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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 10:30AM
TOWN HALL, 20 HIGHLAND STREET
ASHLAND, NH**

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I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Town of Ashland Chairman Eli Badger called the meeting to order at 10:30am and requested roll call of the Selectmen. Chairman Eli Badger and Selectmen Andy Fitch, Bob Letourneau, and Alan Cilley were present. Ann Barney was present via Zoom.

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MOTION: Andy Fitch

To approve the minutes from the January 17th meeting as written

SECOND: Bob Letourneau

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION PASSED

II. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **VOTE ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD ON WARRANT ARTICLES**

Article 3 - \$5 Million Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades – No discussion

Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends

Article 4 - \$3,074,368 Operating Budget – No discussion

Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends

Article 5 - \$3,500,532 Electric Department Budget – No discussion

Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends

Article 6 - \$344,072 Water Department Budget – No discussion

Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends

Article 7 - \$634,066 Sewer Department Budget – No discussion

Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends

Article 8 - \$167,988 Purchase of Trackless M7 Sidewalk Tractor – The Board discussed that the money would be a straight appropriation and the amount to be appropriated would be less the revenue from the trade-in totaling \$12,000

Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends

Article 9 - \$25,000 Contingency Fund – No discussion

Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends

46 **Article 10 - \$10,000 for the Building Maintenance & Repair CRF – No discussion**
47 **Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends**

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49 **Article 11 - \$25,000 for the Fire Department CRF – No discussion**
50 **Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends**

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52 **Article 12 - \$27,142 for Final Payment of Lease Purchase for the Public Works**
53 **Loader – No discussion**
54 **Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends**

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56 **Article 13 - \$25,000 for the Police Department CRF – No discussion**
57 **Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends**

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59 **Article 14 - \$25,000 for the Ashland Library CRF** – Selectman Letourneau
60 discussed with the Board that the library currently has \$136,000 in their Capital
61 Reserve Fund and have not used any of the funds for the repairs to the current
62 building. Chairman Badger stated that the Scribner trustees were in charge of the
63 building and grounds which is the only issue with Library not having used their funds
64 for repairs.
65 **Vote: 4-1 Not Recommended by the Board**

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67 **Article 15 - \$25,000 for the Public Works CRF – No discussion**
68 **Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends**

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70 **Article 16 - \$125,000 for the Road & Bridges CRF** – Selectman Fitch asked if the
71 funds are enough. Chairman Badger discussed that there should be a list of priority
72 items that are in need of repairs so that funds can be increased. Selectman Cilley
73 discussed that he spoke with Public Works Director Craig Moore to see if the funds
74 will be enough, and Mr. Moore said that he will make it work. Selectman Cilley said
75 he is willing to go with the \$125,000 this year with a solid plan in place for next year.
76 The Board also discussed that Town needs a capital improvement plan.
77 **Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends**

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79 **Article 17 – Creation of a Compensated Leave Trust Fund – No Discussion**
80 **Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends**

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82 **Article 18 – Discontinuance of Parkway as a public Class 5 road** – The Board
83 discussed that this article is appearing again due to the abutters not being notified in
84 previous years that this article appeared. Selectmen Cilley was not in favor of giving
85 up Town property and feared the impact of giving up the road is that a building would
86 show up in its place.
87 **Vote: 5-0 Not Recommended by the Board**

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89 **Article 19 – By Petition - \$6,000 to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council – No**
90 **discussion**
91 **Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends**

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Article 20 – By Petition - \$4,100 to Tri-County Community Action Program – No discussion

Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends

Article 21 – By Petition - \$9,656 to Pemi-Baker Community Health – No discussion

Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends

Article 22 – By Petition - \$1,250 to Transport Central – No Discussion

Vote: 4-0-1 Board Recommends

Article 23 – By Petition - \$3,500 to Lakes Region Mental Health Center – No discussion

Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends

Article 24 – By Petition - \$2,000 to Bridge House Inc. – No discussion

Vote: 5-0 Board Recommends

Article 25 – By Petition - \$400,000 for the Library to purchase 41 School Street –

The Board discussed that Library has been trying to get the new building for the past few years and at one point it was proposed for \$1 Million for the purchase. The Board discussed that there are other items in the Town that are in need of attention such as a Police Station.

Vote: 4-1 Not Recommended by the Board

Article 26 – By Petition - \$2,000 for the Ashland Historical Society for maintenance and repair to the Whipple House – No Discussion

Vote: 5-0

b. SCHEDULE MEETING DATE AND TIME TO SIGN THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT – The Board will be signing the Town Warrant on Thursday January 27th.

c. REQUEST OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES FOR PAYMENT OF FIRST QUARTER APPROPRIATION – The Library sent in a request for a first quarter payment of 2022 to be made in the amount of \$5,000. The Board would like a better explanation of why the request is being made. The Board feels as though the Library is owed what is due from close of year for 2021 and decided not to move on the 2022 request until further explanation is provided.

III. OLD BUSINESS

a. The Board inquired about how the new locks for the Town Hall were coming along. They have not been installed as of yet due to part delays.

138 **At 11:27am the Board motion to adjourn.**

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140 **MOTION: Bob Letourneau**

141 *To adjourn the meeting*

142 **SECOND: Andy Fitch**

143 **MOTION PASSED**