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**TOWN OF ASHLAND  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH 5:30PM  
ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
16 EDUCATION DRIVE**

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

**MOTION:** Charles Bozzello  
*To approve the minutes of December 4<sup>th</sup> as written*  
**SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley  
**VOTE:** 4-0  
**MOTION PASSED**

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**II. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. PUBLIC HEARING ACCEPTANCE OF STATE FUNDS FOR HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES** – No public comments were made, and the public hearing closed at 5:34pm.

**MOTION:** Charles Bozzello  
*To accept the one-time highway funds of \$15,133.06*  
**SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley  
**VOTE:** 4-0  
**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley  
*To approve the one-time unanticipated bridge funds of \$16,584.99*  
**SECOND:** Charles Bozzello  
**VOTE:** 4-0  
**MOTION PASSED**

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- b. INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING FOR SELECTMEN – WASTE TO ENERGY PROPOSAL** – Waste to Energy Facility Committee Chairman Alan Cilley introduced the committee members, Charles Bozzello, Craig Moore, Harry Gallien, Will Hess, Mike Myshrall, and Bonnie Bethune as well as Waldron, the engineering firm that has been working with the committee. Waldron is an in-state business engineering firm for 30+ years. Mr. Cilley added that many firms want to build facilities and run them, Waldron is not one of those companies, the facility would be run by the Town of Ashland. Chairman Letourneau noted that there would a 15-minute question and answer period after the presentation.

Jeremy Smith and Grant Page of Waldron gave a presentation that included information about their company background, shared examples of facilities they have built and gave an overview of the proposed Ashland facility. The facility would be built behind the lagoons with a road that would come straight from the I93-intersection to avoid traffic through Town. The facility would produce 12-megawatts, the presentation included graphics for the set-up of the facility along with descriptions of each stage of the process. The amount of electricity the Town uses can be generated by the plant, which would

eliminate outsourcing. Waldron is currently in the process of a study to understand just how much waste is available which will influence how the project will proceed. It was noted that there will be a detailed project briefing in January of 2024.

During the question-and-answer period, David Ruell asked where the trash will be coming from and shared concern about a possible landfill in Whitefield. Mr. Smith responded that there are 1.2 million tons of waste across the State, the proposed facility would require 168,000 tons per year. Waldron is currently engaged in a waste study to cement the answer. Selectmen Bozzello added that the facility can also be used to dig up existing landfills.

Paul Hicks asked about the road access and shared concern for traffic through Town, Mr. Smith assured that the access would be by I93 only, not through Town.

A citizen asked how much the facility is going to cost, the exact number was not known at this meeting, but would be known by the end of the month (December).

Chairman Letourneau ended the Q&A portion of the meeting at the 15-minute mark and thanked everyone that attended and assured all those in attendance that if a question was not answered in full it would be before it gets to the warrant.

- c. **REQUEST FOR POLE ATTACHMENTS, NH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE – BROADBAND** – Town Manager Fred Welch discussed with the Board a request from NH Co-op to attach to the poles on N. Ashland Road for their broadband project. Mr. Welch shared that the broadband would not be available to Ashland residents, only those on N. Ashland Road where the lines would be. Chairman Letourneau spoke with the Campton selectboard Chair and understands that NH Co-op has been the recipient of roughly \$60 million dollars in aid from governmental units for this project. Chair Letourneau stated he was not in favor of a pole agreement with this project. Mr. Welch stated that his recommendation would be to decline the request. Selectman Barney stated that NH Co-op has offered to pay for an attachment agreement, Mr. Welch confirmed this, but added that the pole fee is set by State and Federal rates.

**MOTION:** Charles Bozzello

*To decline the offer of a pole attachment agreement from NHEC*

**SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

**VOTE:** 4-0

**MOTION PASSED**

- d. **REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS** – Selectmen Bozzello asked the Board to consider Mike Myshrall as the alternate to the Zoning Board.

**MOTION:** Charles Bozzello

*To appoint Mike Myshrall to the Zoning Board as an alternate*

**SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

**VOTE:** 4-0

**MOTION PASSED**

An application from Meghan Semiao was discussed as the applicant indicated they would be willing to serve on a CIP committee, Planning Board, or Zoning Board. Currently there is a full member position open on the Zoning Board. Selectmen Bozzello asked that the appointment of Meghan be tabled and considered at a later date and suggested making

101 Mike Myshrall a full member of the Zoning Board. Selectman Hartley felt that the  
 102 application should be considered at the current meeting as that is the process that the  
 103 Board has following.

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 105 **MOTION:** Charles Bozzello

106 *To appoint Mike Myshrall as a full member of the Zoning Board*

107 **SECOND:** Robert Letourneau

108 **VOTE:** 2-2 (R. Letourneau & C. Bozzello in favor, A. Barney & R. Hartley against)

109 **MOTION FAILED**

110

111 **MOTION:** Ann Barney

112 *To appoint Meghan Semiao to the Zoning Board*

113 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

114 **VOTE:** 3-1 (C. Bozzello against)

115 **MOTION PASSED**

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117 e. **REQUEST OF DPW TO PURCHASE TRUCK** – DPW Director Craig Moore  
 118 discussed with the Board the need for a new plow truck. Mr. Moore had previously  
 119 provided the Board quotes for the truck. Mr. Moore shared that he would like to get the  
 120 truck on the 2024 warrant as it is expected to see a 6% to 8% increase within the next  
 121 year. The current Public Works capital reserve fund has \$109,000, which Mr. Moore  
 122 would like to use as part of the purchase. The proposed truck is \$290,552.

