

**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST, 5:30PM
UTILITY OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
6 COLLINS STREET, ASHLAND**

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.

II. NEW BUSINESS

a. REVIEW OF THE UNDATED CHANGES TO BUDGETS – Changes that were made to budgets that had been previously submitted were submitted to the Board for their review.

Fire Department: Training Line correction to \$7,000

Highway: Drug Testing Line increased from \$500 to \$600 due to receiving new rates. Highway Street Improvements now includes the Highway Block Grant of \$56,355.

Water & Sewer: both departments saw the same increases in the Health Insurance line from \$51,807 to \$57,094 and the computer lines from \$3,000 to \$4,800.

b. REIVEW OF EXECUTIVE BUDGET – Finance Director Marissah Gallien presented the proposed executive budget. The increases came in the Town Manager salary line, the copier line which is used for the rental fee for the copier and for the printing charges that are assess, the increase is \$200, the telephone line as the charges are trending higher, the increase is \$1,400, the advertising line which is used for public notices, the increase is \$300, the printing line which is used for the Town reports, the increase is \$300, Lakes Region Planning Commission increased their dues by \$40, and the restoration of books line was increased from \$200 to \$500 to cover the cost of binding the meeting minutes and Town reports. Decreases were in the administrative assistant line and the training line. The postage line that previously existed in this budget was move to the General Government Buildings budget. The total executive budget increased by less than \$1,000.

c. REVIEW OF THE MUNICIPAL LIGHT BUDGET – Superintendent Harry Gallien presented the proposed budget for the Electric department. The line that is used for poles increased by \$7,000 due to the 27% increase in cost of poles. Mr. Gallien presented the Board with a list of poles that are due to be replaced. Part Time wages increased by \$3,000, background checks decreased by \$300. The computer line increased by \$14,000 to account for the new software and for the monthly costs for the computer company. Selectman Barney asked about the miscellaneous line, this line is used for first aid items, and miscellaneous parts purchases and the fees for Dig Safe. Chairman Letourneau added that this budget has no tax impact.

- 47 d. **REVIEW OF THE LEGAL BUDGET** – Ms. Gallien presented the legal
 48 budget to the Board, the Board had decided the amount they wanted in the
 49 budget which was an increase of \$9,500.
 50
- 51 e. **REVIEW OF THE PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION BUDGET** – Ms.
 52 Gallien presented the budget which includes the payout of sick days, health
 53 insurance, retirement, disability insurance and life insurance. Increases were
 54 seen across all lines. The sick buyout line has been continually underfunded,
 55 the calculation for the current budget was made using all employees as an
 56 average and if all employees chose to buyout 5 sick days which is allowed
 57 under the Personnel Policy and the CBA. The increase is \$5,889. Health
 58 insurance saw a 7% increase over last year. Retirement is based off of New
 59 Hampshire Retirement System matching percentages for both employees and
 60 police officers.
 61
- 62 f. **REVIEW OF THE INSURANCE BUDGET** – Ms. Gallien presented the
 63 budget which covers the insurance premiums from Primex as well as the
 64 terrorism policy that the Town has. The property, auto and liability premium
 65 saw a 9% increase over the previous year, the workers compensation is based
 66 off of payroll calculations, the Town’s portion went up slightly. The
 67 unemployment premium decreased by 1.2%. The terrorism policy did not
 68 previously have its own line, it now does. The insurance contingency stayed
 69 the same at \$1,000.
 70
- 71 g. **REVIEW OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL BUDGET** - The animal control
 72 budget is for use if the Police Department pick up any animals that would
 73 need to go to the Humane Society. The contract is \$1,100.
 74
- 75 h. **BOARD VOTE ON TOTAL BUDGET**
 76 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
 77 *To approve the budget for 2023 totaling \$3,124,588*
 78 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley
 79 **VOTE:** 5-0
 80 **MOTION PASSED**
 81
- 82 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
 83 *To approve the 2023 Water Department Budget totaling \$375,325*
 84 **SECOND:** Ann Barney
 85 **VOTE:** 5-0
 86 **MOTION PASSED**
 87
- 88 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau
 89 *To approve the 2023 Sewer Department Budget totaling \$838,476*
 90 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley
 91 **VOTE:** 5-0
 92 **MOTION PASSED**

93 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
94 *To approve the 2023 Electric Department Budget totaling \$3,440,794*
95 **SECOND:** Alan Cilley
96 **VOTE:** 5-0
97 **MOTION PASSED**

98
99 **III. OLD BUISNESS – None**

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101 **IV. SELECTBOARD ITEMS –**

- 102 a. Selectman Barney brought to the Board a request from NFI North to apply for a
103 grant to make a sign for the ballpark. The company did not specify the size but it
104 would be within the size ordinance.

105
106 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau
107 *To approve the gift of \$1,000 for a sign for the ballpark and the Town Manager is*
108 *to provide the specifications for signs*
109 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley
110 **VOTE:** 5-0
111 **MOTION PASSED**

112
113 **MOTION:** Bob Letourneau
114 *To enter into a non-public session pursuant to 91A:3 II (C, D & E)*
115 **SECOND:** Alan Cilley
116 **VOTE:** 5-0
117 **MOTION PASSED**

118
119 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley
120 *To seal the minutes of the non-public session*
121 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch
122 **VOTE:** 5-0
123 **MOTION PASSED**

124
125 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau
126 *To adjourn the meeting at 7:06pm*
127 **SECOND:** Alan Cilley
128 **VOTE:** 5-0
129 **MOTION PASSED**