

**TOWN OF ASHLAND  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH 5:30PM  
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM  
6 COLLINS STREET**

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

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. PUBLIC HEARING SEPTAGE TREATMENT FACILITY ORDINANCE –**

The Board opened the public hearing for the proposed Septage Receiving Regulations for public comment. With there being no public comment, the Board closed the public hearing.

**MOTION:** Andy Fitch

To approve the Water & Sewer ordinance for Septage Receiving

**SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

**VOTE:** 5-0

**MOTION PASSED**

**b. QUESTION OF WASTE TO ENERGY COMMITTEE ITEMS** – Jeremy Smith from Waldron gave a presentation to the Board about the next steps of the Waste to Energy project. The next step is to do a survey of the surrounding area to see how much waste is available, and what kind of waste it is as these items will dictate the size and set up of the facility. Selectman Bozzello asked if this survey would be done by the end of December for a warrant article to be put in for the next election, Mr. Smith indicated that it could be done. Chairman Letourneau indicated that there would be a public hearing on the proposed project coming up and that it would possibly be held at the school.

**c. BOS APPROVE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024:**

**Executive:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bozzello: Vote: 5-0 \$189,773 - Approved

**Election & Registration:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$56,552 –

Approved (Changes: the BOS decided on adding \$7,234 in longevity for the Town Clerk, and keeping the \$500 for the Deputy Town Clerk)

**Finance:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$166,851 – Approved

(Changes: the BOS decided on adding \$7,234 in longevity for the Tax Collector, and keeping the \$500 for the Deputy Tax Collector)

**Property Taxation:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitch: Vote: 5-0 \$15,101– Approved

**Legal:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$30,000 – Approved

**Land Use:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bozzello: Vote: 5-0 \$14,030 – Approved

**Personnel Admin:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$569,389 – Approved

(Changes: the retirement line was changed in conjunction with the TC/TC salary)

47 **General Government Buildings:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitch: Vote: 5-0 \$43,626  
 48 – Approved  
 49 **Cemetery:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$1 – Approved  
 50 **Insurance:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitch: Vote: 5-0 \$86,571 – Approved  
 51 **Economic Dev:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$1 – Approved  
 52 **Police:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitch: Vote: 5-0 \$591,098 – Approved  
 53 **Ambulance:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitch: Vote: 5-0 \$40,664 – Approved  
 54 **Fire:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$432,679 – Approved  
 55 **Building Inspector:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitch: Vote: 5-0 \$32,469 – Approved  
 56 **Emergency Management:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$1,000 –  
 57 Approved  
 58 **Public Works:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$292,073 – Approved  
 59 **Highway:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitch: Vote: 5-0 \$266,992 – Approved  
 60 **Mechanic:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$115,727 – Approved  
 61 **Transfer Station:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$186,263 – Approved  
 62 **Health Officer:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$2,355 – Approved  
 63 **Animal Control:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitch: Vote: 5-0 \$1,133 – Approved  
 64 **General Assistance:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitch: Vote: 5-0 \$21,827 – Approved  
 65 **Parks & Recreation:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 4-0-1 (Barney Abstains)  
 66 \$62,621 – Approved  
 67 **P&R Campground:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitch: Vote: 4-0-1 (Barney Abstains)  
 68 \$16,760 – Approved  
 69 **P&R Vacation:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 4-0-1 (Barney Abstains)  
 70 \$78,467 – Approved  
 71 **P&R After School:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 4-0-1 (Barney Abstains)  
 72 \$26,378 – Approved  
 73 **Memorial Park:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitch: Vote: 5-0 \$661 – Approved  
 74 **Library:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$104,046 – Approved  
 75 **Patriotic Purposes:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitch: Vote: 5-0 \$1,201 – Approved  
 76 **Conservation:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitch: Vote: 5-0 \$1 – Approved  
 77 **Tax Anticipation Notes:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$1 – Approved  
 78 **Water Dept:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitch: Vote: 5-0 \$399,381 – Approved  
 79 **Sewer Dept:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$817,689 – Approved  
 80 **Electric Dept:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Letourneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley: Vote: 5-0 \$3,443,990 – Approved

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 82 **d. QUESTION OF PURCHASING A VEHICLE FOR THE ELECTRIC**  
 83 **DEPARTMENT** - The Board was presented with 3 bids for a new bucket truck  
 84 for the Electric Department.

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 86 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

87 *To purchase the bucket truck Versalift from CUES from \$168,636*

88 **SECOND:** Robert Letourneau

89 **VOTE:** 5-0

90 **MOTION PASSED**

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93 **e. APPROVAL OF DEFAULT BUDGET –**

94 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

95 *To approve the 2024 General Fund Default Budget for \$3,281,182*

96 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

97 **VOTE:** 5-0

98 **MOTION PASSED**

99 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

100 *To approve the 2024 Water Default Budget for \$388,446*

101 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

102 **VOTE:** 5-0

103 **MOTION PASSED**

104 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

105 *To approve the 2024 Sewer Default Budget for \$812,754*

106 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

107 **VOTE:** 5-0

108 **MOTION PASSED**

109 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

110 *To approve the 2024 Electric Default Budget for \$3,425,011*

111 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

112 **VOTE:** 5-0

113 **MOTION PASSED**

114 **III. OLD BUSINESS – None**

115 **IV. SELECTMEN'S ITMES**

- 116 a. Vice Chairman Fitch discussed with the Board an issue with Commerce  
117 Properties' new buildings as they need to be on their own street name. Currently  
118 they are listed as Winter Street, however the buildings are on a driveway off of  
119 Winter Street and will need to be issued their own street name for 911 purposes.
- 120 b. Chairman Letourneau passed around a letter from the Town Clerk that Glenn  
121 Dion has been sworn in as the new moderator but would not be able to do the  
122 deliberative session unless it was held later in the day, after 2pm. Selectman  
123 Bozzello was concerned that there would not be the same turn out if it was held  
124 later in the day. Vice Chairman Fitch wondered if there would be a better turn out  
125 having it in the afternoon. The Board will revisit the time of the deliberative  
126 session at a later date.
- 127 c. Chairman Letourneau discussed the poor water quality on Thompson Street. He  
128 stated that many neighbors have spoken to him about the quality. Mr. Benton  
129 stated that the pipes on that road are from the 1950's and that the warrant article  
130 for that project has been put up 2 to 3 times and failed each time. Because the  
131 project has been engineered before, there will be a peer review done to see if  
132 anything has changed and find out the new cost of replacing the water line.

139 A member of the public spoke to the Board about an issue with the smoking area  
140 located at NFI's building on Main Street. The smoking area blows smoke into the  
141 newly built building behind it on Winter Street. The citizen asked if there was a way  
142 to ask for a smoking ordinance to be enacted as this is causing issues. The Board  
143 shared their sympathy for the problem but that an ordinance would only be in effect  
144 over public property not private.

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147 **MOTION:** Ann Barney  
148 *To enter into a non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3 (a, & c)*

149 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

150 **VOTE:** 5-0

151 **MOTION PASSED**

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

155 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

156 **VOTE:** 5-0

157 **MOTION PASSED**

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159 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau  
160 *To adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm*

161 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

162 **VOTE:** 5-0

163 **MOTION PASSED**