123

124 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

125 *To include a warrant article in 2024 for a 6-wheel plow truck from Western Star totaling*  
 126 *\$290,552, \$90,000 of which to be used from the Public Works CRF, and remaining funds*  
 127 *to be added to the Public Works CRF (\$200,552)*

128 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

129 **VOTE:** 4-0

130 **MOTION PASSED**

131

132 f. **ABATEMENTS** – The Board considered several abatements, and noted that due to the  
 133 number of errors, would be considering a different assessing company.

134

135 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley

136 *To approve the abatement for \$311.40 on account 109-066 for a merger that should not*  
 137 *have happened*

138 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

139 **VOTE:** 4-0

140 **MOTION PASSED**

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142 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley

143 *To approve the abatement for \$69.20 for a camper at Ames Brook that was removed 3*  
 144 *years ago*

145 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

146 **VOTE:** 4-0

147 **MOTION PASSED**

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152 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley  
153 *To approve the abatement for \$3,237.40 for a duplicate billing of a boat slip*  
154 **SECOND:** Ann Barney  
155 **VOTE:** 4-0  
156 **MOTION PASSED**

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158 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley  
159 *To approve the abatement for \$8.67 for a camper no longer at the campground*  
160 **SECOND:** Ann Barney  
161 **VOTE:** 4-0  
162 **MOTION PASSED**

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164 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau  
165 *To approve the abatement for \$1,500 for a veteran's credit not properly applied*  
166 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello  
167 **VOTE:** 3-0-1 (R. Hartley abstained)  
168 **MOTION PASSED**

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170 **g. INTENT TO CUT -**  
171 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley  
172 *To approve the intent to cut for tax map 212-004 on McDonald Road*  
173 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello  
174 **VOTE:** 4-0  
175 **MOTION PASSED**

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177 **h. SIGNATURE OF A-5W WARRANT TO COMPLETE FILE –**  
178 The Board signed the A-5W for previously approved current use tax penalties.  
179

180 **i. CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS REQUEST FOR POLICE VEHICLE \$850 -** The  
181 Board was provided with two purchase orders for approval for the police car wraps, each  
182 for \$850. In addition, the Board signed a request to the Trustees of the Trust Funds for  
183 reimbursement of previously voted items.

184  
185 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau  
186 *To approve the purchase of police car wraps for car 1 & 2 totaling \$1,700 to come from*  
187 *the Police Car CRF*  
188 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley  
189 **VOTE:** 4-0  
190 **MOTION PASSED**

191  
192 **j. CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS REQUESTS FOR TOWN BUILDINGS –** Mr. Welch  
193 asked for the Board's permission to increase the request for the Town Building CRF from  
194 \$10,000 to \$35,000 on the 2024 warrant due to the need for replacing the heating/cooling  
195 system at the Town Hall. The Board gave their consensus for Mr. Welch to change the  
196 requested amount.

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198 **k. AUTHORITY TO FILE FOR GRANT TO REPLACE THOMPSON STREET**  
199 **WATER LINE -**

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203 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau  
204 *To approve the Town Manager and staff to find and apply for grants*  
205 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley  
206 **VOTE:** 4-0  
207 **MOTION PASSED**  
208

209 **I. REQUEST FOR VETERAN’S EXEMPTION** – Mr. Welch discussed that there is  
210 Veteran’s exemption that was not properly filed, which will need to be re-filed with the  
211 Board for their approval.  
212

213 **m. SIGN 2023 MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT DATA CERTIFICATE -**

214 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau  
215 *To approve the 2023 assessment certificate*  
216 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello  
217 **VOTE:** 4-0  
218 **MOTION PASSED**  
219

220 **n. QUESTION OF WARRANT ARTICLE – POLICE DEPARTMENT CRF** – Mr.  
221 Welch discussed with the Board a request to write a warrant article for 2024 to establish a  
222 Police Department Building CRF starting with \$25,000.  
223

224 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau  
225 *To approve the writing a warrant article to create a CRF for a new Police Department*  
226 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello  
227 **VOTE:** 4-0  
228 **MOTION PASSED**  
229

230 **III. OLD BUSINESS – None**  
231

232 **IV. SELECTMEN’S ITMES –**

233 **a.** Selectman Hartley asked to be sworn in to the Ambulance Study Committee, which  
234 Chairman Letourneau performed.  
235

236 **b.** Selectman Hartley asked the Board if they should discuss the proposed accounting  
237 software for the Finance Department. Finance Director Marissah Gallien discussed  
238 the proposal with the Board, noting that the pricing outlines 2 required modules  
239 which would replace the current accounting software and the current accounts  
240 payable software, in addition 3 modules that would be beneficial not only to the  
241 finance department but to all the department heads, including a purchasing module  
242 which would help with policy compliance, reconciliation for bank accounts, and  
243 budgeting which would streamline the budgeting process. The company is Municipal  
244 Resources Inc. (MRI), and they are local (Plymouth). The software was developed  
245 with the NH accounting practices in mind. The reason for looking at new software is  
246 due to the current vendor merging with another company which will result in a  
247 software change regardless. Ms. Gallien added that MRI is willing to work out a  
248 payment arrangement to get the system implemented.  
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252 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau  
253 *To approve the office staff to negotiate a payment arrangement for purchase of the*  
254 *MTS software*

255 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

256 **VOTE:** 4-0

257 **MOTION PASSED**

258

259 **Mr. Welch noted that the last day for petition warrant articles is January 9<sup>th</sup>**  
260 **2024.**

261

262 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

263 *To enter into a non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3 (a, b & c) at 8pm*

264 **SECOND:** Rebecca Hartley

265 **VOTE:** 4-0

266 **MOTION PASSED**

267

268 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley

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

270 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

271 **VOTE:** 4-0

272 **MOTION PASSED**

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274 **MOTION:** Rebecca Hartley

275 *To adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm*

276 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

277 **VOTE:** 4-0

278 **MOTION PASSED**