

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM
6 COLLINS STREET, ASHLAND**

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

MOTION: Charles Bozzello

To approve the minutes of November 4th as written

SECOND: Andy Fitch

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION PASSED

II. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **PUBLIC HEARING – ELECTRIC RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025**

– Harry Gallien Electric Superintendent presented the Board with proposed rates for the electric department effective January 1, 2025, which would be reflected on the February 2025 bill. The rates were changed due to the new power purchase agreement the Board of Selectmen signed earlier this year. Mr. Gallien showed the changes in the rates as compared to the current rates and showed what the current rate that the State of New Hampshire is paying with the other power vendors in the state. Below are the tables that the Board made their decision on.

MOTION: Meghan Semiao

To accept the electric rates effective January 1, 2025, as written

SECOND: Charles Bozzello

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION PASSED

Ashland Municipal Electric Rates CURRENT RATES		
RATE CODE	DESCRIPTION	CHARGES
Industrial Primary Service		
1	Monthly Service Charge	\$100.00
	All KVA Demand (Per KW)	\$5.50
	All kwh	\$0.12673
General Service Single Phase		
2	Monthly Service Charge	\$10.00
	KVA Demand over 10 (Per KW)	\$5.20
	First 500 kwh	\$0.16144
	Next 500 kwh	\$0.14909
	Next 1500 kwh	0.14462
	Over 2500 kwh	0.13549
Residential Rate		
3	Monthly Service Charge	\$10.00
	First 100 kwh	\$0.12776
	Next 400 kwh	\$0.15623
	Over 500 kwh	0.15423
General Service 3-Phase		
4	Monthly Service Charge	\$25.00
	KVA Demand over 10 (Per KW)	\$5.20
	First 500 kwh	\$0.16144
	Next 500 kwh	\$0.14909
	Next 1500 kwh	0.14462
	Over 2500 kwh	0.13549
Electric Heat		
5	Monthly Service Charge	\$10.00
	First 100 kwh	\$0.12776
	Next 400 kwh	\$0.15623
	Over 500 kwh	0.1428

Ashland Municipal Electric Rates EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025		
RATE CODE	DESCRIPTION	CHARGES
Industrial Primary Service		
1	Monthly Service Charge	\$100.00
	All KVA Demand (Per KW)	\$5.50
	All kwh	\$0.16728
General Service Single Phase		
2	Monthly Service Charge	\$10.00
	KVA Demand over 10 (Per KW)	\$5.20
	First 500 kwh	\$0.21310
	Next 500 kwh	\$0.19679
	Next 1500 kwh	0.19089
	Over 2500 kwh	0.17885
Residential Rate		
3	Monthly Service Charge	\$10.00
	First 100 kwh	\$0.16864
	Next 400 kwh	\$0.20622
	Over 500 kwh	0.20358
General Service 3-Phase		
4	Monthly Service Charge	\$25.00
	KVA Demand over 10 (Per KW)	\$5.20
	First 500 kwh	\$0.21310
	Next 500 kwh	\$0.19787
	Next 1500 kwh	0.19089
	Over 2500 kwh	0.17885
Electric Heat		
5	Monthly Service Charge	\$10.00
	First 100 kwh	\$0.16864
	Next 400 kwh	\$0.20622
	Over 500 kwh	0.18849

* All Rates (Excluding Outdoor Lighting Service) are subject to a Purchased Power Adjustment Charge of **\$0.01000 KWH**

* All Rates (Excluding Outdoor Lighting Service) are subject to a Purchased Power Adjustment Charge of **\$0.01000 KWH**

Rate 7 KVA Demand (Per KWH) \$ 5.20

Rate 7 KVA Demand (Per KWH) \$ 5.20

Rate 8 KVA Demand (Per KWH) \$ 5.50

Rate 8 KVA Demand (Per KWH) \$ 5.50

OUTDOOR LIGHTING SERVICE - EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025				
RATE CODE	DESCRIPTION	Watts	NEW MONTHLY CHARGE	CURRENT CHARGES
ODL07	Roadway (Yard) - LED - 30w	30	\$12.80	\$7.40
ODL08	Roadway(Yard)-LED - ATB0 Autobahn	80	\$17.46	\$8.06
ODL09	Roadway - LED - 110w	110	\$20.26	\$9.11
ODL10	Highway - LED - 135w	135	\$22.59	\$15.17
ODL11	Area Flood- LED - LA1 Series	300	\$37.97	\$18.31
LEGACY SERVICES				
ODL01	Roadway - Sodium - 50w	50	\$14.66	\$7.40
ODL02	Roadway - Sodium - 70w	70	\$16.53	\$8.06
ODL03	Roadway - Sodium - 100w	100	\$19.32	\$9.11
ODL04	Roadway - Sodium - 150w	150	\$23.98	\$15.17
ODL05	Roadway - Sodium - 250w	250	\$33.31	\$18.31
ODL06	Area - Sodium - 400w	400	\$47.29	\$22.78

32

33

34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79

b. **2025 DEFAULT BUDGET** – The Board of Selectmen reviewed the presented default budget for 2025.

