

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
**TOWN OF ASHLAND**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH 5:30PM**  
**UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**6 COLLINS STREET**

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

10  
11  
**MOTION:** Andy Fitch

12  
*To approve the Minutes of September 11<sup>th</sup> as written*

13  
**SECOND:** Ann Barney

14  
**VOTE:** 5-0

15  
**MOTION PASSED**

16  
17  
**II. NEW BUSINESS**

18  
19  
**BUDGET REVIEWS:**

20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
**a. ELECTION & REGISTRATION** – Town Clerk/Tax Collector Patricia Tucker presented the proposed 2024 budget for the Town Clerk lines of the Election & Registration Budget. Increases were proposed in salary and longevity at 3%, the Deputy Town Clerk stipend increased from \$500 to \$5,000 (with an additional \$5,000 proposed in the Finance Budget for the Deputy Tax Collector), training increased by \$100, advertising increased by \$150, clerk expenses increased by \$200 due to increase of costs for dog tags, postage increased and ballot coding due to there being 4 elections next year.

30  
31  
32  
Chairman Letourneau and Mrs. Tucker discussed the possible purchase of a new ballot machine.

33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
Finance Director Marissah Gallien noted that the remaining lines in the Election & Registration budget are completed by the Supervisors of the Checklist. The Supervisors of the Checklist had provided a narrative that explained the increases are due to the number of elections in 2024.

38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
**b. FINANCE** – Mrs. Tucker presented the Tax Collector lines of the Finance budget. Increases were seen the salary lines, including longevity. The additional \$5,000 to make up the proposed \$10,000 for a Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector, postage, training, and general expenses increased due to increased pricing.

43  
44  
45  
46  
Ms. Gallien presented the remaining lines in the Finance budget. Increases were seen in salary for the Finance Director, the Treasurer (whom of which has not seen an increase in an estimated 10 years), the Deputy Treasurer, the audit line increased for the annual audit fees along with funds to perform an actuary which

47 looks at extended costs related to health insurance and retirement. The consulting  
48 line saw a decrease of \$20,000 due decreasing need for use of the Town's CPA.  
49 The software line saw a \$1,500 increase due to the related costs of accounting and  
50 payroll software.

- 51
- 52 **c. LAND USE** – Ms. Gallien provided the Board with the requested budget from the  
53 Planning & Zoning Boards. The requested increase is \$1,250 which includes a  
54 replacement computer and additional filing cabinets.
- 55
- 56 **d. GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS** – Ms. Gallien presented the budget  
57 for General Government Buildings which overall increased by \$250. The changes  
58 were seen in heating oil, the general expense line, and the office supply line.
- 59
- 60 **e. CEMTERY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPEMENT** – Ms. Gallien presented the  
61 budgets as unchanged from the prior year with \$1 to keep the lines available for  
62 use.
- 63
- 64 **f. BUILDING INSPECTOR** – The Building Inspector budget was adjusted to  
65 reflect the actuals of the inspector working 2 days a week.
- 66
- 67 **g. HEALTH OFFICER** – Ms. Gallien presented that the Health Office budget has  
68 remained the same and noted that the Town has a new Health Officer Kendall  
69 Hughes.
- 70
- 71 **h. ANIMAL CONTROL** – Ms. Gallien presented that the Animal Control Budget  
72 increased by \$33 as that is the increase in the contract.
- 73
- 74 **i. GENERAL ASSISTANCE** – Ms. Gallien provided the Board with the requested  
75 from the General Assistant Director asking for an increase in his weekly stipend  
76 as he has been working additional hours due to the number of citizens that are in  
77 need of assistance. The budget also saw an increase in the assistance line of  
78 \$2,000. The total requested increase is \$3,460.
- 79
- 80 **j. MEMORIAL PARK** – Ms. Gallien explained that the Memorial Park lines have  
81 been moved out of the Parks & Recreation budget lines to their own budget and  
82 the budget has stayed the same as the prior year. The lines are used to pay for the  
83 utilities at the park.
- 84
- 85 **k. LIBRARY** – Alice Staples presented the proposed Library budget which included  
86 increases in salaries for the staff, as well as increases in the general expenses such  
87 as heating fuel, security cameras, and cleaning contract. Selectmen Barney asked  
88 what the percentage is for the proposed increase in salaries and asked if there  
89 were increased hours that the Library would be open. Ms. Staples indicated that  
90 the increase in salaries is about \$.50 per hour and that the Library would be open  
91 additional hours on Wednesday and Fridays.
- 92

