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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 3RD, 5:30PM
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM
6 COLLINS STREET**

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

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11 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley

12 *To approve the minutes as written for March 20th*

13 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

14 **VOTE:** 4-0

15 **MOTION PASSED**

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17 **II. NEW BUSINESS**

18 a. **PUBLIC HEARING AMEND SEPTAGE REGULATIONS AND FEES** –

19 The Board opened the public hearing and asked Water & Sewer Superintendent
20 Andrew Benton to speak about the proposed changes. Mr. Benton presented that
21 the proposed change is to add a separate charge for pit toilets/ porta potties at a
22 rate of \$0.12. The reasoning for the proposed rate is due to the amount of
23 inorganic waste that comes with accepting pit toilets/ porta potties. Mr. Benton
24 added that the current rates for the Septage Receiving Facility are tiered and
25 added that there is a discount for holding tanks. The Board asked if there were any
26 comments from the public, as there were none the public hearing closed at
27 5:33pm.

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29 **MOTION:** Charles Bozzello

30 *To accept the proposed rate schedule for the Septage Receiving Facility.*

31 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

32 **VOTE:** 4-0

33 **MOTION PASSED**

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35 b. **SUGGESTION FOR CHANGE TO LAST ISSUED BOND WORK ON**

36 **SEWER PLANT** – Mr. Benton was asked to share the information about a
37 meeting that had taken place earlier in the day with the engineers for the
38 Wastewater Facility Upgrade. The conversation that took place with the engineers
39 is that there may be some items that do not need to be done as they had originally
40 thought. Mr. Benton continued that there is still a list of projects that need to be
41 done and that they could see a savings from the items that are no longer part of
42 the overall project. Town Manager Fred Welch added that essentially more work
43 will get done at no additional cost and that they just wanted to inform the public.

47 **c. VETERANS EXEMPTIONS, JOHN & SUSAN HARVILLE**

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49 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

50 *To approve the exemptions for John & Susan Harville*

51 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

52 **VOTE:** 4-0

53 **MOTION PASSED**

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55 **d. REQUEST FROM STATE PUC FOR ASSISTANCE** – Mr. Welch provided
56 the Board with a letter that came from the PUC asking for information about how
57 Ashland keeps their electric rates low. Selectman Bozzello asked if our rates had
58 to do with Ashland’s power contract, Mr. Welch said that in-part, yes as well as
59 that we don’t pay taxes. As well as that we are regulated by the people. Mr.
60 Welch added that the Electric Department will be turning off non-payers now that
61 we are out of the winter months. Currently the arrears are 50% of the Town’s
62 monthly power purchase.

63
64 **e. QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE TO STUDY**

65 **ESTABLISHING A POLICE STATION** – Selectman Fitch stated that the
66 Board has talked about establishing a committee. Selectman Fitch stated that he
67 will be on the committee along with Alan Cilley, and Chief Ulwick and that they
68 are hoping to have someone from the public be on the committee as well. The
69 committee will look into building a Police Station as the current station is
70 inadequate and does not conform to many regulations.

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72 **MOTION:** Charles Bozzello

73 *To establish a committee to study the question of establishing a Police Station*

74 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

75 **VOTE:** 4-0

76 **MOTION PASSED**

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78 **f. PURCHASE OF A NEW AMBULANCE** – Fire Chief Steve Heath spoke about
79 the progress on the new ambulance. Chief Heath has talked with 2 vendors and is
80 working on speaking with one other vendor. Chief Heath is hoping by the next
81 Selectboard meeting to have a proposal for the new ambulance. One of the
82 vendors he is working with is offering a discount for paying up front on the
83 ambulance.

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85 While on the topic of the new ambulance Selectman Fitch talked about the need
86 for a committee to study the ambulance service. The rates of the ambulance
87 contract will continue to go up. Selectman Fitch asked that Chief Heath be on the
88 committee, to which Chief Heath said he would and added Lt. Kendall Hughes
89 would like to be on the committee as well. It was added that the Board would like
90 a person from the public to serve on this committee as well. Selectman Hartley
91 volunteered to be on the committee.

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MOTION: Charles Bozzello
To establish a committee to study the ambulance service

SECOND: Rebecca Hartley

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION PASSED

- g. **REQUEST FOR CEMETERY SIGN, CHURCH HILL CEMETERY** – Mr. Welch spoke with the Board about a proposed cemetery sign that the Pemi-River Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) would like to put up at the cemetery off of Blue Sky Drive. The DAR would like the sign to be deeded to themselves, but Mr. Welch says that cannot be as the cemetery is a private cemetery. Mr. Welch’s suggestion is to have the cemetery deeded to the Town as it would be easier for the Town to talk with the owner. The Town would get an easement for the cemetery and that would allow the Town to take care of the cemetery. Mr. Welch added that he suggests not assessing a fee for the sign.