MOTION: Andy Fitch
To approve the 2025 default budget for the General Fund totaling \$3,712,386
SECOND: Charles Bozzello
VOTE: 4-0
MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Andy Fitch
To approve the 2025 default budget for the Water Fund totaling \$349,423
SECOND: Charles Bozzello
VOTE: 4-0
MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Charles Bozzello
To approve the 2025 default budget for the Sewer Fund totaling \$849,537
SECOND: Andy Fitch
VOTE: 4-0
MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Charles Bozzello
To approve the 2025 default budget for the Electric Fund totaling \$3,442,224
SECOND: Andy Fitch
VOTE: 4-0
MOTION PASSED

c. **2025 TOWN BUDGET** – The Board would like to further review the budget and have postponed voting until their next meeting.

d. **AGREEMENT WITH SNHS IN LIEU OF TAXES** –

MOTION: Chris Janosa
To sign the agreement with SNHS Elderly Housing for a bill in the amount of \$27,978, with revisions annually.
SECOND: Meghan Semiao
VOTE: 4-0
MOTION PASSED

e. **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT** – Due to the electronic nature of the application for the rural development grant, the Board discussed authorizing Finance Director Marissah Gallien to sign on behalf of Town Manager Fred Welch.

80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125

MOTION: Andy Fitch
To authorize Marissah Gallien to sign the USDA grant on behalf of the Town Manager

SECOND: Meghan Semiao

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION PASSED

f. **BOS MEETING VIDEO NOVEMBER 18TH** – Chair Fitch made an announcement that the video of the November 18th Board meeting is not available as there was an issue with the recording. Chair Fitch also shared that an announcement was made at the aforementioned meeting that the Town is shovel ready on Washington Street and Winona Road.

g. **WATER RATE CLAIRIFICATION –**

MOTION: Andy Fitch
To accept the water rates as written (volumetric at \$7.74 per 100 cubic feet)

SECOND: Chris Janosa

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION PASSED

h. **UTILITY ASSESSING CONTRACT –**

MOTION: Andy Fitch
To approve the 5-year Sansoucy contract for utility assessing

SECOND: Charles Bozzello

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION PASSED

III. OLD BUSINESS –

- a. Selectmen Janosa made an announcement that there is an auction of Town owned property that will be taking place on N. Ashland Road on December 12th.
- b. Selectmen Janosa asked Chief Steve Heath if the old ambulance had been listed on Municibid yet. Chief Heath stated he was in the process of working on the listing but that it had not yet been listed.

IV. SELECTMENS ITEMS –

- a. Selectmen Semiao shared that the Grafton County has awarded Hub 66 the broadband contract. There was discussion of next steps for the Town to be a part of the broadband initiative as well as working with Hub 66 on a reduced rate for Ashland residents.
- b. Selectmen Semiao discussed the letter of intent that the Board needs to discuss signing with Kearsarge Energy for the solar field on the old landfill. Selectmen Semiao and Selectmen Bozzello discussed at length the proposed rates and terms of the agreement, Selectmen Bozzello felt that the Town could negotiate more on

126 the rates to which Selectmen Semiao said she would go back to Kearsarge Energy
127 to see what could be negotiated further.

128 c. Selectmen Bozzello asked about a note that was made in the draft 2023 audit
129 pertaining to the separation of duties in the utility office. Finance Director
130 Marissah Gallien addressed the note that was made with that in 2024 there was
131 separation made so that one person is involved in the billing with review by the
132 finance department and the Town Manager whereas previously all staff was
133 involved in the billing portion, but also noted that there is crossover when it
134 comes to the collection of funds due to the size of the department. Ms. Gallien
135 further pointed out that the note from the auditors is a suggestion not a
136 requirement.

137 d. Kendall Hughes spoke to the Board about the 4th of July budget for 2025 and that
138 it had been sent over to the Board. And further that the committee is retaining
139 \$10,000 in the budget.

140

141 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

142 *To adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm*

143 **SECOND:** Meghan Semiao

144 **VOTE:** 5-0

145 **MOTION PASSED**

146

147