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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 1ST 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.

II. NEW BUSINESS

a. TAX COLLECTOR ABATEMENTS -

MOTION: Charles Bozzello

To approve the Verterans tax credit for map & lot 110-052

SECOND: Ann Barney

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION PASSED

b. NEW VOTING MACHINE – Town Clerk/Tax Collector Becky Hartley talked with the Board about the purchase of a new voting machine. The current machine will no longer be serviced after the next 2 elections. Mrs. Hartley’s suggestion is to buy the machine that the Town trialed that has a laptop setup and blue boxes. Along with the machine purchase it will make the creation and printing of ballots easier and more cost effective. The price for the machine is \$7,500. Selectman Janosa asked what the anticipated life of the machine is, which Mrs. Hartley stated would be 10 years.

MOTION: Meghan Semiao

To purchase the new voting machine for \$7,500

SECOND: Ann Barney

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION PASSED

c. APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO ASHLAND FOR STATE FOREST LANDS -

MOTION: Chris Janosa

To approve the application for state reimbursement of state forest lands specifically Scribner-Fellows

SECOND: Charles Bozzello

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION PASSED

- 47 **d. WEBSITE PROPOSAL** – Finance Director Marissah Gallien provided the
 48 Board information about a website platform that was designed for cities and
 49 municipalities to allow for ease of use for those who update the website and the
 50 those who use the website. The platform has an add on for agenda creation which
 51 would allow for easier creation of the agenda, and electronic distribution to the
 52 board with the packet of information that is needed for their meeting. It would
 53 also allow the public to view the uploaded documents. The platform is designed to
 54 keep like items in one place, as an example, the Board of Selectmen meeting
 55 calendar card would also have the agenda, the packet for the meeting along with
 56 the approved minutes all in one place. The company has provided a quote that
 57 would give the Town 30% if 3 years of the product is purchase at one time. The
 58 Board asked for additional research to be done before making a decision.
 59
- 60 **e. QUESTION OF UTILIZING FORM PA-28 FROM DRA IN 2025** –
 61 Selectman Semiao explained that the use of this form would only be needed if the
 62 Town did not have a building inspector. The Board signed the form designating
 63 that the Town will not be using form PA-28.
 64
- 65 **f. QUESTION OF AMENDING THE TRANSFER STATION ORDINANCE** –
 66 Selectman Semiao spoke with Town Council and the Town can add interest to
 67 outstanding bills as well as lien the property for outstanding balances. Mr. Welch
 68 shared that the Transfer Station has started taking cash at the facility and so far,
 69 was been working well. Mr. Welch discussed that he would like to write a letter to
 70 all people on the non-payment list stating that they have 15 or 20 days to pay if
 71 they do not their privileges will be suspended indefinitely. Selectmen Semiao and
 72 Bozzello shared that they feel the Town should both amend the ordinance to allow
 73 for interest and liens as well as send letters.
 74
- 75 **g. LONG TERM LEASE FOR ELECTRIC BUCKET TRUCK** – The Board was
 76 provided options for leasing a new boom truck in the Electric department, the
 77 trade in for the truck will be \$24,000 and at the end of the lease the buyout will be
 78 a dollar. The other option would be for the same lease amount, no trade in, and at
 79 the end of the lease the buyout would be at fair market value. Chair Fitch asked to
 80 see the lease coverage materials first.
 81

82 **III. OLD BUSINESS** –

- 83 a. Selectman Bozzello shared that he has talked with some citizens that have interest
 84 in joining the Economic Development Committee and suspects that they will be in
 85 a good place for August 1st.
 86

87 **IV. SELECTMENS ITEMS** –

- 88 a. Selectmen Semiao updated the Board about her continued work on the pole
 89 agreement with Consolidated Communications and that she spoke with the
 90 Grafton County Broadband manager about the fiber selectmen and upcoming
 91 request for proposals.

- 92 b. Selectman Barney gave the Board an update on the campground survey, Tony
93 Randall has been working with her, but a full survey may need to take place
94 which she will have to get a quote for. Selectman Barney also discussed that she
95 would like to send each of the Board members scenarios that have come up in the
96 campground from over the years and ask that the Board members provide
97 feedback on how they would like those scenarios handled so that the Board is in
98 full agreement for future situations.
- 99 c. Selectman Barney received a request from Mill 3 that would like to have their
100 students do 10–15-minute performances during some evening in Memorial Park.
101 The Board gave their consensus to allow the performances.
- 102 d. Selectmen Barney spoke with the Board about an issue that arose with the Town
103 credit card, the Town is allotted \$10,000 for the month amongst all card holders
104 and for the first time, all of those funds were used on the cards. Selectman Semiao
105 suggested looking at business credit cards through Amex.
- 106 e. Selectman Fitch brought to the Board a request from a local farmer that would
107 like to mow the fields down by the pump house and in return would like to take
108 the hay. There is a landowner that abuts the fields and if that owner allows, he
109 will do the mowing, there will just need to be a release of liability for him.

110

111

MOTION: Charles Bozzello

112

To enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 (a, b, & c) at 6:36pm

113

SECOND: Chris Janosa

114

VOTE: 5-0

115

MOTION PASSED

116

117

MOTION: Andy Fitch

118

To seal the minutes of the non-public session

119

SECOND: Ann Barney

120

VOTE: 5-0

121

MOTION PASSED

122

123

MOTION: Andy Fitch

124

To adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm

125

SECOND: Meghan Semiao

126

VOTE: 5-0

127

MOTION PASSED

128