

**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 7TH, 2022, 5:30PM
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM
6 COLLINS STREET, ASHLAND, NH**

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7 I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chairman Eli Badger called the meeting to order at 5:30pm
8 and requested roll call of the Selectmen. Chairman Eli Badger and Selectmen Bob
9 Letourneau, Ann Barney and Alan Cilley were present. Andy Fitch was absent with
10 notice.

11
12 **MOTION:** Bob Letourneau

13 *To approve the minutes of the February 14th meeting as written*

14 **SECOND:** Alan Cilley

15 **VOTE:** 4-0

16 **MOTION PASSED**
17

18 II. **NEW BUSINESS**

19 a. **MEETING WITH SAL STEVEN-HUBBARD OF LAKES REGION
20 COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS ON FILING A COMMUNITY**

21 **DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT** – Ms. Steven-Hubbard spoke on behalf of
22 the real estate development for Lakes Region Community Developers. Ms.
23 Steven-Hubbard stated that LRCD own and operate 7 properties in the area
24 including Ames Brook here in Ashland. LRCD is looking for the Town to sponsor
25 the CBDG Grant which grants up to \$1 Million for developments. They are
26 looking to purchase St. Agnes Church and develop the property to house
27 individuals with brain disorders and disabilities. The Board inquired as to why
28 Ashland is their pick for this development. Ms. Steven-Hubbard said that they
29 have had a good working relationship with Ashland in the past with Ames Brook
30 as well as the location which they feel is a good access point between Plymouth
31 and Laconia. Chairman Badger asked that more information be presented to the
32 Town at the Planning Board meeting on March 23rd in regard to how many units
33 there would be and the size of them. Ms. Steven-Hubbard presented that they are
34 planning on 10 units about 400 square feet with 4 units to be in the Church and 6
35 units to be in the rectory. There is a plan for a staff apartment which would allow
36 for someone to always be onsite. The ground level of the Church is to be used as a
37 community center for the residents for activities. Selectman Cilley felt as though
38 since Mr. Fitch was unable to attend this meeting, that the Board should wait
39 before voting on this matter. Mardean Badger was recognized, and she stated that
40 the minutes from the March 23rd Planning Board meeting would be shared with
41 the Board.
42

- 43 b. **ADOPTION OF RSA 31:106 AND 31:107** – Town Manager Fred Welch
44 presented to the Board the need for adopting RSA 31:106 & 31:107, the Board
45 previously adopted RSA 31:105 back in 2006 which indemnifies elected officials

46 and town employees for damages so long as the officials and employees were
 47 working within the scope of their work. RSA 31:106 indemnifies elected officials
 48 and town employees in civil right suits against the town so long as the officials
 49 and employees were working within the scope of their work. and RSA 31:107
 50 allows the purchase of insurance to cover such liabilities listed above.

51
 52 **MOTION:** Bob Letourneau
 53 *To adopt RSA 31:106 & 31:107*

54 **SECOND:** Alan Cilley

55 **VOTE:** 4-0

56 **MOTION PASSED**

57
 58 **c. QUESTION OF APPOINTMENT OF A TEMPORARY BUILDING**

59 **INSPECTOR** – Mr. Welch discussed with the Board about the Town’s need for a
 60 building inspector and suggested appointing Selectman Cilley because he was a
 61 prior building inspector and could help while the Town looks for a new building
 62 inspector. Selectman Cilley said that he would see what he could do to help. The
 63 Board did not make a decision at this time.

64
 65 **d. REQUEST OF EVERSOURCE TO INSTALL A SAFE CROSSING OF**
 66 **SQUAM RIVER NEXT TO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT -**

67 Mr. Welch discussed the crossing at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and that it is
 68 not up to par to be shuttling equipment across. Eversource would like to start the
 69 process to put in a proper bridge for their project. Mr. Welch has meeting with
 70 Eversource tomorrow. The consensus of the Board was that there is a need for a
 71 safe bridge provided it is approved by the state.

72
 73 **e. ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION TOMORROW MARCH 8th FROM 8AM TO**
 74 **7PM** – The Board wanted to remind everyone to go out and vote.

75
 76 **f. WINTER STREET BRIDGE REPAIR 2022** – DPW director Craig Moore
 77 spoke about the continuation of work that needs to be done on the Winter Street
 78 bridge. Some of the work was completed last fall with rust repair and Graton
 79 Associates will continue the repair. These repairs will bring the bridge up to
 80 specifications, once it is completed Mr. Moore stated that the bridge would have
 81 an increased life span of 30 to 50 years.

82
 83 **g. PAVING WINTER STREET AND SIDEWALK 2022** – Mr. Moore expressed
 84 the need for paving of Winter Street, he included that many heavy trucks pass
 85 down that road such as the sewer trucks. Mr. Moore continued that the Winter
 86 Street sidewalk is not compliant and is crumbling. Mr. Moore is suggesting a
 87 shim and overlay of Winter Street to Depot Street.

88
 89 A motion was made by Bob Letourneau to approve the work for Winter Street,
 90 Ann Barney second the motion, as discussion continued about who would
 91 complete the work both Selectman Letourneau and Selectman Barney retracted

92 their motions since part of the discussion included information from the next topic
 93 on the agenda.

94
 95 Selectman Cilley stated that he knows how badly Mr. Moore wants to do the
 96 Winter Street project and asked if Mr. Moore feels that it is necessary to do the
 97 project in 2022 or could it wait until 2023. Mr. Moore felt that it would negatively
 98 impact the bridge and with the repairs to the bridge being completed this year,
 99 then it is appropriate to also repair the road.

