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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH 5:30PM
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM
6 COLLINS STREET**

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

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MOTION: Ann Barney
To approve the Minutes of October 23rd as written
SECOND: Charles Bozzello
VOTE: 3-0
MOTION PASSED

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MOTION: Ann Barney
To approve the Minutes of November 6th as written
SECOND: Charles Bozzello
VOTE: 5-0
MOTION PASSED

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II. NEW BUSINESS
a. SIGN DRA FORM MS-1, VALUATION OF TOWN

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MOTION: Robert Letourneau
To approve the signing of the MS-1
SECOND: Ann Barney
ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0
MOTION PASSED

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b. POLICE OFFICER COMMENDATION FROM CHIEF OF POLICE –
Chief Ulwick gave a commendation to Officer Madeline Kabasakalian -
“During the late-night hours on November 02, 2023, Officer Kabasakalian found an open vehicle door on Thompson Street. There had been several instances of trespassing and theft in that area. Officer Kabasakalian took the initiative to contact the resident to determine if any malfeasance had taken place. Officer Kabasakalian spoke with the resident by phone and found that resident to be hospitalized. The spouse of that individual was able to confirm that they forgot to close the door, having been distracted by their spouse being in the hospital.

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I received a letter from the resident that was hospitalized indicating that this small act gave them “great comfort” knowing that someone was keeping an eye on their house while they were hospitalized.

These kinds of acts exhibit the Ashland Police Department’s community policing model and are a part of our everyday function. Officer Kabasakalian has

46 taken that model to heart, and she embodies everything we strive for in our duties.
47 Officer Kabasakalian is commended for her actions.”

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- 49 **c. SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR BUILDING PERMIT FEES** – Town
50 Manager Fred Welch suggested the second Board meeting in January (1/15). The
51 Board gave a consensus to go ahead with that date.
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- 53 **d. REQUEST OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES TO ADD A \$25,000 WARRANT**
54 **ARTICLE** – Chair Letourneau made note that the Library has \$136,000 in
55 Capital Reserve Funds and an additional \$400,000. The Board did not make any
56 motions to move the article forward.
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- 58 **e. NOTICE TO PLYMOUTH ON AMBULANCE SERVICE TERMINATION**
59 **ON 6/30/24** – Mr. Welch stated that the Board voted to pay the balance of the
60 current contract that ends on 6/30/24. Mr. Welch explained that they can notify
61 Plymouth multiple ways, and he suggested that the Board let Plymouth know that
62 only the remaining contract funds have been put into the proposed budget. Chief
63 Heath expressed his concerns about taking on the ambulance service with the
64 unknown of the delivery date of the new ambulance which is expected to arrive in
65 spring of 2024. The Chief also shared concerns about retention and scheduling of
66 employees as well as potential on call issues surrounding possible transports and
67 diversions. It was stated that mutual aid does still exist. Chief Heath added that
68 the Ambulance Committee that was established by the Board has not had any
69 meetings.
70
- 71 **f. MEETING ON AMBULANCE SERVICE WITH HOLDERNESS**
72 **OFFICIALS** – Mr. Welch stated that he spoke with the Town Administrator in
73 Holderness and did not get a favorable answer back for a meeting with them.
74 Chair Letourneau asked Chief Heath to reach out to Holderness to see if they
75 would be amenable to a meeting of the two Selectboards.
76
- 77 **g. CANCELLATION OF PURCHASE OF BUCKET TRUCK**
78 **REPLACEMENT, ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT** - The Board had approved
79 the purchase of a bucket truck but when the department went to purchase the
80 truck, the truck had been sold and the next one available would be available for an
81 additional \$1,000. The Electric Superintendent will bring in an additional 3 quotes
82 to the next meeting for the Board.
83
- 84 **h. ASHLAND GARDEN CLUB TO MAINTAIN FRONT OF TOWN HALL** -
85 Chair Letourneau stated that the club does a great job around town with the work
86 that they do, Selectman Bozzello shared his enjoyment of the flowers as well. The
87 Board gave their consensus to allow the club to maintain the front of the Town
88 Hall.
89
- 90 **i. BOARD PERMISSION FOR WATER DEPARTMENT TO FILE FOR**
91 **GRANTS TO REPLACE FAILING WATER MAINS, THOMPSON ST,**

