

**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM
6 COLLINS ST, ASHLAND NH**

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Fitch opened the meeting, Selectmen, Ann Barney Meghan Semiao, and Charles Bozzello were all in attendance.

Chair Fitch explained that the purpose of this meeting is to conduct interviews for the open Board position.

II. NEW BUSINESS – INTERVIEWS:

- a. **JENNIE ANGELL** – Mrs. Angell discussed her background and the aspects that would help her to be successful in the Board position, which included her past experience working for the City of Manchester and the City of Manchester Employee’s Retirement System. Chair Fitch asked if Mrs. Angell has experience with budgets, warrant articles and grant work. Mrs. Angell said that she has experience both with budgeting and with grants. Selectman Barney asked what Mrs. Angell feels is the biggest issue or obstacle that the Town has, Mrs. Angell responded with lack of economic development, Mrs. Angell’s background from Manchester exposed her to the renewal of the Manchester Mill’s and she expressed there may be opportunity to renew the mills here in Ashland. Mrs. Angell added that she feels Ashland is a great place to live. Selectman Barney followed up her previous question by asking where Mrs. Angell sees the Town in the future over the next few years, Mrs. Angell sees working on Route 3 as an opportunity to engage new business.

Selectman Bozzello asked Mrs. Angell about her work with retention of employee's, Mrs. Angell answered that it's not always compensation, but working with employees with a schedule that works for them, she added that previously she's seen a system where some employees work better later in the day which allowed for more coverage and operating hours. Selectman Bozzello asked Mrs. Angell how do you incentivize creating economic development, Mrs. Angell responded with finding what makes Ashland unique. Selectman Bozzello's final question was asking Mrs. Angell what her drive is for this position, Mrs. Angell explained that she has lived in Ashland since 1998 and full time since 2016, she stated that the people in Ashland are amazing and added some of the activities herself and her husband are involved in. Mrs. Angell sees that Ashland has challenges but that the Town is very livable, and it needs to go in a direction to revitalize it and she has the time to do it as she is retired. Selectman Semiao asked if Mrs. Angell sees opportunities that the Town is missing out on, Mrs. Angell responded with economic development and tourism and that there are resources available to help pursue those opportunities. In closing Mrs. Angell shared that

47 she feels that she has skills that would benefit the Town. The Board thanked her
48 for her time.
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50 b. **LEE BAVIS** – Chair Fitch shared that he and Lee had previously worked
51 together roughly 40 years ago. Chair Fitch asked Mr. Bavis if he had previous
52 experience on Town committees or Boards. Mr. Bavis shared that he was
53 previously a part of a committee for the Fire Department truck. Chair Fitch asked
54 if Mr. Bavis had any budgeting experience to which Mr. Bavis responded that he
55 does have budgeting experience from his time working in the Water & Sewer
56 Department for the Town. Mr. Bavis explained that there was a period of time
57 where he was the only person in the office, and he worked through the budget
58 process with the help of Lee Nichols and Marc Ober. The question was asked why
59 Mr. Bavis did not run in the election; Mr. Bavis responded that he had been
60 thinking about running for a few years and that he would like to give back to the
61 community. Mr. Bavis shared that he feels the Town needs to be revitalized.
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63 Selectman Barney asked what Mr. Bavis feels the biggest obstacle for the Town
64 is, Mr. Bavis responded with taxes and the need to keep the taxes low as well as
65 aging infrastructure. Mr. Bavis sees a need to replace and repair Town
66 infrastructure, specifically noting infrastructure in the Water & Sewer department
67 as well as issues with housing in town. Selectman Barney asked how Mr. Bavis
68 felt about the change in the Warrant Article from the most recent Town election
69 where the waste to energy article was changed by 41 people during the
70 deliberative session when there are 2,000 people in Town who should have been
71 given the opportunity to decide. Mr. Bavis responded that he is not a fan of the
72 SB2 system, and although it was changed legally, his feeling is that it was not fair
73 to the Town's people and shared that he would like to go back to a regular town
74 meeting. Selectman Bozzello quoted the letter that Mr. Bavis sent in with his
75 resume where he said, "trust and transparency", Selectman Bozzello asked Mr.
76 Bavis to elaborate on what he feels that means. Mr. Bavis responded that he has
77 worked in municipalities his whole life, and a mentor of his told him back when
78 Mr. Bavis had started in the Water & Sewer Department to embody trust and
79 transparency, and that distrust is hard to recover from. Mr. Bavis feels that he that
80 he would bring a fresh outlook to the Board and that he generally sits back and
81 listens before making conclusions. The Board thank Mr. Bavis for his time.
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83 c. **MIKE MYSHRALL** – Chair Fitch asked about the gap on Mr. Myshrall's
84 resume from the years of '76 to '86, Mr. Myshrall stated that he was in
85 engineering in the power industry and that we worked with small groups that
86 drafted nuclear power plants and that eventually he was the head designer. Chair
87 Fitch asked if he had any Board or Committee experience, Mr. Myshrall stated
88 that he was a part of the Fire Department for 10 years and served as an Officer
89 and a Lieutenant, he was also president of the Firearms Association for 3 to 4
90 years and worked on the 1st rescue van that the Town had and at no cost.
91 Selectman Barney asked why he is looking to join the Board now and not run in
92 the election, Mr. Myshrall discussed that over the last 20 years he was managing