- 100
 101 **h. GMI PAVING CONTRACT EXTENSION** – The Board question if the
 102 contract with GMI is a no bid contract, Mr. Moore stated that the Town is able to
 103 get quotes and use other paving companies if they choose to under this contract.
 104 Mr. Moore presented information from the proposed contract which was made
 105 before what is happening in Ukraine. There is an increase in cost, but the numbers
 106 are held for the duration of the contract which would be three years. The last
 107 contract had numbers that were locked in in 2019, the increase for paving went
 108 from \$65.87/ton in the last contract to \$78.20/ton in the proposed new contract.
 109 Selectman Cilley posed that he has a problem with the company and that he has
 110 not had a good experience with them. Mr. Moore asked for information about the
 111 issues. Selectman Cilley stated that his issues with using GMI had to do with the
 112 Thompson Street project and the 132 Sidewalk. Mr. Moore stated that this is his
 113 first time hearing of these issues with paving.

114
 115 **MOTION:** Bob Letourneau

116 *To approve the 3-year contract with GMI*

117 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

118 **VOTE:** 3-1

119 **MOTION PASSED**

120
 121 After the Board voted in favor of the contract with GMI, they revisited the work
 122 to be done on Winter Street.

123
 124 **MOTION:** Bob Letourneau

125 *To pave Winter Street and repair the Winter Street sidewalk*

126 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

127 **VOTE:** 3-1

128 **MOTION PASSED**

129
 130 Discussion came up about DOT and the paving of route 3 from Cottage Street to
 131 West Street. They would be starting in the spring and finishing in the fall of 2022.

- 132
 133 **i. REQUEST FROM DEPARTMENT OF STATE; RENEWAL OF TRADE**
 134 **NAME FOR BEACH & CAMPGROUND** – The Board was presented with a
 135 form to approve and sign to continue the trade name of the Edward Doggett
 136 Beach & Campground.
 137

138 **MOTION:** Bob Letourneau
 139 *To sign and approve the trade name of the Edward Doggett Beach &*
 140 *Campground*

141 **SECOND:** Alan Cilley

142 **VOTE:** 3-0. 1 abstention – Ann Barney

143 **MOTION PASSED**

144

145 Mr. Welch brought to the Boards attention, the new ruling that will allow dogs at
 146 restaurants with outdoor dining. Selectman Barney shared concern for how that
 147 would affect the beach since the beach does not allow dogs but does serve a
 148 limited selection of food.

149

150 Mr. Welch discussed with the Board his recommendation in regard to the existing
 151 contract with the assessors. Currently, with the contract in year 2 of 3, Mr. Welch
 152 does not feel that we should stop the contract and loose what has been completed.
 153 He does feel as though we are overpaying, and that the Town needs to bid the
 154 contract for the next revaluation. The Board did not object and asked for the
 155 contract to proceed.

156

157 **III. OLD BUSINESS – None**

158

159 **IV. SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

160 Selectman Letourneau and recited a quote from a card which the Board signed for
 161 Chairman Eli Badger for his last meeting on the Selectboard. Chairman Badger was
 162 also presented with an engraved gavel.

163

164 Selectman Cilley spoke about Chairman Badger and their time serving together in the
 165 Town for over 35 years and that he felt it has always been a privilege working with
 166 Eli.

167

168 As there was no other business for the Board, Chairman Badger took a moment to
 169 recognize new faces in the audience and asked if they had any business before the
 170 Board. Yvonne Downs stood and spoke about some issues she has been experiencing
 171 in regard to her neighbor's property. Chairman Badger acknowledge that the Board
 172 has been in receipt of emails from Ms. Downs and the discussions with the Planning
 173 Board. Ms. Downs stated that she has been contacting the code enforcer all summer
 174 due to the impacts that this issue has had on her life, family, and land. Ms. Downs
 175 presented a timeline which she was willing to provide to the Board. Ms. Downs'
 176 timeline would show the timeline of communication about the issues with her abutter
 177 in regard to the lack of set back that is required with the addition that has been built
 178 on the neighboring land. The Board discussed with Ms. Downs that the way to solve
 179 the problem would be to get her land surveyed to truly know where the property line
 180 is. Ms. Downs believes that a corner of her abutter's property is on her land. Ms.
 181 Downs' son Jared was also in attendance and had questions for the Board. Mr. Downs
 182 stated that there are obvious measurement issues and with that, how do they proceed.
 183 Mr. Welch spoke and stated that the Town cannot take any action against the accused

184 based on Ms. Downs complaint without verified evidence which could be satisfied by
185 a certified land survey. Mr. Welch went on to say that the current zoning maps are not
186 valid and cannot be used as a way of solving this issue. Ms. Downs stated that her
187 neighbor has other violations such as the plans he had to get the building permit are
188 not what was actually done. Ms. Downs provided the building permits to the Board.
189 Ms. Downs feels that the Town should take responsibility for the ordinance violation
190 and asked why it is up to herself to get her land surveyed. The Board continued that
191 they have to be able to prove the violation which starts with the property line.
192 Chairman Badger stated that the Board will be unable to solve this situation at this
193 meeting and said that a survey must be done of Ms. Downs property specifically of
194 the property line.

195
196 **MOTION:** Alan Cilley
197 *To adjourn the meeting at 6:57pm*
198 **SECOND:** Bob Letourneau
199 **MOTION PASSED**