92 **WINONA RD, AND SIDE STREETS** – Chair Letourneau showed the Board
 93 water samples that were brought in from a resident on Winona Road. The Chair
 94 shared that the water is discolored from rust inside the pipes. The quote that was
 95 given for the replacements was around \$2M per mile. The Chair expressed that
 96 this issue is a quality of life issue and added that the Superintendent has been
 97 flushing regularly to try to help. The Board gave their permission as a consensus
 98 to allow for the filing of grants.
 99

100 **j. BOARD PERMISSION TO PERMIT THE SEWER DEPARTMENT TO**
 101 **FILE FOR A GRANT FOR RIVER FLOW THROUGH THE LW**
 102 **PACKARD MILL TO THE WWTF** – Chair Letourneau explained that during
 103 the heavy rainstorms more water is passing through under the old LW Packard
 104 Mill than is allowed by law and further that the Board needs to give permission to
 105 file for grants. The Board gave their consensus for the Superintendent to file for
 106 grants.
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108 **k. QUESTION OF NAMING NEW STREETS OFF WINTER STREET, RSA**
 109 **231:33** – The Board is looking for the owner to provide a name for the new street
 110 off Winter Street. At this time, no name has been submitted. A letter will be sent
 111 to have the owner submit a name, if no name is submitted then the Board can
 112 name the street. Selectman Barney asked that the owner submit their proposed
 113 name by December 1st.
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115 **l. RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL HIGHWAY BLOCK GRANT FUNDS**
 116 **\$15,133.06** – Chair Letourneau shared that the State gave us an additional grant
 117 for the Highway Department. The money will have to be accepted at a public
 118 hearing.
 119

120 **m. PERAMBULATION OF TOWN BOUNDS** – Chair Letourneau explained that
 121 this process needs to be done every 7 years. The Town has not done it in around
 122 15 years. Craig Moore added that Tony Randall did the last one. The process is to
 123 walk the Town line and certify the Town bounds. Mr. Welch added that this is a
 124 State requirement.
 125

126 **III. OLD BUSINESS –**

127 **a. SET DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF DELIBERATIVE SESSION OF**
 128 **TOWN MEETING** – Chair Letourneau suggested February 3rd, 2024, at 2pm.
 129 The Board agreed to the suggested time and added that it will be held at the
 130 Ashland Elementary School Cafeteria.
 131

132 **IV. SELECTMEN'S ITMES – None**

133 **a.** Kendall Hughes asked to present the 4th of July Committee budget as the Board 6
 134 years ago asked that it be presented by December 1st each year. They were over in
 135 revenue from what was budget by around \$2,000 and have put together an
 136 estimated expenditure report. Mr. Hughes added that the largest expenditure is the

137 fireworks and the current price for next year will be \$20,000. The theme for 2024
138 is Red, White and Boom!

139 **b.** Mr. Welch shared that the last day to submit a Warrant Article is January 9th. Mr.
140 Welch cited many dates that are coming up that relate to Ashland being an SB2
141 Town.

142 **c.** Kendall Hughes shared that the Budget Committee had written a letter to each of
143 the Selectmen asked to hold the budget public hearing on January 11th and asked
144 if that worked for the Selectmen and that the hearing will be held at the Ashland
145 Elementary School Cafeteria

146 **d.** Selectmen Bozzello asked Mr. Welch what the timing of a public hearing is for
147 the Waste to Energy committee. The recommendation is to have the public
148 hearing at the last meeting on the year, December 18th.

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150 **MOTION:** Robert Letourneau

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

152 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

153 **VOTE:** 3-0

154 **MOTION PASSED**