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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM
6 COLLINS STREET, ASHLAND**

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Fitch opened the meeting with Selectmen Ann Barney, Meghan Semiao, Charles Bozzello and Chris Janosa all present.

MOTION: Ann Barney
To approve the minutes of May 20th, 2024, as written

SECOND: Andy Fitch

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Chris Janosa
To approve the minutes of June 3rd, 2024, as amended

SECOND: Charles Bozzello

AMENDEMENT: Update the dog warrant as “Not Passed”

VOTE: 3-0-2 (Selectmen Barney and Bozzello abstained)

MOTION PASSED

II. NEW BUSINESS

- a. SIGNING OF THE DOG WARRANT** – Sargent Moretto spoke with the Board about how the Police Department looks forward to the dog warrant when they have a new employee as it is an opportunity for the new Officer to learn the community, interact with residents and helps with on the field training, the department has a new employee who will be helping with this dog warrant.

MOTION: Ann Barney
To sign the dog warrant

SECOND: Charles Bozzello

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION PASSED

b. ABATE TOWN TAXES FROM TAX COLLECTOR -

MOTION: Ann Barney
To abate the taxes to the Town of Ashland for \$1,199.93

SECOND: Andy Fitch

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION PASSED

47 c. **TIMBER TAX INTENT TO CUT – TAX MAP 212, LOT 21 –**

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49 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

50 *To approve the intent to cut for map 212, lot 21.*

51 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

52 **VOTE:** 5-0

53 **MOTION PASSED**

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55 d. **APPLICATION FOR A SECOND STORAGE SHED ON CAMPGROUND**

56 **SITE #2** – The Board talked about a variety of concerns at the campground in
57 general regarding the storage of personal property. Selectman Barney discussed
58 that she would like to go to the campground and do a survey of the site footprints
59 so that there can be clear boundary lines between sites. The Board gave their
60 consensus to hold off on making a decision regarding site #2's request until the
61 survey has been completed.

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63 e. **QUESTION OF UTILIZING FORM PA-28 FROM DRA IN 2025** – The
64 Board along with Town Manager Fred Welch discussed the disadvantages of
65 using the inventory forms and that it generally results in an increase in taxes. The
66 Board had more questions about the forms and decided to table the discussion
67 until they had more information.

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69 f. **REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL DAY OFF FOR ALL TOWN**
70 **PERSONNEL – JULY 5TH, 2024 -**

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72 **MOTION:** Charles Bozzello

73 *To deny the extra day off*

74 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

75 **VOTE:** 2-3

76 **MOTION FAILED**

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78 **MOTION:** Meghan Semiao

79 *To grant the request for an additional day off for all town employees and to allow a*
80 *floaters holiday for the police department officers if they are scheduled to work July*
81 *5th.*

82 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

83 **VOTE:** 3-2

84 **MOTION PASSED**

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86 g. **SUSPENSION LIST OF NON-PAYMENTS OF TRANSFER STATION**

87 **FEES** – The Board along with Town Manager Fred Welch discussed the list of
88 non-payments for transfer station invoices. Selectman Bozzello asked about who
89 and how do we enforce compliance with the list of names that have outstanding
90 invoices. Chair Fitch advised that the procedure is to have the gate closed and
91 when a person comes to use the facility, the attendant checks the list of names and
92 if that persons name is on the list, they get turned around to clear up the balance

93 before they are allowed to use the facility again. Selectman Semiao suggested that
 94 the Board reach out to Town Council to see if a property lien can take place for
 95 the past balances. Public Works Director Craig Moore stated that he is going to
 96 look into a credit card system so that people can pay at the transfer station at time
 97 of use. Mr. Welch added that he would like to amend the transfer station
 98 ordinance to allow for interest to start accruing after 30 days without payment.
 99

100 **h. GRANTING NH FISH & GAME PERMISSION TO BAND GEESE ON**
 101 **TOWN PROPERTY -**

102 **MOTION:** Meghan Semiao
 103 *To allow the banding of the geese*

104 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

105 **VOTE:** 5-0

106 **MOTION PASSED**

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 109 **i. QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY LANES RSA 231:59-a**
 110 – Mr. Welch explained that this is usually adopted at Town Meeting, it would
 111 allow the Town to use funds to fix/clear a roadway that has been declared an
 112 emergency lane in the event of an emergency. This item will be made into a
 113 warrant article for the next Town election.
 114

115 **j. ABANDONED BURIAL SPACES & GROUNDS RSA 289-18 TO 289-21**
 116 – The Board along with Mr. Welch discussed abandoned burial grounds that
 117 are not being maintained and the process under which the Town can take
 118 control of them to maintain them. The process includes a public hearing. The
 119 Board did not schedule a public hearing at this time but gave their consensus
 120 to continue work on this matter.
 121

122 **k. DISCUSSION ON PLANS FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL**
 123 **DEVELOPMENT** – Selectman Bozzello shared with the Board that he
 124 would like to see the Waste to Energy Committee be turned into an Economic
 125 Development Committee to explore ideas and opportunities for the Town. The
 126 Board encourages all that are interested in being a part of the committee to
 127 apply, with a start date of August 1st. Selectman Bozzello stated that he would
 128 like to be the Board representative on the committee.
 129

130 **l. ELDERLY EXEMPTION VALUES RSA 72:39 a & b** – Mr. Welch
 131 brought to the Board's attention that the elderly exemption values have not
 132 been reviewed in several years and suggested that the values be looked at.
 133 Selectman Bozzello added that he feels action should be taken.
 134

135 **m. REQUEST FOR VEHICLE CHANGES BY ELECTRIC**
 136 **SUPERINTENDENT** – Mr. Gallien presented a request for purchase of a
 137 new boom truck for the department. The department can trade in the current
 138 55ft boom truck for a digger as the department is in need of a digger, the trade

139 in would result in an additional \$800 per month for the lease for a total of
140 \$4,000 per month.

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MOTION: Andy Fitch
To approve the lease for \$4,000 per month
SECOND: Charles Bozzello
VOTE: 5-0
MOTION PASSED

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III. OLD BUSINESS –

- a. Review of Non-Public Minutes – The Board decided to work on this matter at the next meeting.

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IV. SELECTMENS ITEMS –

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- a. Selectman Semiao shared that she is still working on the pole attachment agreement.
- b. Selectman Barney brought to the Board a question pertaining to the Thompson Street project and that not the whole road would be done. Mr. Welch discussed that part of the issue is the money to do the entire road, and the Town does not have the authority to do the whole road as part of the project.
- c. Selectman Semiao shared that she is meeting with Middle Mile to discuss the Town’s upcoming expiration date on the current purchase power agreement. Selectman Semiao added that she has also reached out to Brownfield and Nexus for meetings.

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MOTION: Meghan Semiao
To enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 (a) at 7:14pm
SECOND: Charles Bozzello
VOTE: 5-0
MOTION PASSED

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MOTION: Andy Fitch
To seal the minutes of the non-public session
SECOND: Charles Bozzello
VOTE: 5-0
MOTION PASSED

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MOTION: Chris Janosa
To adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm
SECOND: Charles Bozzello
VOTE: 5-0
MOTION PASSED

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