

**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 23RD 2022, 5:30PM
ASHLAND SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

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I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Selectman Bob Letourneau called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Selectmen: Cilley, Barney, Fitch, and Hartley, were all in attendance.

MOTION: Andy Fitch
To approve the minutes of May 16th as written
SECOND: Rebecca Hartley
VOTE: 4-0
MOTION PASSED

II. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **PUBLIC HEARING CDBG BLOCK GRANT FOR CONVERSION OF ST. AGNES CHURCH FOR 11 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING UNITS AND A STAFF APARTMENT ALONG WITH COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICE SPACE** – Ms. Lane from Lakes Region Community Developers [LRCD] gave the presentation for the proposed housing. The CDBG grant is available for up to \$1 Million for supportive housing. Heather Hatfield Ashland resident inquired what the renovations for the Church would be and questioned that she believed the Church would only sell to further Church services. Sal Steven-Hubbard of LRCD answered that the current project is to renovate to create 11 studio units for clients, and 1 staff apartment. The clients would be for young people with intellectual disabilities that are ready to leave their parents but that need services. This housing would have a community area where the clients could learn to cook amongst other services. The question was raised – why St. Agnes, where its location is in the middle of a neighborhood? Ms. Steven-Hubbard answered that St. Agnes is in a walkable location for the supermarket and local jobs, as well as its location to the highway for easy access to Plymouth and Laconia. As well as that since it is in a neighborhood there are folks to lookout after one another. LRCD added that the size of the units would be between 285 & 420 square feet with a large 1200 square foot apartment for a staff member with family. Kendall Hughes Ashland resident commented that he believed the minimum square footage in Town is 700 square feet to which Chairman Letourneau agreed. Aaron Stout Ashland resident asked if there were similar projects that have been done to compare this project to. LRCD said that this project would be the first for their organization, however there is a similar project in Lebanon they believed is named Visions that could be used as a comparison. Deb Purdue asked if the caretaker would be in the separate building? The answer was that there would be 1 unit on the 2nd floor for management and 1 support person, the staff apartment would be in the Parish Hall which is a separate building. Chairman Letourneau asked what the impact for the Town’s Police and

47 Fire departments would be? LRCD answered that there should not be an increase
48 other than what is to be expected. The building will be up to fire code with a
49 sprinkler system, and it was added that they have not had a building burn down,
50 they have however had fires. Heather Hatfield asked two questions, the first was
51 to confirm that there would not be direct supervision after some time at night.
52 LRCD confirmed that yes that is correct. The clients would have supportive
53 services during the day but when those come to an end there would not be
54 nighttime supervision. The second question came back to the fire that had been
55 mentioned and how it occurred. LRCD answered that it was a woman on oxygen
56 that was smoking. Chairman Letourneau asked if the building would be non-
57 smoking, and the answer was yes. LRCD discussed that the clients would be on
58 budgets with money they may have from Medicare or Social Security, they have a
59 budget that includes their room and board as well as spending money. Aaron
60 Stout asked if there was someone here at the meeting from Lakes Region
61 Community Services that questions could be asked to, LRCD said that there is not
62 a representative here but that they could share their information and they would
63 be happy to discuss the project with neighbors. Chairman Letourneau asked if the
64 square footage plan is not approved by the Zoning Board, and they have to abide
65 by the 700 square feet what will they do? LRCD stated that they believe that a
66 room of that size would be too overwhelming to the clients. It they must be 700
67 square feet then they may have to double people up or reevaluate. The units as they
68 are currently intended would have a bed, a bathroom, and a kitchenette. LRCD
69 stated that they are expecting this to be a \$2.5 Million project. Aaron Stout asked
70 what this would do for property values. LRCD responded that it should improve
71 surrounding values. Kendall Hughes asked how that compares to LRCD's other
72 property in Town – Ames Brook? Eli Badger commented that he doesn't believe
73 LRCD can answer the property value question unless there is a similar site. Tim
74 Alexander Ashland resident asked if there is potential that the eligibility of the
75 tenants could change later on? LRCD stated that there are restrictions for housing
76 requirements through this grant program. LRCD said they are not looking to
77 house sex offenders, or those with drug abuse, they are looking to serve only
78 those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

79
80 **Selectmen Fitch & Cilley both recused themselves from voting as Selectman**
81 **Fitch sits on the Planning Board, and Selectman Cilley sits on the Zoning**
82 **Board.**

83
84 **MOTION:** Bob Letourneau
85 *To deny the CDBG application*

86 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

87 **VOTE:** 3-0

88 **MOTION PASSED**

89
90 **Due to the fact that the Board has voted down the application, the remaining**
91 **two public hearings were cancelled.**
92

- 93 **b. WARRANT 1ST HALF PROPERTY TAXES IS READY** – The Board was
94 provided the Warrant to sign.

95
96 **MOTION:** Bob Letourneau

97 *To accept the 1st half property taxes for 2022 in the amount of \$3,483,134.45*

98 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

99 **VOTE:** 5-0

100 **MOTION PASSED**

- 101
102 **c. 2021 ABATEMENT RECOMMENDATION** – The Board was presented with
103 applications for abatements from Squam River Hydro and Squam River Power.
104 The data being used is old data from 2014. Town Manager Fred Welch
105 recommended that the Board reject both applications.

106
107 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley

108 *To reject both abatement applications*

109 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

110 **VOTE:** 5-0

111 **MOTION PASSED**

- 112
113 **d. ACCEPTANCE OF UP TO \$5,000 FOR RAFT FOR THE TOWN BEACH** –
114 The families of both Tim Alexander and Deb Hughes-Purdue have donated a new
115 raft for the Town Beach that can be ready by 4th of July.

116
117 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley

118 *To accept up to \$5,000 in materials in the form of a raft for the Town beach*

119 **SECOND:** Bob Letourneau

120 **VOTE:** 4-0, 1 abstention: Ann Barney

121 **MOTION PASSED**

122
123 **III. OLD BUISNESS**

- 124 **a. GREEN GROVE CEMETERY** – Mr. Welch provided information about the
125 Green Grove Cemetery. He shared that it was once on the Booster Club fields and
126 was moved to where it is now. Mr. Welch is looking for a deed for the Cemetery
127 as it would have had to be a 3/4th majority vote to sell it and he has not found the
128 vote for such. Chairman Letourneau added that this topic is being discussed
129 because the Town Trustees want to dissolve the funds associated with the Green
130 Grove Cemetery.

131
132 **At this time the Board moved to enter into a non-public session.**

133
134 **MOTION:** Andy

135 *To enter into a non-public session pursuant 91-A:3, II (b)*

136 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

137 **VOTE:** 5-0

138 **MOTION PASSED**

139 **MOTION:** Alan Cilley
140 *To seal the minutes of the non-public session*
141 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch
142 **VOTE:** 4-0
143 **MOTION PASSED**
144
145 **MOTION** Alan Cilley
146 *To adjourn the meeting*
147 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch
148 **VOTE:** 5-0
149 **MOTION PASSED**