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**TOWN OF ASHLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM
6 COLLINS STREET, ASHLAND**

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

II. NEW BUSINESS

a. **PUBLIC HEARING TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS** – The Town received grants funds that will help with the replacement of the Police Department radios. There were no comments from the public.

MOTION: Chris Janosa

To accept the Grafton County grant funds totaling \$19,046

SECOND: Charles Bozzello

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION PASSED

b. **PUBLIC HEARING: NEW CAMPGROUND RATES** – Before the public hearing was opened, the Board went over the new contract that is to be sent to the campers. The Board worked their way through the draft contract and made motions on the changes.

MOTION: Meghan Semiao

To approve the \$3,800 with payments due in two parts, the first payment (deposit) is due on Columbus Day weekend, along with the storage fees (\$200 per RV, \$200 per boat). After January 1st, 50% of the deposit will not be refundable.

SECOND: Chris Janosa

VOTE: 4-0-1 (A. Barney abstained)

MOTION PASSED

Decks: the Board discussed the allowance of decks so long as they are removable.

MOTION: Charles Bozzello

To approve one 8X8 storage shed, and one 8X12 deck that is to be in modular 4X8 sections (and must be taken down at the end of the season) and for the Building Inspector to inspect the installation. Any special requests from prior campers to be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen and will be enforceable by the Building Inspector.

SECOND: Meghan Semiao

VOTE: 4-0-1 (A. Barney abstained)

MOTION PASSED

46 There was discussion surrounding the registration of campers vs. the taxation of
47 unregistered campers. The Board will require that campers be registered, and the
48 proof of registration must be submitted to the Parks & Rec Director no later than
49 April 1st in any year.

50
51 In section 6 of the contract Chris Janosa made a motion which was seconded by Andy
52 Fitch to add the language “Units must have tires, and a hitch attached at all times and
53 be ready for removal in the event of an emergency” the motion passed 4-0-1(A.
54 Barney abstained)

55
56 In section 9 of the contract Andy Fitch made a motion which was seconded by Chris
57 Janosa to remove the language “The erection of any structure requires the approval of
58 a building permit before erection or construction. The insurance policy shall name the
59 Town of Ashland as an additional insured. Cancellation of insurance automatically
60 cancels the building permit to utilize the campground for the permitted structure and
61 requires removal of the structure under construction.” The motion passed 4-0-1(A.
62 Barney abstained)

63
64 Section 12 of the contract had a motion from Chris Janosa with a motion seconded by
65 Andy Fitch to remove section 12 as it is the same as section 7. The motion passed 4-
66 0-1(A. Barney abstained)

67
68 In section 16 of the contract Chris Janosa made a motion which was seconded by
69 Andy Fitch to remove the line “Both the boat and trailer must be made inoperable and
70 immovable while stored”. The motion passed 4-0-1(A. Barney abstained)

71
72 Section 26 had a motion by Chris Janosa and seconded by Andy Fitch to combine the
73 section with section 34 and note that “no items are to be fastened to any trees in the
74 campground.” The motion passed 4-0-1(A. Barney abstained)

75
76 Section 28 had a motion by Meghan Semiao and seconded by Chris Janosa to re-write
77 section to read “Sites accommodate only one camper, trailer, or tent. All sites must be
78 kept neat and orderly. Failure to do so will be deemed a rule violation.” The motion
79 passed 4-0-1(A. Barney abstained)

80
81 It was motioned by Chris Janosa and seconded by Andy Fitch to add a section that
82 reads “All outside refrigerators must be approved by the Campground Director and
83 must be kept locked when camper is not at the site.” The motion passed 4-0-1 (A.
84 Barney abstained)

85
86 The Board asked to have the contract sent to the Town’s legal counsel for their
87 review and advised Ms. Barney to send out emails to the campers that were in good
88 standing to ask if they would like to come back.

89
90 The public hearing for the campground rates was opened at 7:34pm. There were

91 many comments from various members of the public throughout the meeting
92 regarding the rules and the rates.

93
94 **MOTION:** Charles Bozzello

95 *To accept the rates for the 2025 season at \$3,800 per site for the season, \$200 for RV*
96 *storage and \$200 for boat storage.*

97 **SECOND:** Chris Janosa

98 **VOTE:** 4-0-1 (A. Barney abstained)

99 **MOTION PASSED**

100
101 **c. APPROVAL OF 2024 ENCUMBRANCES –**

102 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

103 *To approve the encumbrances in the amounts of \$2,250.16 for the general fund,*
104 *\$11,900 for the sewer fund, \$16,824 for the water fund and \$22,531.84 for the*
105 *electric fund.*

106 **SECOND:** Chris Janosa

107 **VOTE:** 5-0

108 **MOTION PASSED**

109
110 **d. APPROVAL OF NEW VOTING MACHINE –** Town Clerk/Tax Collector

111 Becky Hartley spoke with the Board and asked for a motion for additional
112 language as it pertains to the use of the new voting machine in the March election
113 due to regulations from the State.

114
115 **MOTION:** Meghan Semiao

116 *To allow the use of the new voting machine in the March election*

117 **SECOND:** Andy Fitch

118 **VOTE:** 5-0

119 **MOTION PASSED**

120
121 Ms. Hartley also shared with the Board that she is sending out tax delinquency
122 notices.

123
124 **e. RATIO STUDY –** Town Manager Fred Welch gave the Board paperwork from
125 the State that must be signed off by the Board. The Board had many questions
126 regarding the study and asked for the Town’s assessor to meet with the Board so
127 that they can understand the study.

128
129 **f. APPROVAL OF ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT PURCHASE ORDERS -**

130
131 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch

132 *To approve \$49,210 to IC Reed for transformers for stock.*

133 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello

134 **VOTE:** 5-0

135 **MOTION PASSED**

136

137 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
138 *To approve \$35,280.02 to Wesco for parts for Leavitt and Hicks Hill.*
139 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello
140 **VOTE:** 5-0
141 **MOTION PASSED**

142
143 g. **APPROVAL TO PLACE AMERICAN KESTREL BOX ON SEWER**
144 **PROPERTY –**

145
146 **MOTION:** Meghan Semiao
147 *To approve the American Kestrel Box on the Sewer property*
148 **SECOND:** Charles Bozzello
149 **VOTE:** 5-0
150 **MOTION PASSED**

151
152 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
153 *To enter into a non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3 (c) at 7:51pm*
154 **SECOND:** Chris Janosa
155 **VOTE:** 5-0
156 **MOTION PASSED**

157
158 **MOTION:** Andy Fitch
159 *To seal the minutes of the non-public session*
160 **SECOND:** Meghan Semiao
161 **VOTE:** 5-0
162 **MOTION PASSED**

163
164 **MOTION:** Ann Barney
165 *To adjourn the meeting at 8:21pm*
166 **SECOND:** Meghan Semiao
167 **VOTE:** 5-0
168 **MOTION PASSED**

169