MOTION: Rebecca Hartley

To allow the sign to be placed and to waive the administrative fee

SECOND: Ann Barney

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION PASSED

- h. **QUESTION OF BIDS FOR REVALUATION OF THE TOWN 2024 TAX YEAR** – Mr. Welch spoke with the Board about the Town’s revaluation. Currently the assessors are measuring and listing every property in Town for each revaluation. Although the Town does have to do a revaluation every 5 years, Mr. Welch said that it is a bit too much to be measuring and listing every property. Additions and new buildings would need to be measured and listed, but not every property in Town. Mr. Welch would like to get quotes for full measure and list revaluation as well as a cyclical revaluation, and he added that we will need to get bids as we will need to do a revaluation next year and we are still working on the last revaluation.

- i. **QUESTION OF JOINING TREE CITY USA**– Selectman Fitch said that he has read the requirements such as creating a Board with a licensed arborist and fee requirements. Mr. Welch stated that it is up to the Board if they would like to take part in Tree City.

MOTION: Rebecca Hartley

To not move forward with joining Tree City USA

SECOND: Ann Barney

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION PASSED

139 j. **MEETING REQUEST TOWN TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS** – The
140 Trustees have requested a meeting with the Board they have suggested April 17th
141 or May 8th. The Board said that they would meet with them on April 17th.
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143 k. **REQUEST FOR A CEMETERY TRUSTEE TO ATTEND A WORKSHOP,**
144 **FUNDS REQUEST** – Mr. Welch provided the Board with a request for a
145 Cemetery Trustee to attend a workshop at NHMA. The Cemetery Trustees do not
146 have a budget; therefore the funds would come out of the Selectmen’s budget.
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148 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley
149 *To use Selectmen funds to send the Cemetery Trustee to the workshop*

150 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

151 **VOTE:** 4-0

152 **MOTION PASSED**

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154 l. **ABATEMENT PER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND SQUAM**
155 **RIVER HYDRO** – Mr. Welch spoke with the Board about the current BTLA
156 case and Town Council has proposed the original \$300,000 be lowered to
157 \$150,000 which would resolve the current BTLA case, the other option is to go to
158 trial.
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160 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley
161 *To reduce the value of Squam River Hydro to \$150,000*

162 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

163 **VOTE:** 4-0

164 **MOTION PASSED**

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166 m. **BOARDS POSITION ON RUNNING LINES ON TOWN POLES FOR**
167 **BROADBAND** – NH Co-op would like to negotiate running their wires in Town
168 for their Broadband and they would pay a fee for doing so. Selectman Fitch asked
169 to table the discussion until NH Co-op has a meeting with them.
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171 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
172 *To table the discussion until NH Co-op meets with the Board*

173 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

174 **VOTE:** 4-0

175 **MOTION PASSED**

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177 n. **VACANCIES ON THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARDS** - Selectman
178 Fitch asked the public again for their participation on the Planning and Zoning
179 Boards, currently there is no Zoning Board. The Board received a request for
180 appointment from Paula Hancock. Mardean Badger added that there are two
181 applications in the Zoning Board right now that will need to be heard.
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MOTION: Andy Fitch
To appoint Paula Hancock to the Planning Board

SECOND: Rebecca Hartley

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION PASSED

- o. SEWER SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGE, FUTURE HEARING** – Mr. Welch provided the Board with regulations for new sewer system developments and has asked the Board to review it. The regulations would bring in money for future expansion. Mr. Welch added that he installed these regulations in another Town as well.

III. OLD BUSINESS – None

IV. SELECTBOARD ITEMS

- a. Selectman Hartley brought a complaint to the Board from a concerned citizen on West Street. The concern comes from the trash that is littered around West Street due to Burger King not having trash cans outside. Mr. Welch stated that littering is illegal, and we should ask Burger King to put out trash cans.
- b. Selectman Barney brought to the Board a request from the Town of Holderness asking to use Ashland’s tennis courts while theirs are being redone. Selectman Barney added that there is a league that uses them regularly as well as the resident use of it. Holderness would be looking for 2 hours twice a week for 4 to 6 weeks. Selectman Fitch stated that he is not in favor of it as it would take away from Ashland residents. The Board’s consensus was to not allow Holderness to use Ashland’s tennis courts.

MOTION: Andy Fitch
To enter into a non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3, II (B & C) at 6:39pm

SECOND: Rebecca Hartley

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Rebecca Hartley
To seal the minutes of the non-public session

SECOND: Andy Fitch

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Rebecca Hartley
To adjourn the meeting at 7:49pm

SECOND: Andy Fitch

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION PASSED