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TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 5:30PM
UTILITY OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
6 COLLINS STREET, ASHLAND

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I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Letourneau called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Selectmen Alan Cilley, Andy Fitch, Ann Barney, and Rebecca Hartley were in attendance.

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MOTION: Andy Fitch

12 *To approve the minutes of October 3rd as written*

13 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

14 **VOTE:** 5-0

15 **MOTION PASSED**

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II. NEW BUSINESS

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a. EVERSOURCE REQUEST TO PURCHASE LAND – Eversource did not attend as they are not prepared to discuss the potential land purchase at this time.

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b. FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW – Chief Steve Heath presented the proposed 2023 Fire Department budget. Chief Heath discussed the increases in the budget for next year, the ambulance contract has increased and will be discussed later on in this meeting. Salaries have increased to bring them up with competitive wages, training has increased to help with certifications for new hires that may need them, contracted services has increased due to contracts increasing, such as Quick Med Claims who the Fire Department uses for ambulance billing. Heating oil was kept at the same amount and the Fire Department was able to lock in the rate with the SAU. Chairman Letourneau noted that the remainder of the budget looks the same, Chief Heath noted that he tried to keep it that way. Fuel saw an increase due to the increase in cost, the calculation came from gallons used. Mutual Aid Dues saw an increase which was proposed by the Lakes Region Budget.

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c. PLYMOUTH AMBULANCE CONTRACT REVIEW – The Board was presented with the new contract for the Ambulance service with Plymouth. Chairman Letourneau commented that he doesn't really see a choice in signing it. The increase is \$10,000 bringing the new amount to \$81,306.20.

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MOTION: Rebecca Hartley

41 *To approve the new Ambulance Service Agreement Contract with Plymouth for 2023-*
42 *2024 for \$81,306.20.*

43 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

44 **VOTE:** 5-0

45 **MOTION PASSED**

47 **d. EXTENSION OF 5-YEAR WATER QUALITY SAMPLING PROGRAM**
48 **EVERY FIELD, STATE REQUIREMENT** – The Board was presented with an
49 extension of a 5-year contract for water quality. Town Manager Fred Welch
50 added that this is a requirement by the State and the Federal Government. The
51 contract would be from 2023-2027.

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53 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
54 *To approve the extension of 5-year water quality sampling program from 2023-2027.*
55 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley
56 **VOTE:** 5-0
57 **MOTION PASSED**

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59 **e. SCHOOL FIREWORKS MOA APPROVAL** – Chairman Letourneau
60 commented that have the fireworks for go off from the school is a great location.

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62 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley
63 *To approve the MOA for the Fourth of July Fireworks and authorize Town Manager*
64 *Fred Welch to sign.*
65 **SECOND:** Ann Barney
66 **VOTE:** 5-0
67 **MOTION PASSED**

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69 **f. INTENT TO CUT** – Mr. Welch presented the Board with an intent to cut that
70 came in for Thompson Street. Chairman Letourneau wanted to table signing the
71 intent to cut, however Mr. Welch informed him that he does not have the
72 authority to do so. Mr. Welch went on further that you must sign the intent to cut,
73 or they can cut with the regulations from the Town. Chairman Letourneau was
74 unhappy that the Board does not have any control over it.

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76 **III. OLD BUISNESS –**

77 **a. Annual Permit** – Chairman Letourneau revisited from the last meeting the
78 proposed annual permit that the building inspector put forth. Selectman Cilley
79 offered that he was not for it. The consensus of the Board was that they were not
80 interested in allowing an annual permit at this time.

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82 **b. Building Permits** – Chairman Letourneau revisited the amount that a citizen
83 could spend for work on their home before requiring a building permit. The
84 current amount is \$800. Chairman Letourneau feels that the number should be
85 increase due the increases in materials. Mr. Welch explained that the Board would
86 need to hold a special hearing in order to change how fees are assessed.
87 Selectman Fitch stated that he was not in favor of changing the amount and feels
88 that pricing will come down eventually. The Board discussed liability by not
89 requiring a permit up to a certain amount. Chairman Letourneau suggested that
90 they table the discussion until they have more research and to revisit it at another
91 time.

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93 **IV. SELECTBOARD ITEMS - None**

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96 **MOTION:** Bob Letourneau

97 *To enter into a non-public session pursuant to 91A:3 II at 6:42pm*

98 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

99 **VOTE:** 5-0

100 **MOTION PASSED**

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102 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

103 *To seal the minutes of the non-public session*

104 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

105 **VOTE:** 5-0

106 **MOTION PASSED**

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108 **MOTION:** Alan Cilley

109 *To adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm*

110 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

111 **VOTE:** 5-0

112 **MOTION PASSED**