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**TOWN OF ASHLAND  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024  
FIRE STATION  
9 MAIN STREET, ASHLAND**

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Fitch opened the meeting with Selectmen Ann Barney, and Chris Janosa and Charles Bozzello present, Meghan Semiao was present via Zoom. Budget Committee Members Kendall Hughes, David Ruell, Sandra Coleman, and Michelle Roloff were present.

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

a. **PUBLIC HEARING: WATER ORDINANCE** – The Board discussed the proposed Water Ordinance, there were no questions from the public.

**MOTION:** Ann Barney  
*To approve the proposed Water Ordinance*

**SECOND:** Andy Fitch

**VOTE:** 5-0

**MOTION PASSED**

b. **BUDGET REVIEWS** –

**Sewer** – Water & Sewer Superintendent Andrew Benton presented the budgets for 2025 for Water and Sewer. In the Sewer budget increases were seen in the salary lines, Mr. Benton noted that the salary lines were adjusted so that Septage Receiving had an apportionment of the salary lines. Decreases were seen in the building maintenance and repair, fuel, and septage receiving equipment repair. A notable increase was seen in the line for new equipment as the department needs to purchase a new truck.

**Water** – Mr. Benton explained the increases which were seen in the lines for generator, meter mains, hydrants, wells and grants. Decreases were seen in fuel, corrosion, and new equipment.

c. **PUBLIC HEARING – WATER RATES** – Mr. Benton made a presentation for the proposed new water rates which would go into effect January 1, 2025 which would be reflected on the February 2025 bill. Mr. Benton presented a history of the rates going back to 1999 to which only in 2019 did the rates go above what they were in 1999 which has an estimated impact of the department \$1.9 Million the department is behind on due the rate decrease that occurred in 2000. Mr. Benton went on to show the future capital projects the department will be facing which includes projects the department is already working and projects that have yet to be started on which comes to \$9,477,600 in infrastructure improvements at today's prices. Mr. Benton showed the Board his proposal for the rates using fixed and variable costs of the department and a placeholder of \$75,000 for future bond payments. Below is the table of the rates that the Board had been presented with.

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Type	Current	New
Volumetric Charge	\$6.35	\$7.74
5/8" Service Charge	\$10	\$15
1" Service Charge	\$17.90	\$25
1 1/2" Service Charge	\$34	\$50
2" Service Charge	\$54	\$72
Turn Offs/On (Scheduled)	\$30 Per	\$60 Per
Turn Offs/On (Disconnects/ Same Day)	\$30 Per	\$80 Per
Final Reads	0	\$30 Per
Fire Lines?	0	150 Per Year

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49

**MOTION:** Chris Janosa

*To approve the proposed water rates effective January 1, 2025*

**SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

**VOTE:** 5-0

**MOTION PASSED**

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**d. TAX WARRANT FOR SECOND HALF BILLING -**

**MOTION:** Charles Bozzello

*To approve the tax rate of \$18.39*

**SECOND:** Andy Fitch

**VOTE:** 5-0

**MOTION PASSED**

62

**MOTION:** Andy Fitch

*To approve the tax warrant totaling \$4,436,231.56 due December 20, 2024*

**SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

**VOTE:** 5-0

**MOTION PASSED**

68

**e. INTENT TO CUT WARRANT -**

70

**MOTION:** Andy Fitch

*To approve the intent to cut for map and lot 212-004 for \$1,714.09*

**SECOND:** Chris Janosa

**VOTE:** 5-0

**MOTION PASSED**

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76 f. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES –**

77

78 **MOTION:** Chris Janosa

79 *To approve the minutes of October 21, 2024*

80 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

81 **VOTE:** 5-0

82 **MOTION PASSED**

83

84 g. **ASSESSING CONTRACT –**

85

86 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

87 *To approve the utility assessing contract with Sansoucy for 5 years*

88 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

89 **VOTE:** 5-0

90 **MOTION PASSED**

91

92 h. **BUDGET REVIEWS CONTINUED –**

93 **Executive** – Marissah Gallien Finance Director presented the budget for 2025.

94 Increases were seen in salaries, the website, phones, and dues and the line for the  
95 copier saw a decrease.

96 **Land Use** – Kendall Hughes presented the Land Use proposed budget for 2025.

97 Increases took place in budgeting for the land use assistant at 8 hours per week as  
98 well in the line for training, which would allow for 6 people to attend a training.

99 **Building Inspector** – the budget reflects the new agreement in place for the  
100 building inspector as well as the purchasing of the new building codes.

101 **Health** – Kendall Hughes presented the budget for the Health Officer which  
102 reflects an increase in the Officer’s stipend.

103 **General Assistance** – Ms. Gallien presented this budget on behalf of the Welfare  
104 Director, the salary line saw an increase as well as the assistance line.

105 **Patriotic Purposes** – Ms. Gallien presented this budget as the same as the current  
106 year.

107 **Electric** – Harry Gallien presented the 2025 Electric budget. Increases were seen  
108 in the training line as NEPPA has increased by 8%, dues, line clearance for trees  
109 that have been identified to be removed, substation inspection, building  
110 maintenance increased due to needing to outfit the garage with fire suppression  
111 and heating, line maintenance increased due to the re-wiring of Hicks Hill Road,  
112 software for the smart meters contractually increased, and vehicle rental increased  
113 for the new bucket truck. Decreases were seen in utility pole purchase, office  
114 supplies, and meter purchase.

115

116 i. **BOUNDARY LINE AGREEMENT** – The paperwork was signed by the Board  
117 of Selectmen as they had voted previously on this matter.

118

119 j. **AUCTION AGREEMENT FOR N. ASHLAND ROAD PROPERTY** – The  
120 auction will take place on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm after which the Board will  
121 approve the bid.

- 122 k. **KEARSARGE ENERGY** – Selectmen Semiao discussed the letter of intent from  
123 Kearsarge energy which will go to the Board at their next meeting for signing.  
124
- 125 l. **EMERGENCY LANES** – This is a continuing item for the Board, the Board  
126 gave their consensus for Town Manager Fred Welch to move forward drafting a  
127 warrant article.  
128
- 129 m. **PROGRESS OF WINONA ROAD AND THOMPSON STREET** – The Town  
130 is working on applying for the USDA Rural Development grant.  
131
- 132 n. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** – Selectmen Bozzello shared that the  
133 Economic Development Committee took a walkthrough of the campground and  
134 that they have a meeting tomorrow (11/19) at 5:30pm at the Utility Conference  
135 Room.  
136
- 137 o. **BOS REQUEST** – A student for Ashland Elementary School has asked to meet  
138 with a member of the Board, Selectmen Bozzello will meet with him.  
139

140 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

141 *To enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3*

142 **SECOND:** Meghan Semiao

143 **VOTE:** 5-0

144 **MOTION PASSED**

145

146 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

147 *To seal the minutes of the non-public session*

148 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

149 **VOTE:** 5-0

150 **MOTION PASSED**

151

152 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

153 *To adjourn the meeting*

154 **SECOND:** Ann Barney

155 **VOTE:** 5-0

156 **MOTION PASSED**