

**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM**

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

II. NEW BUSINESS

a. PUBLIC HEARING – \$6.2M BOND FOR THOMPSON ST, HIGH ST, SMITH HILL RD, AND WINONA RD – The Board voted to open the public hearing on a bond that is for replacing water infrastructure on the named above roads. No public comment was made.

b. PUBLIC HEARING – INFILTRATION/INFLOW STUDY – L.W. PACKARD MILL SITE. The Board voted to open the public hearing on a bond that is \$100,000 which has received a grant to cover the \$100,000 principal of the bond making the Town responsible only for the interest on the bond. No public comment was made.

MOTION: Andy Fitch

To close the public hearings at 5:35pm

SECOND: Rebecca Hartley

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION PASSED

c. WARRANT ARTICLE 4 – WASTE TO ENERGY – ARTICLE LANGUAGE UPDATE – The Board discussed that the warrant article should include language that lets citizens know it’s a revenue bond.

MOTION: Rebecca Hartley

To add “Revenue Bond” next to “No Tax Impact” on Warrant Article 4 – Waste to Energy

SECOND: Andy Fitch

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION PASSED

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON WARRANT ARTICLES:

ARTICLE 3 – \$6.2M BOND THOMPSON ST, HIGH ST, SMITH HILL RD, WINONA RD: **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley **SECOND:** Andy Fitch, **VOTE:** 5-0
ARTICLE 4 – WASTE TO ENERGY: **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley, **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello, **VOTE:** 4-1 (Andy Fitch felt there is a lack of information at this time)

ARTICLE 5 – INFILTRATION/INFLOW STUDY – L.W. PACKARD MILL STIE \$100,000: **MOTION:** Ann Barney **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello, **VOTE:** 5-0

ARTICLE 6 – OPERATING BUDGET \$3,522,311: **MOTION:** Ann Barney, **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley, **VOTE:** 5-0

48 **ARTICLE 7 – ELECTRIC BUDGET \$3,443,990: MOTION:** Andy Fitch,
49 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley, **VOTE:** 5-0
50 **ARTICLE 8 – WATER BUDGET \$399,381: MOTION:** Ann Barney, **SECOND:**
51 Rebecca Hartley, **VOTE:** 5-0
52 **ARTICLE 9 – SEWER BUDGET \$817,689: MOTION:** Ann Barney, **SECOND:**
53 Rebecca Hartley, **VOTE:** 5-0
54 **ARTICLE 10 – CONTINGENCY FUND \$25,000: MOTION:** Andy Fitch,
55 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley, **VOTE:** 5-0
56 **ARTICLE 11 – FIRE DEPT. CRF \$50,000: MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley,
57 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch, **VOTE:** 5-0
58 **ARTICLE 12 – POLICE DEPT. EST. BUILDING CRF \$25,000: MOTION:** Ann
59 Barney, **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley, **VOTE:** 5-0
60 **ARTICLE 13 – POLICE DEPT. CAR CRF \$25,000: MOTION:** Andy Fitch,
61 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley, **VOTE:** 5-0
62 **ARTICLE 14 – PUBLIC WORKS CRF \$25,000: MOTION:** Andy Fitch,
63 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley, **VOTE:** 5-0
64 **ARTICLE 15 – ROAD & BRIDGE CRF \$125,000: MOTION:** Ann Barney,
65 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley, **VOTE:** 5-0
66 **ARTICLE 16 – PUBLIC WORKS CRF – PLOW TRUCK \$200,552: MOTION:**
67 Andy Fitch, **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley, **VOTE:** 5-0
68 **ARTICLE 17 – BUILDING MAINTENANCE & REPAIR CRF \$25,000:**
69 **MOTION:** Ann Barney, **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley, **VOTE:** 5-0
70 **ARTICLE 18 – DISORDERLY ACTIONS ORDINANCE: MOTION:** Andy
71 Fitch **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley, **VOTE:** 5-0 (Vice Chair Fitch noted that the
72 change in the ordinance was to separate it from the noise ordinance.)
73 **ARTICLE 19 – NOISE ORDINANCE: MOTION:** Andy Fitch, **SECOND:**
74 Rebecca Hartley, **VOTE:** 5-0 (Vice Chair Fitch noted that this ordinance was
75 separated from the disorderly actions ordinance as well as to change the noise hours
76 for commercial logging.)
77 **ARTICLE 20 – PETITION – VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE \$3,000:**
78 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley **SECOND:** Andy Fitch, **VOTE:** 5-0
79 **ARTICLE 21 – PETITION – PEMI-BAKER HOSPICE & HOME HEALTH**
80 **\$9,692: MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley **SECOND:** Ann Barney, **VOTE:** 5-0
81 **ARTICLE 22 – PETITION – GRAFTON COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS**
82 **\$12,000: MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley **SECOND:** Ann Barney, **VOTE:** 5-0
83 **ARTICLE 23 – PETITION – TRANSPORT CENTRAL \$1,250: MOTION:**
84 Rebecca Hartley **SECOND:** Robert Letourneau, **VOTE:** 4-0-1 (Andy Fitch
85 Abstained)
86 **ARTICLE 24 – PETITION – LAKES REGION MENTAL HEALTH \$3,500:**
87 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley **SECOND:** Andy Fitch, **VOTE:** 5-0
88 **ARTICLE 25 – PETITION – HOSPICE CARE \$5,000: MOTION:** Rebecca
89 Hartley **SECOND:** Andy Fitch, **VOTE:** 5-0
90 **ARTICLE 26 – PETITION – LIBRARY CRF \$25,000: MOTION:** Rebecca
91 Hartley **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello, **VOTE:** 0-5 (Selectman Barney shared that she
92 did not feel the library should gain additional funding as their CRF had roughly
93 \$136,000 for the purposes of maintaining the current building, as well as the

94 \$400,000 to which the Board has not seem the stipulations of use for that money,
95 Kendall Hughes added a comment that the library has asked for \$5,500 in their
96 budget for maintenance.)

97 **ARTICLE 27 – PETITION – ASHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY \$3,000:**
98 **MOTION:** Ann Barney **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley, **VOTE:** 0-5

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100 **d. SIGNING OF MS-DTB** – The Board signed the DRA form for the 2024 default
101 budget.

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103 **III. OLD BUSINESS**

104 a. Vice Chair Fitch discussed with the Board the ongoing water issues and
105 how the affected customers should receive some discount on their bill
106 during this time. The Board discussed a few different options and decided
107 on allowing a waiver of the monthly service charge and 50% off their
108 water usage effective January 1st, 2024, for those that have confirmed
109 water issues.

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111 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley
112 *To waive the \$10 monthly charge plus 50% of water usage back to January 1st, 2024*
113 *for the confirmed customer on the provided list*

114 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch
115 **VOTE:** 4-0-1 (Ann Barney Abstained)

116 **MOTION PASSED**

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118 b. Selectman Bozzello was re-appointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment
119 for an additional 3-year term.

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121 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau
122 *To appoint Charles Bozzello to the Zoning Board of Adjustment*

123 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello
124 **VOTE:** 5-0

125 **MOTION PASSED**

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127 **IV. SELECTMEN’S ITMES – None**

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129 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau
130 *To enter into a non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3 (a, b &c) at 6:24pm*

131 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley
132 **VOTE:** 5-0

133 **MOTION PASSED**

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135 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau
136 *To seal the minutes of the non-public session*

137 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello
138 **VOTE:** 5-0

139 **MOTION PASSED**

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MOTION: Robert Letourneau
To adjourn the meeting at 6:51pm
SECOND: Andy Fitch
VOTE: 5-0
MOTION PASSED