- 93 **I. PATRIOTIC PURPOSES, CONSERVATION & DEBT SERVICE – Ms.**  
94 Gallien reviewed the increase in the Patriotic Purposes budget which includes a  
95 \$100 increase due to the increasing costs of the Memorial Day Flags. The  
96 Conservation budget remained the same with \$1 to keep the line available. The  
97 Debt Service budget included \$1 in TANS to keep the line available.  
98

99 **BUDGET REVIEWS CONCLUDED**

- 100  
101 **m. MILL POND DEVELOPMENT –** The Lakes Region Community Developers  
102 made a presentation on their proposed development off of Mill Pond Lane. Sal  
103 Stevens-Hubbard and Kevin Leonard made the presentation. They did an  
104 overview of the housing which would include 60 2-to-3-bedroom town houses, 26  
105 elderly housing units and 4 single family homes. The housing development would  
106 serve low to medium income workforce housing. The single-family homes would  
107 be built with habitat for humanity. The developers discussed the encroachments  
108 the Town has on the ball field particularly near the ice rink and showed  
109 prospective plans of a road that would connect Main Street to the development on  
110 Mill Pond Lane, by way of the parking area by the ice rink. The topic of  
111 hazardous material came up regarding the site by Chairman Letourneau as plans  
112 that have been submitted to the Town included markers of possible hazardous  
113 material. The developers indicated that they were aware of coal ash and asbestos  
114 on the site and that should they purchase the land for the project the waste would  
115 have to be dealt with appropriately. The developers were asked if they planned on  
116 calling DES and they indicated that once they acquire the site they would prepare  
117 the plan to deal with the potential hazardous waste.  
118

119 The Board allowed the public to ask questions to the developers. Sam Leahy a  
120 local of Ashland shared concerns regarding the proposed road through the park by  
121 the ice rink especially regarding the potential speed limit being 30 mile per hour,  
122 as well as the additional impact to an already strained Fire Department as a  
123 current Fire Department volunteer. Yvonne Downes and Richard Grinley both of  
124 Mill Pond Lane asked how the developers were going to widen the road as  
125 currently people have to drive over a portion of Ms. Downes driveway. The  
126 developers did not have a specific answer to the widening of the road. Selectmen  
127 Barney asked if this development would pay full taxes. The developers stated that  
128 there is a formula where a portion of the taxes would be paid for the development,  
129 indicating that the taxes would not be fully assessed to this project. Mardean  
130 Badger Chairman of the Planning Board added to the conversation that the  
131 Planning Board and the developers have had some informal discussions about the  
132 environmental factors, roads and access issues. Mrs. Badger indicated that the  
133 Planning Board has a stringent application process and that the Board will do due  
134 diligence on the proposed project. Residents asked the developers what benefit  
135 this project would have for the residents of this Town, however an answer was not  
136 clearly given. Chairman Letourneau stopped public comment and thanked the  
137 developers for coming to the meeting and sharing their proposed project.  
138

- 139 n. **QUESTION OF ACCEPTING ST. AGNES CHURCH WW1 VETERANS**  
140 **HONOR ROLL** – David Ruell discussed with the Board the proposal to move  
141 the St. Agnes WW1 Honor Roll to the back of the Town’s Honor Roll at the  
142 American Legion. Town Manager Fred Welch stated that they would need a letter  
143 from the owner of the plaque and that they would hold a public hearing to accept  
144 it.  
145  
146 o. **PRIVATE BANDSTAND FUND PLACEMENT** – David Ruell brought to the  
147 Board the question of the Town taking over funds that had been previously  
148 donated to the bandstand committee. The current individual that takes care of the  
149 funds will be moving out of State and the funds should remain available for use of  
150 repairs to the bandstand. It was discussed that the funds could go to the Trustees  
151 of the Trust Funds or the BOS could make their own account for the funds. The  
152 discussion did not have a conclusion and the topic would be discussed at a later  
153 date.

154  
155 **III. OLD BUSINESS – None**

156  
157 **IV. SELECTMEN’S ITMES**

- 158 a. Chairman Letourneau thanked our new Health Officer Kendall Hughes and  
159 Deputy Health Officer Antonio “Devon” Thibeault for their efforts in aiding two  
160 cases in the Town where lives were at stake.

161  
162 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

163 *To enter into a non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3 (a, c & d)*

164 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

165 **VOTE:** 5-0

166 **MOTION PASSED**

167  
168 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

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

170 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

171 **VOTE:** 5-0

172 **MOTION PASSED**

173  
174 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

175 *To adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm*

176 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

177 **VOTE:** 5-0

178 **MOTION PASSED**