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**TOWN OF ASHLAND  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024  
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM  
6 COLLINS STREET, ASHLAND**

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

**MOTION:** Charles Bozzello

*To approve the minutes of September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as written*

**SECOND:** Ann Barney

**VOTE:** 5-0

**MOTION PASSED**

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. KEARSARGE ENERGY** – Andrew Bernstein of Kearsarge Energy gave a presentation on solar fields and the potential opportunity for one on the land of the Ashland landfill. Mr. Bernstein explained that they would own and develop the solar field for the life of the project, including the decommissioning of the field should that occur. The Board discussed a potential agreement with Kearsarge Energy, the solar field would provide a lease agreement as well as an opportunity for purchasing their energy. The Board gave their consensus to move forward on negotiating a letter of intent with Kearsarge Energy.

**MOTION:** Meghan Semiao

*To give a verbal authorization to go forward with Kearsarge Energy*

**SECOND:** Chris Janosa

**DISCUSSION:** Selectmen Semiao clarified that the authorization is to move forward with the studies, not a full commitment

**VOTE:** 5-0

**MOTION PASSED**

**b. ORDINANCE – HAWKERS, PEDDLERS, AND VENDORS -**

Town Manager Fred Welch presented the revised ordinance as directed from the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**MOTION:** Meghan Semiao

*To pass the Selectmen’s Ordinance for Hawkers, Peddlers, and Vendors as written*

**SECOND:** Andy Fitch

**VOTE:** 5-0

**MOTION PASSED**

- 47                   c. **VENDOR PERMIT APPLICATION** – It was discussed that the permit  
48 is not needed for the applying party, and that the application and the check  
49 for the permit will be returned to the applicant as the applicant already has  
50 a state issued vendor permit.  
51
- 52                   d. **L.W. PACKARD MILL INFLOW STUDY** – Mr. Welch discussed the  
53 need for a warrant article for the inflow study on the next warrant as the  
54 Town can receive grant funds to cover the study.  
55
- 56                   e. **PARKS & REC DIRECTOR ANN BARNEY** – Ms. Barney issued a  
57 statement as the Parks & Rec Director  
58

59 “As the park and rec director I would like to clear up some confusion about the  
60 campground work that needs to be done in the off season. I have received many e-mails,  
61 texts and phone calls that have been upsetting to me and not true at all.

62                   In May, I received notice that the outside electrical was not working at a site.  
63 After having both the electrical department and a licensed electrician come out multiple  
64 times, I was informed that there was damage to the supply line underground and the wires  
65 were not in conduit. I brought that information to the Board.

66                   In July, I received notice that there was an issue with the water to a site. I had the  
67 water & sewer department to take a look. It was found that the hydrant from the town  
68 water to the RV was the problem. The water in the campground was shut off for 4 hours  
69 for digging to fix the issue. At that time, I was told that at least half of the campground  
70 hydrants are going to need to be replaced. Another water problem came up last week  
71 where the Hydrant needs to be replaced. I brought this information to the board.

72                   While trying to fix the problems it was found that we do not have an as-built plan  
73 of the underground infrastructure in the campground. While the campground is empty,  
74 we will map out all of our power and water & sewer lines. This will be tied into the  
75 survey that we are having done.  
76

77 I would also like to address a few specific points:

- 78 1. The building permits that were given out for this year were issued before any  
79 problems were discovered.
- 80 2. When the problems were discovered and safety concerns were escalated, the BOS  
81 decided to cease any additional permits.
- 82 3. The surveyor hired has stated that having all items removed will make it easier and  
83 cheaper for the town to get an accurate map in place of the layout of the campsites as  
84 well as the location of the infrastructure.
- 85 4. There has never been a discussion about becoming a transient campground, the  
86 campground will remain seasonal.
- 87 5. The word ‘evicted’ has never been used by me or the Board. We just need to clear out  
88 the campground during the off season.
- 89 6. We are not selling the campground.
- 90 7. I do not vote on these items as I am the department head.  
91

92 If anyone has any questions for me, please come see me, I will answer any  
93 questions.”

94  
95 A person in the audience made a statement regarding a recent letter that was sent to  
96 the campground that said they will not be renewing any applications for the 2025  
97 season. Ms. Barney read the section of the letter that it indeed did say the Town  
98 would not be accepting applications for the 2025 season, and she explained that in the  
99 past the applications and contracts for the next season were given out in October, this  
100 year that would not happen as there is work that needs to be done. Further in the letter  
101 it says that we cannot do the rentals at this time. Clarification was made that the  
102 Town was not giving out the applications early as was usually done. This letter came  
103 out due to an email that was received from a camper asking why contracts had not  
104 been sent out.

