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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM
6 COLLINS ST, ASHLAND NH**

7 **I. CALL TO ORDER** – Selectman Andy Fitch called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Ann
8 Barney, Rebecca Hartley, Charles Bozzello and Meghan Semiao were all in attendance.
9

10 **A presentation was done by former Board of Selectmen Chair Robert Letourneau for**
11 **the retirement of Patricia Tucker to commemorate her many years of service to the**
12 **town. Mrs. Tucker thanked everyone and stated that it was a pleasure to have served**
13 **the community.**

14
15 **Following the presentation for Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Letourneau gave each of the Board**
16 **members a photo of the Board to thank them for the time that they all served together.**
17

18 **II. NEW BUSINESS**

19 **a. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

20
21 **MOTION:** Charles Bozzello
22 *To nominate Andy Fitch as Chair of the Selectboard*

23 **SECOND:** Meghan Semiao

24 **VOTE:** 5-0

25 **MOTION PASSED**

26
27 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
28 *To nominate Ann Barney as Vice Chair of the Selectboard*

29 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

30 **VOTE:** 5-0

31 **MOTION PASSED**

32
33 **MOTION:** Ann Barney
34 *To nominate Andy Fitch as the representative to the Budget Committee*

35 **SECOND:** Meghan Semiao

36 **VOTE:** 5-0

37 **MOTION PASSED**

38
39 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
40 *To nominate Meghan Semiao as the Ex-Officio Member to the Planning Board*

41 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

42 **VOTE:** 5-0

43 **MOTION PASSED**

44
45 **The alternate positions will be held until the vacant Board position is filled.**

46
47 **b. TOWN SHARE OF PROCEEDS OF FIRE DEPARTMENT AIR**
48 **COMPRESSOR** – Fire Chief Steve Heath stated that the Fire Association had

49 helped the Town by paying for half of the old compressor therefore he would like
 50 to share the proceeds from the sale of the compressor with the Association.
 51

- 52 **c. QUESTION OF AGREEING TO A CONTRACT WITH THE STATE FOR**
 53 **GENERATING POWER AT THE SQUAM LAKE DAM** – Town Manager
 54 Fred Welch discussed with the Board the potential costs of taking the dam over
 55 which would be several hundreds of thousands of dollars over the next five years
 56 and that the Town would be responsible for all repairs under the lease agreement.
 57 The energy production would be very little. Mr. Welch put forth his
 58 recommendation that the Board does not pursue the project.
 59

60 **MOTION:** Charles Bozzello

61 *To not sign the contract with the State for the generator*

62 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

63 **VOTE:** 4-0-1 (Rebecca Hartley abstained)

64 **MOTION PASSED**
 65

- 66 **d. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM – APPOINTMENT OF**
 67 **MEMBERS** – Mr. Welch discussed with the Board starting up a CIP committee.
 68 Chair Fitch feels that someone from the Budget Committee should be on the
 69 committee and have someone from the community as well. Mr. Welch stated that
 70 Department Heads will be required to submit a CIP plan for their department with
 71 their budget submissions for 2025.
 72

- 73 **e. PERAMBULATION OF TOWN BOUNDS, RSA 51** – Mr. Welch discussed
 74 that the perambulation is supposed to take place every 7 years where the town line
 75 is to be walked and documented. DPW Director Craig Moore shared that he
 76 believes the town had Tony Randall do the last perambulation in 2016. The Board
 77 will work on getting this completed.
 78

- 79 **f. PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CONTRACT** – Mr. Welch shared that our current
 80 assessors Commerford Nieder Perkins have submitted a 2-year contract for
 81 pickups which has been signed off on by the State. CNP is also the only bidder for
 82 a new assessor contract.
 83

84 **MOTION:** Charles Bozzello

85 *To accept the contract from Commerford Nieder Perkins*

86 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

87 **VOTE:** 4-0-1 (Rebecca Hartley abstained)

88 **MOTION PASSED**
 89

- 90 **g. BUILDING PERMIT FEE ADDITION TO FEE SCHEDULE** – Mr. Welch
 91 discussed with the Board the elimination of the fees for non-essential work fees.
 92 There would not be a fee for non-structural work that does not fall under the other
 93 required permits, it would only require notification to the town. The Board will be
 94 holding a public hearing to accept the new fee schedule.
 95

- 96 **h. REPEAL OF SEPARATE IRS TAX NUMBER FOR ELECTRIC**
97 **DIVISION** – Mr. Welch asked for the Board permission to repeal a previously
98 filed tax number for the Electric Department. The Board gave their consensus to
99 have Mr. Welch contact town council to repeal this additional number.
100
- 101 **i. 2024 PAYMENT SCHEDULE REQUEST FROM THE LIBRARY** – The
102 Library asked that each quarter their check would be \$9,750. The Board gave
103 their consensus that this was agreeable.
104
- 105 **j. SPECIAL MEETING WITH TOWN TRUSTEES 3/25/24 AT 5:30PM** – The
106 Board gave notice that there will be an additional Board meeting on March 25th at
107 5:30pm with town council present.
108
- 109 **k. RESIGNATION FROM THE BOARD** – Rebecca Hartley prepared her
110 resignation from the Board as she has been elected Town Clerk and Tax
111 Collector.
112

113 **MOTION:** Charles Bozzello

114 *To accept the resignation of Rebecca Hartley from the Board of Selectmen*

115 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

116 **VOTE:** 4-0-1 (Rebecca Hartley abstained)

117 **MOTION PASSED**
118

119 **Chair Fitch thanked Rebecca for her service and presented her with a plaque and a**
120 **coffee before swearing her in as the new Town Clerk & Tax Collector.**
121

- 122 **l. TAX WARRANT** – With the previous Town Clerk & Tax Collector retiring, the newly
123 elected Town Clerk & Tax Collector would need a new warrant signed for the
124 outstanding tax bills.
125

126 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

127 *To sign the recommitment tax warrant for liens totaling \$69,324.29*

128 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

129 **VOTE:** 4-0

130 **MOTION PASSED**
131

132 **MOTION:** Ann Barney

133 *To adjourn the meeting at 6:16pm*

134 **SECOND:** Meghan Semiao

135 **VOTE:** 4-0

136 **MOTION PASSED**