

1 **TOWN OF ASHLAND**
2 **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**
3 **MONDAY, MARCH 20TH, 5:30PM**
4 **UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM**
5 **6 COLLINS STREET**
6

7 **I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Letourneau called the meeting to order with the
8 Pledge of Allegiance. Selectmen Andy Fitch, Ann Barney, Rebecca Hartley and
9 Charles Bozzello were all in attendance.

10
11 **II. REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

12 **a. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

13 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley

14 *To nominate Andy Fitch as Chairman*

15 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

16 **ROLL CALL VOTE:** 2-0-3

17 (Ann Barney, Charles Bozzello and Robert Letourneau abstained)

18 **MOTION FAILED**

19
20 **MOTION:** Charles Bozzello

21 *To nominate Robert Letourneau as Chairman*

22 **SECOND:** Robert Letourneau

23 **ROLL CALL VOTE:** 5-0

24 **MOTION PASSED**

25
26 **b. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

27 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

28 *To nominate Andy Fitch as Vice Chairman*

29 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

30 **ROLL CALL VOTE:** 5-0

31 **MOTION PASSED**

32
33 **c. DESIGNATION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBER**

34 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

35 *To nominate Ann Barney to continue as the Budget Committee Selectboard Member*

36 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

37 **VOTE:** 5-0

38 **MOTION PASSED**

39
40 **d. DESIGNATION OF ALTERNATE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBER**

41 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

42 *To nominate Andy Fitch to continue as the Alternate Budget Committee Selectboard*
43 *Member*

44 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

45 **VOTE:** 5-0

46 **MOTION PASSED**

47 **e. DESIGNATION OF ONE SELECTMEN AS EX OFFICIO MEMBER**
48 **OF THE PLANNING BOARD**

49
50 The Board discussed with Vice Chairman Andy Fitch if he would like to
51 remain as the ex officio member of the Planning Board and Vice Chairman
52 Fitch accepted to stay.

53
54 The Board further discussed the need for volunteers for both the Planning
55 Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Town Manager Fred Welch
56 spoke about the Zoning Board and that there has to be 3 members on the
57 Board otherwise should anything be filed with the Zoning Board it will have
58 to go to the Superior Court to which a lawyer must be paid. Alan Cilley, who
59 was in attendance, stated that he is currently on the Zoning Board but would
60 be resigning after their next meeting. His resignation puts the Board below the
61 threshold for voting.

62
63 The Board asks the Town's people for volunteers to fill the open positions on
64 both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board.

65
66 **f. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

67 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley

68 *To accept the minutes of March 6th as written*

69 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

70 **VOTE:** 4-0-1 (Charles Bozzello abstained)

71 **MOTION PASSED**

72
73 **III. NEW BUSINESS**

74 **a. SERVICE TERMINATIONS FOR NON-PAYMENT OF UTILITY**

75 **BILLINGS** – Mr. Welch provided the Board with information about the billing
76 arrears in the utility departments. At this time the arrears in the electric billing are
77 roughly \$125,000 which is about the same as the Town's power purchase bill in
78 the spring months. Mr. Welch discussed that he will be issuing service
79 terminations for those in arrears. Mr. Welch discussed that there are ways for
80 customers to get help with paying their bills or the option of a payment plan, but
81 that customers have to communicate with the office and not ignore the billings.
82 Mr. Welch stated that when he started here in Ashland he went to the Board to
83 write off \$30,000 in uncollectable electric bills. Selectman Barney asked if there
84 is a way to know if someone is on oxygen so that they do not get turned off if they
85 are in arrears, Mr. Welch replied that the customers are asked about that when
86 they sign up for service and that information is provided to the Fire Department as
87 well. Mr. Welch also discussed that there are issues with rental properties and the
88 communication that a tenant will be moving in/out. The electric will be turned off
89 in those instances and it will be up to the rental company to get the electric turned
90 back on.

92 **b. SIGNATURE OF LETTER FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS** – The Board was
93 presented with a request to sign for a transfer from the capital reserve funds.
94

95 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

96 *To use the funds from the Building Capital Reserve Fund for the Fire Department*
97 *work totaling \$16,345*

98 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

99 **VOTE:** 5-0

100 **MOTION PASSED**

101
102 **IV. OLD BUSINESS – None**

103
104 **V. SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

105 a. Selectman Barney talked with the Board about an opportunity to have tree work at
106 the campground done at a discounted rate with Hixon Logging. Selectman Barney
107 stated that the campground is checked every year for trees that may need work
108 and this year there are tree limbs that need to be taken down. Chairman
109 Letourneau added that this is a safety concern and should be taken care of. Vice
110 Chairman Fitch added that we should budget for the trees every year.
111

112 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

113 *To approve the \$8,000 for the tree removal, the funds of which to come from the*
114 *capital reserve funds.*

115 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

116 **VOTE:** 4-0-1 (Ann Barney abstained)

117 **MOTION PASSED**

118
119 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

120 *To enter into a non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3, II (C) at 6:20pm*

121 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

122 **VOTE:** 5-0

123 **MOTION PASSED**

124
125 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley

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

127 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

128 **VOTE:** 5-0

129 **MOTION PASSED**

130
131 **MOTION:** Ann Barney

132 *To adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm*

133 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

134 **VOTE:** 5-0

135 **MOTION PASSED**