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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 5:30PM
UTILITIES BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM
6 COLLINS STREET, ASHLAND, NH**

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Town of Ashland Chairman Eli Badger called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and requested roll call of the Selectmen. Chairman Eli Badger and Selectmen Andy Fitch, Bob Letourneau, Ann Barney, and Alan Cilley were present.

MOTION: Bob Letourneau

To approve the minutes from the January 3rd meeting as written

SECOND: Alan Cilley

VOTE: 3-0 2 Abstentions (Ann & Andy)

MOTION PASSED

II. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

a. **PUBLIC HEARING: BONDING ARTICLE FOR WASTEWATER**

TREATMENT PLANT – Town Manager Fred Welch presented the Board with the \$5 Million warrant article for required upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This warrant article is only phase 1 of 2 which is estimated to cost \$9.8 Million. Mr. Welch presented information from Underwood Engineering that included information about the State of New Hampshire underwriting some of the funds totaling \$1.5 Million with an additional grant of \$550,000 leaving the remainder of \$2.95 Million to be repaid. The terms of the bond include a 20-year repayment schedule with a 2% interest rate making the annual payment roughly \$180,000. There is no penalty for early payment. The funds to be used for repayment are to come from septage receiving funds which will not impact the tax rate, or the sewer user fees.

b. **PUBLIC HEARING: 2022 TOWN BUDGET AND WARRANT**

ARTICLES – Mr. Welch presented the proposed Town budget and the Warrant Articles. Mr. Welch pointed out that the Planning Board will be holding an additional public hearing on their warrant article therefore it is still in draft format. Mr. Welch asked the Board if they would like the current amount of each of the Capital Reserve Funds included on the warrant or as supplemental information for the deliberative session, the Board decided on not putting funds on the warrant but having the information available separately. **Please See attached the draft Warrant that was presented.**

43 III. NEW BUSINESS

- 44 a. **REQUEST FROM THE TOWN TREASURER TO APPOINT A**
45 **DEPUTY TREASURER** – Town Treasurer Linda Guyotte was in
46 attendance and had presented the Board with a letter for the appointment of
47 Ann Abear. Chairman Badger spoke about Ms. Abear and that she has been
48 interim Town Administrator at one point as well as the deputy Tax
49 Collector. Chairman Badger stated that Ms. Abear is a competent person
50 with good work ethic.

51 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

52 *To appoint Ann Abear as Deputy Treasurer*

53 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

54 **VOTE:** 5-0

55 **MOTION PASSED**

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58 b. **CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTING A NEW UTILITY BILLING**
59 **COMPANY AND PROGRAM** – Marissah Gallien of the Town’s Finance
60 Department spoke about the potential new billing software that would be
61 used for the Water, Sewer and Electric. Ms. Gallien presented to the Board
62 with the quoted proposal from Munibilling; a company out of North
63 Carolina that specializes in utility billing. The software would be used for
64 all three utilities, and it will be able to accept credit cards and have an
65 online portal for customers to view their current bill as well as their prior
66 bills and show the payments that were made. The software also has the
67 capabilities to log service calls which the technicians will be able to see and
68 update as they progress on any scheduled calls. The implementation period
69 would be about 90 days from the sign of the contract and would be in the
70 right timeframe before the new electric meters are installed. The Board had
71 positive comments about the prospect of the new software and left the
72 decision to Town Manager Fred Welch on moving forward with the
73 proposal.

- 74
75 c. **SUPPLEMENTAL TAX WARRANT \$7,940.48 FOR OLD STATE**
76 **LIQUOR STORE** – The old liquor store was sold and is no longer tax
77 exempt therefore a tax warrant has been issued to collect the prorated taxes
78 from the date of transfer. The taxes to be collected are based on the past
79 value of the building.

80 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

81 *To sign the tax warrant totaling \$7,940.48.*

82 **SECOND:** Bob Letourneau

83 **VOTE:** 5-0

84 **MOTION PASSED**
85

86 **d. APPROVAL OF VETERANS CREDIT FOR IVAN J. MAILLET, 18**
87 **FAIRWAY DRIVE** - The Board was presented with the application for the
88 Veterans credit for Ivan J. Maillet with the supporting paperwork.
89

90 **MOTION:** Bob Letourneau

91 *To approve the Veterans credit for Ivan J. Maillet.*

92 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

93 **VOTE:** 5-0

94 **MOTION PASSED**
95

96 **IV. SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

97 Chairman Badger spoke about a recent decision made by the Planning Board
98 about the Verizon cell tower and there being a 3rd component added. Chairman
99 Badger asked if the contract has been reviewed for the rental agreement to see
100 if an increase would be possible since they will be adding on. Mr. Welch
101 explained that the contract includes many exemptions such as an insurance
102 exemption unless the company falls below \$25 Million. Chairman Badger also
103 brought up the road that is used to access the cell tower which goes from the
104 Wastewater plant and inquired if they will need approval to use that road from
105 DES. Mardean Badger of the Planning Board stated that there was one letter in
106 the file from 20 years ago that DES would not have a problem allowing access
107 through that road. Chairman Badger stated that the road is in disrepair and
108 confirmed the status of the road with Water and Sewer Superintendent Andrew
109 Benton who was in attendance. Mr. Welch stated that most likely they would
110 not want Verizon using that road during the upgrades that will be taking place
111 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ms. Badger clarified that the contact for the
112 new component was T-Mobile with contacts at Verizon.
113

114 **At 6:18pm the Board motioned to adjourn.**
115

116 **MOTION:** Alan Cilley

117 *To adjourn the meeting at 6:18pm*

118 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

119 **MOTION PASSED**