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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 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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II. NEW BUSINESS

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a. MUNICIPAL BUDGET CHANGES – Town Manager Fred Welch discussed with the Board that Town Council has not gotten back to the Town with an answer about moving forward with the budget therefore it is still on hold.

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b. CAPITAL RESERVE REQUESTS - Finance Director Marissah Gallien prepared a request for the Board to sign that would release funds for approved expenditures.

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MOTION: Robert Letourneau

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To approve the Winter Street Project totaling \$199,901.11 to be paid from the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund.

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SECOND: Andy Fitch

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VOTE: 5-0

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MOTION PASSED

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c. PERMISSION TO SUBMIT GRANT PROPOSAL TO TAKE DOWN

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THE OLD MILL – Mr. Welch is seeking permission to submit a grant proposal for \$500,000 to take down the old mill should the Board approve. The estimated cost of removal is between \$400,000 and \$500,000. The

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company that did the quote estimated that they could do it for \$400,000. Chairman Letourneau asked if there would be materials that could be sold,

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Mr. Welch explained that the quote of \$400,000 is inclusive of the company purchasing any usable materials, otherwise the quote would be higher. Mr.

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Cilley asked if the acceptance of the funds would need to be used only for the purpose of taking the building down, or could the Board change their minds.

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Mr. Welch replied that the funds would need to go back if the building was not to be taken down.

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MOTION: Ann Barney

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To move forward with the grant proposals

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SECOND: Rebecca Hartley

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VOTE: 4-1 (Alan Cilley against)

MOTION PASSED

- 47 **d. PERMISSION TO BEGIN THE PROPOSAL FOR BROADBAND**
48 **INFRASTRUCTURE** – Mr. Welch is seeking the approval of the Board to
49 begin the proposal process for broadband infrastructure. Mr. Welch explained
50 that the NH CO-OP is building the main link that the Town will be able to
51 expand off of. Mr. Welch feels this would be a great opportunity to help the
52 tax base and both the NH CO-OP and the State are interested in getting this
53 project done.

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55 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley

56 *To allow the Town Manager to begin proposals for broadband infrastructure*

57 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

58 **VOTE:** 5-0

59 **MOTION PASSED**
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- 61 **e. QUESTION OF RE-ESTABLISHING THE TOWN HYDRO-POWER**
62 **SYSTEM** – Mr. Welch talked with the Board about the existing hydro power
63 system in Town and that it needs to be replaced. The Town previously owned
64 the hydro and had voted not to discontinue the use of it, however the Electric
65 Commissioners did in fact discontinue it along with the FERC license. Mr.
66 Welch has been talking with the State about what needs to be done and that
67 the State would like the Town to be its partner in getting the hydro up and
68 running. The hydro would need new generators, Mr. Welch stated that there
69 would be grant funds available for this project. If the Board approves, Mr.
70 Welch will look into the feasibility of this project.

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72 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

73 *To allow the Town Manager to further investigate and return with details and*
74 *costs associated to re-establishing the Town Hydro-Power System.*

75 **SECOND:** Alan Cilley

76 **VOTE:** 5-0

77 **MOTION PASSED**
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- 79 **f. QUESTION OF A WASTE TO ENERGY FACILITY** – Selectman Cilley
80 stated that this topic has been a discussion for a while now and that the Town
81 is in a unique position and has the property to build it. Selectman Cilley added
82 that we are in an area that would work for the haulers, and that a facility will
83 be needed in Grafton County. The Board discussed that the landfill the Town
84 uses will be closing in 2026. Mr. Welch added that should the Town build an
85 incinerator; he would not want to keep the ash in Town and would want to
86 send it to Turnkey. Mr. Welch feels that this an opportunity to drop the tax
87 rate in the future. Mr. Cilley added that there are only 75 incinerators like this
88 in operation in the US.
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93 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley
94 *To allow Fred to research the feasibility of a waste to energy facility*
95 **SECOND:** Robert Letourneau
96 **VOTE:** 5-0
97 **MOTION PASSED**

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99 **g. WARRANT ARTICLE TO PLACE SPECIAL HIGHWAY AND**
100 **BRIDGE FUNDS INTO CAPITAL RESERVE FUND** – Mr. Welch asked
101 the Board if he should develop a warrant article to move the special funds into
102 the Capital Reserve fund as the funds that were sent were not to be used to
103 supplant existing funds for projects. Selectman Barney asked what would
104 happen if the article didn't pass, Mr. Welch said that we would need to send
105 the funds back. The amount of the funds is about \$100,000.

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107 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
108 *To allow the Town Manager to write a warrant article to move the funds to*
109 *the Capital Reserve Funds.*
110 **SECOND:** Alan Cilley
111 **VOTE:** 5-0
112 **MOTION PASSED**

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114 **III. OLD BUISNESS – None**
115 **IV. SELECTBOARD ITEMS – None**

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117 **MOTION:** Bob Letourneau
118 *To enter into a non-public session pursuant to 91A:3 II; Legal*
119 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley
120 **VOTE:** 5-0
121 **MOTION PASSED**

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123 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley
124 *To seal the minutes of the non-public session*
125 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch
126 **VOTE:** 5-0
127 **MOTION PASSED**

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129 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
130 *To adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm*
131 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley
132 **VOTE:** 5-0
133 **MOTION PASSED**