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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024
FIRE STATION
9 MAIN STREET, ASHLAND**

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Fitch opened the meeting with Selectmen Ann Barney, Meghan Semiao, Chris Janosa and Charles Bozzello present. Budget Committee Members Kendall Hughes, Michelle Roloff, and David Ruell were present for the joint portion of the meeting. David Unangst and Jamie Lyford were absent with notice.

II. NEW BUSINESS

a. BUDGET REVIEWS –

Assessing Budget – Finance Director Marissah Gallien presented the budget for Assessing, the budget stayed the same as requested in 2024 at \$15,101.

Legal Budget – Ms. Gallien presented the Legal budget with no changes for 2025 at \$30,000.

General Government Buildings – Ms. Gallien presented this budget with a disclaimer that the lines for Electric, Water and Sewer are being calculated for next year with a placeholder 15% increase as rates will be changing for the utilities, these numbers will be revised once rates have been set. The cleaning contract line was increased by \$900 for projected total year spend for 2024 and no rate increase for 2025. The other line that has a proposed increase is postage by \$400 due to the increase in postage costs.

Police Department – Chief Ulwick presented his budget for 2025 and started by saying that most of the budget is made up of contracts. The salary lines increased in accordance with contracts. The overtime line increased to \$30,000 due to wages, holiday pay, and overtime for officers in court, this line was calculated using a 3-year average. The 4th of July detail line saw an increase of \$1,400 due to paying the other agencies rates which is change from 2023 when the Town could pay their detail rate. Computer System Maintenance increased due to the need to replace 2 computers. Equipment purchase increased for new firearms as the current ones in use are from 2015. Uniforms increased as 2 officers need vests. Training increased due to the increase in required hours and due to being fully staffed. Dispatch increased and is based on a 5-year average. Plymouth prosecutor also increased based on a 3-year average.

Animal Control – Chief Ulwick presented the Animal Control budget with no increase for the contract with NH Humane Society.

Fire Department – Chief Heath presented the Fire budget for 2025. Increases were seen in the salaries; he made mention that it's difficult to compete with area wages with per diem staff. Contracted Services saw an increase due to rising contract prices, however the Chief noted that he has not heard back from some of his vendors. EMT Supply increased due to no longer being able to swap supplies with Speare, all supplies used now must be re-bought. Uniforms increased for the

47 Town portion of a grant that is being applied for should it be granted to the Town
 48 for new uniforms. Postage increased because the department and the Fire Fighters
 49 Association take turns paying for the box rental fee.
 50

51 **b. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

52
 53 **MOTION:** Meghan Semiao

54 *To accept the minutes of October 7th 2024 as written*

55 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

56 **VOTE:** 5-0

57 **MOTION PASSED**
 58

59 **c. WEBSITE PROPOSALS** – Ms. Gallien presented the Board with options for a
 60 new website provider. Ms. Gallien spoke about the different systems that herself
 61 and the Finance Assistant Luann McAndrews had researched and the pros and
 62 cons of each site.
 63

64 **MOTION:** Charles Bozzello

65 *To accept the recommendation of Town Cloud as the new website*

66 **SECOND:** Chris Janosa

67 **VOTE:** 5-0

68 **MOTION PASSED**
 69

70 **d. GREG & PAULA FINIGAN** – The Finigan’s inquired to the Board about the
 71 survey that is to be done at the campground and shared concern over the cost of
 72 the survey. Chair Fitch and Tony Randall (who will be completing the survey)
 73 both spoke about the need for the survey for the Town to know the exact layout of
 74 the campground. Mr. Randall added that when his plan is complete it can be used
 75 for GIS mapping. The question of why the campers had to remove all their items
 76 was asked by Mr. Finigan to which Mr. Randall stated it would be quicker and
 77 more affordable for the Town if the campground is empty. Chair Fitch added that
 78 work on water and sewer also had to be completed.
 79

80 **e. HOUSING CHAMPION DESIGNATION** – Kendall Hughes spoke on this
 81 topic and that it was related to affordable housing start up costs. Mr. Hughes
 82 encouraged everyone to watch the video of the Planning Board meeting from
 83 September 25th.
 84

85 **f. RAFFLE PERMIT – CHRISTMAS NIGHT IN ASHLAND -**
 86

87 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

88 *To approve the raffle permit for the Christmas Night in Ashland*

89 **SECOND:** Chris Janosa

90 **VOTE:** 5-0

91 **MOTION PASSED**
 92

93 **g. CCI COMMUNICATIONS OFFER OF DEDICATED INTERNET –**
94 Selectman Semiao shared that she had spoken with Grafton County to get an
95 update on the middle mile project, she will follow up and share more information
96 when she has it.

97
98 **h. PROCESS FOR CHARGING UTILITY RATES –** The Board gave their
99 consensus to reach out to VPPSA to see if they can do consulting on the new
100 customer electric rates.

101
102 **i. CAPITAL RESERVE REQUEST - \$3,927.40 FOR PARKS & REC –**

103
104 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
105 *To approve the request of \$3,927.40 for Parks & Rec clean up, said funds to come*
106 *from the Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund*

107 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello
108 **VOTE:** 4-0-1 (A. Barney abstained)

109 **MOTION PASSED**

110
111 **j. IMPACT FEES –** Mr. Hughes shared that the Planning Board has begun
112 working on impact fees.

113
114 **k. COLLINS STREET PROPERTY –** Tony Randall represented one of his clients
115 in a discussion with the Board surrounding a piece of property that his client owns
116 but the deed markings and the actual boundary line do not agree, the Town is the
117 owner of the abutting property. Mr. Randall shared maps with the Board and
118 provided his evidence to suggest and request that the Board work out a boundary
119 line adjustment with his client based on the information Mr. Randall had
120 presented.

121
122 **MOTION:** Charles Bozzello
123 *To accept Mr. Randall's drawing and make a boundary line agreement*

124 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch
125 **VOTE:** 5-0

126 **MOTION PASSED**

127
128 **l. Tax Payment Agreement –**

129
130 **MOTION:** Charles Bozzello
131 *To approve the agreement for tax map/lot 111-042 with a payment of \$40 by the end*
132 *of October*

133 **SECOND:** Chris Janosa
134 **VOTE:** 5-0

135 **MOTION PASSED**

136

137 **m. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** – Selectmen Bozzello brought
138 with him several candidates that have applied to serve on the committee to meet
139 the Board.

140
141 **MOTION:** Charles Bozzello
142 *To approve Jana Flores-Jon, Jennie Angell, Sean Collins, Peter Ott, and Bonnie*
143 *Bethune as members to the Economic Development Committee*

144 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

145 **VOTE:** 5-0

146 **MOTION PASSED**

147
148 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
149 *To enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3*

150 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

151 **VOTE:** 5-0

152 **MOTION PASSED**

153
154 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
155 *To seal the minutes of the non-public session*

156 **SECOND:** Meghan Semiao

157 **VOTE:** 5-0

158 **MOTION PASSED**

159
160 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
161 *To adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm*

162 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

163 **VOTE:** 5-0

164 **MOTION PASSED**

165

166