105  
106 There was continued discussion on the campground from unidentified members of the  
107 audience regarding the re-opening of the campground and how campers would get  
108 their sites (would Ashland residents have first pick), the Board said that they are still  
109 working on making decisions for the next season.

110  
111 **f. PAVING A FIRING RANGE FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT –**  
112 Chief Ulwick shared that this is something that is being looked into, but a  
113 bit premature to discuss at this time. He is in talks with the State about  
114 getting reclaimed asphalt.

115  
116 **g. POLICE DEPARTMENT SALE OF TOWN OWNED BIKE –** The  
117 department purchased 2 new bikes this year and are looking to sell the old  
118 bike that could be sold for parts when the department gets rid of old  
119 evidence.

120  
121 **MOTION:** Meghan Semiao  
122 *To approve the sale of the bike*

123 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

124 **VOTE:** 5-0

125 **MOTION PASSED**

126  
127 **h. TAX ABATEMENT**

128 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

129 *To approve the abatement for map and lot 105-042*

130 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

131 **VOTE:** 5-0

132 **MOTION PASSED**

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**i. SIGNING OF THE CAPITAL RESERVE REQUEST**

**MOTION:** Andy Fitch  
*To authorize withdrawals from the Water Tank CRF for \$4,466, the Police Building CRF \$4,710, the Police Car CRF \$34,557, Roads and Bridges CRF \$129,884, and the Town Building CRF for \$14,054.74*  
**SECOND:** Charles Bozzello  
**VOTE:** 5-0  
**MOTION PASSED**

**j. ARPA EXPENSE FOR PAVING**

**MOTION:** Andy Fitch  
*To approve up to \$40,000 from the ARPA funds for paving*  
**SECOND:** Charles Bozzello  
**VOTE:** 5-0  
**MOTION PASSED**

**k. SIGNING OF THE MS-1**

**MOTION:** Andy Fitch  
*To approve the MS-1 for 2024*  
**SECOND:** Meghan Semiao  
**VOTE:** 5-0  
**MOTION PASSED**

**III. OLD BUSINESS – None**

**IV. CONTINUING ITEMS -**

A. The Board discussed appointments to the Economic Development Committee and how many voting spots there should be, but the committee would also like to have additional members who want to help.

**MOTION:** Andy Fitch  
*To establish the Economic Development Committee with 7 voting members with the ability to call in expertise*  
**SECOND:** Meghan Semiao  
**VOTE:** 5-0  
**MOTION PASSED**

**V. SELECTMENS ITEMS –**

a. Selectmen Semiao discussed the Power Purchase Agreement for 2025-2029 with our current vendor Vermont Public Power, the new rate is \$0.62 per KWH.

**MOTION:** Andy Fitch  
*To approve the long-term power agreement for 2025-2029*  
**SECOND:** Chris Janosa  
**VOTE:** 5-0  
**MOTION PASSED**

184 b. Mr. Welch asked the Board to approve the submission that was received from the  
185 request for proposal that the Town put out for on-call engineering services.  
186

187 **MOTION:** Chris Janosa  
188 *To accept Underwood Engineers for the on-call engineers for the Water & Sewer*  
189 *projects*

190 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

191 **VOTE:** 5-0

192 **MOTION PASSED**

193  
194 c. Chair Fitch brought to the Board a request from the Garden Club for a sign to be  
195 put up in the garden in front of the Town Hall.  
196

197 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch  
198 *To approve the sign to be put up in the Town Hall garden*

199 **SECOND:** Chris Janosa

200 **VOTE:** 5-0

201 **MOTION PASSED**

202  
203 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch  
204 *To enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 (e) at 7:40pm*

205 **SECOND:** Meghan Semiao

206 **VOTE:** 5-0

207 **MOTION PASSED**

208  
209 **MOTION:** Chris Janosa  
210 *To seal the minutes of the non-public session*

211 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

212 **VOTE:** 5-0

213 **MOTION PASSED**

214  
215 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch  
216 *To adjourn the meeting at 8:46pm*

217 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

218 **VOTE:** 5-0

219 **MOTION PASSED**

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