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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021
TOWN HALL
ASHLAND, NH
5:30 P.M.**

I. **CALL TO ORDER** -- Town of Ashland Chairman of the Board Eli Badger called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and requested a roll call of the Selectmen. Chairman Eli Badger and Selectmen Ann Barney, Bob Letourneau, and Andy Fitch 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. **New Street Lights for Main Street** -- The Board discussed some of the new streetlights for the Main Street TAP sidewalk project. Two new/upgraded crosswalks, one in front of The Common Man restaurant and the other at the Booster Club, require that streetlights be installed on either side of the street. The project plans call for standard wooden poles; however, concerns about the appearance and visibility of these poles were raised. Craig Moore presented options for more decorative lights that would look better but at a higher cost. Ann Barney also expressed her concerns about the pole that has already been installed at the Booster Club side of that crosswalk. It is large, unattractive and hinders visibility. The more decorative poles will cost more than the standard wooden poles, but Craig did not have the exact costs at this point. He estimated the cost to be approximately \$3,200 to \$6,000. The standard wooden poles are approximately \$800. These poles would not be wired to the existing utility poles, but rather an electric conduit would be installed in the ground at the base. The poles need to be at least 16 feet high. The Board discussed the option of installing the conduit to be ready for the decorative poles and a decision about which pole could be made once more cost information was available. Craig assured the Board that there was enough money in the Electric Department budget under equipment to cover the cost.

MOTION: Andy Fitch

To install the conduit base and choose either standard or decorative poles once the cost is known.

SECOND: Bob Letourneau

DISCUSSION: Bob Letourneau and Ann Barney discussed amending the motion to make the choice only among the decorative options. The motion was not amended.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye - Andy Fitch and Eli Badger. Nay - Bob Letourneau and Ann Barney

MOTION FAILED

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MOTION: Bob Letourneau
To install the conduit base and commit to choosing a decorative pole once the cost is known.
SECOND: Ann Barney
ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye – Bob Letourneau and Ann Barney. Nay – Andy Fitch and Eli Badger
MOTION FAILED

MOTION: Bob Letourneau
To install the conduit base and commit to choosing a decorative pole at a cost not to exceed \$3,400 each.
SECOND: Ann Barney
ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 – 1 (Andy Fitch voted nay)
MOTION PASSED

b. **Flowers** – The Board wished to acknowledge the Garden Club for their work with beautiful flowers in various locations in the town.

III. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Andy Fitch
To adjourn.
SECOND: Eli Badger
ROLL CALL VOTE: 4 – 0
MOTION PASSED: Meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Notes prepared by Frances Newton