the printers tomorrow.
12

13 **VIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

14 **a. Non-Public Session #2**

15 A concern was expressed by a BOS member about Town Hall working
16 conditions.

17 MOTION: Alan Cilley

18 **To enter Non-Public Session for the purpose of NH RSA 91-A:3(c), Matters**
19 **which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of**
20 **any person**

21 **SECOND:** Fran Newton

22 **ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0**

23 **MOTION PASSED:** The Board entered Non-Public Session at 4:19 pm.
24

25 **IX. PUBLIC SESSION:** The Board returned to public session at 4:46 pm. No decisions were
26 made.
27

28 **X. NEXT MEETING**

29 a. Monday, March 1, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.
30

31 **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

32 a. The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.
33

34 *Notes provided by Mardean Badger*