

# ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

## JANUARY 11, 2024

Members Present: Hughes, Ruell, Unangst, Coleman, Barney  
Members Excused: Lyford, Fitch

### Public Hearing on School Budget

Chairman Hughes called the public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Ashland School Cafeteria.

Superintendent Mary Moriarty explained the changes in the school budget and reviewed the school budget handout.

On a motion by Unangst, seconded by Coleman, it was voted 5 to 0 to recommend Article 3, the school budget of \$4,505,844.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Coleman, it was voted 5 to 0 to recommend Article 2, the salaries of School District Officers.

The public hearing was closed at 6:15 p.m.

### Public Hearing on Town Budget

Hughes called the public hearing to order at 6:16 p.m.

Town Manager Fred Welch and Hughes made some opening remarks to explain the budget. Individual warrant articles, beginning with the Town and Utility budgets, were then discussed and voted.

On a motion by Barney, seconded by Ruell, it was voted 4 to 1 to recommend Article 4, the Town budget of \$3,522,311.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Barney, it was voted 4 to 1 to recommend Article 5, the Electric Department budget of \$3,443,990.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Barney, it was voted 5 to 0 to recommend Article 6, the Water Department budget of \$399,381.

On a motion by Unangst, seconded by Ruell, it was voted 5 to 0 to recommend Article 7, the Sewer Department budget of \$817,689.

On a motion by Barney, seconded by Ruell, it was voted 4 to 1 to recommend Article 3, \$6,200,000 for infrastructure work on Thompson Street, High Street, Smith Hill Road and Winona Road.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Barney, it was voted 4 to 1 to recommend Article 8, \$25,000 for the Contingency Fund.

On a motion by Hughes, seconded by Barney, it was voted 4 to 1, after lengthy discussion, to recommend Article 9, \$135,000,000 for a Waste to Energy Facility.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Unangst, it was voted 5 to 0 to recommend Article 10, \$100,000 for an infiltration/inflow study of the L.W. Packard mill site.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Barney, it was voted 5 to 0 to recommend Article 11, \$50,000 for the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Coleman, it was voted 5 to 0 to recommend Article 12, \$25,000 to establish a Police Station Capital Reserve Fund.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Barney, it was voted 5 to 0 to recommend Article 13, \$25,000 for the Police Department Capital Reserve Fund.

On a motion by Barney, seconded by Ruell, it was voted 5 to 0 to recommend Article 14, \$25,000 for the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Unangst, it was voted 5 to 0 to recommend Article 15, \$125,000 for the Road and Bridges Capital Reserve Fund.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Unangst, it was voted 5 to 0 to recommend Article 16, \$200,552 for the purchase of a Plow Truck.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Unangst, it was voted 4 to 1 to recommend Article 17, \$25,000 for the Building Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve Fund.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Barney, it was voted 5 to 0 to recommend Article 20, \$3000 for Voices Against Violence.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Barney, it was voted 4 to 1 to recommend Article 21, \$9,692 for Pemi-Baker Hospice & Home Health.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Coleman, it was voted 5 to 0 to recommend Article 22, \$12,000 for Grafton County Senior Citizens Council.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Coleman, it was voted 5 to 0 to recommend Article 23, \$1250 for Transport Central.

On a motion by Unangst, seconded by Barney, it was voted 4 to 1 to recommend Article 24, \$3500 for Lakes Region Mental Health Center.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Unangst, it was voted 4 to 1 to recommend Article 25, \$5000 for Hospice Care, Nursing, Therapy and Aide Care. (This article was reported to have been submitted for the Lakes Region Visiting Nurse Association.)

On a motion by Unangst, seconded by Ruell, it was voted 3 to 2 to recommend Article 26, \$25,000 for the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund.

On a motion by Barney, seconded by Unangst, it was voted to recommend Article 27, \$3,000 for Whipple House Museum, with 4 votes in favor and one abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

David Ruell, acting Secretary