93 properties which he compared to being on par with being a small town manager as
94 far as working with all the departments and budgets. He is currently retired and is
95 looking to give back to the community.

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97 Selectman Barney asked what Mr. Myshrall thinks about some of the decisions
98 the Board has made either good or bad. Mr. Myshrall responded that the re-doing
99 of the sidewalks and landscaping has been great for the Town and that the Board
100 has done a good job with the resources available and added that he is aware of
101 some of the limitations with budgets from being on the Waste to Energy
102 Committee. Selectman Bozzello stated that he and Mr. Myshrall have worked
103 together on the Waste to Energy Committee and that Mr. Myshrall has been a
104 great contribution to the committee. Selectman Bozzello asked why he joined that
105 committee, Mr. Myshrall stated that his main reason was to try and find a creative
106 and modern way to expand Ashland's tax base. Mr. Myshrall shared that he feels
107 that improvements could be made on budget and capital reserve fund
108 management. Selectman Semiao asked where do we start with making the
109 changes, Mr. Myshrall answered that he would like to see the Waste to Energy
110 committee revived as well as the Economic Development committee as well as a
111 Capital Improvement Plan to which Chair Fitch added that all department heads
112 will be submitting a CIP with their budgets this year. The Board thank Mr.
113 Myshrall.

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- 115 d. **CHRIS JANOSA** – Chair Fitch asked if Mr. Janosa had any previous military
116 experience, which Mr. Janosa said he did not. Chair Fitch asked if he had
117 previously been on any boards or committees not relating to work as well as if he
118 has experience with grants. Mr. Janosa said he has not been on any boards or
119 committees that have not been work related, and that he has not done any grant
120 writing, but he is familiar with the process. Selectman Barney asked what assets
121 he would bring to the Board, Mr. Janosa explained that he has municipal
122 experience as he currently works for the Town of Meredith in the HR department
123 by which he has been part of the budgeting process and has been the Interim
124 Town Manager He explained that he has lived a few difference places including
125 Florida but came back to New Hampshire.

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127 Selectman Barney asked why he didn't run in the recent election, Mr. Janosa
128 explained that he feels he just got caught up and had been thinking about running
129 over the last few years and explained that he would be running in the next election
130 to remain on the Board. Selectman Barney asked what Mr. Janosa feels is the
131 biggest issue to which Mr. Janosa replied a small budget and to get the ball rolling
132 he would start with grants and take a closer look at where revenues are coming in.
133 Selectman Bozzello asked about his experience as an Interim Town Manager and
134 what he learned, Mr. Janosa stated that it wasn't much different from his current
135 role and that he was offered the role but ultimately turned it down. Selectman
136 Bozzello what Mr. Janosa feels their mission statement should be, Mr. Janosa said
137 that it should include that they are there for the people and to do right by them by

138 listening to feedback as well as being a good fiduciary. The Board thanked Mr.
139 Janosa.

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141 Chair Fitch explained that they would make their decision at their meeting on
142 April 15th and thanked all the candidates for their time.

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144 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

145 *To adjourn the meeting at 6:39pm*

146 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

147 **VOTE:** 4-0

148 **MOTION PASSED**

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