

ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 7, 2013

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Toth, F. Newton, N. DeWolfe, M. Scarano, D. Ruell, C. Cilley, M. Badger, S. Coleman, I. Heidenreich

MEMBERS EXCUSED: R. Leibert, J. Stewart

OTHERS PRESENT: A. Cilley, E. Badger, B. Boyle, J. Hughes

The meeting started at 6:00pm in the Ashland Elementary school library.

S. Coleman commented on how well the minutes were done by M. Badger.

The minutes of October 24: F. Newton made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Toth to accept the minutes of October 24, 2013 as written. 8 members ayed. 1 member abstained.

Our next meetings will be: November 13 (in café), November 19, November 21 and November 26 the rest in library.

We discussed what are our goals for the next year. We would like to Steve Felton here for his input.

The school end report is to the school board for review. The new proposed budget should be ready in mid December. At this moment it is missing the tax rate and the SAU budget. Trish is to call Mark when ready.

D. Toth mentioned that we need to evaluate the budget and figure out what our goals & priorities are best for the town.

M. Badger mentioned the big picture priorities.

N. DeWolfe mentioned grants.

D. Toth said that we might need to take beneficial risks.

S. Coleman talked about town using school monies to pay bills. She mentioned a petition warrant article to pay the school quarterly.

At 6:20pm the Water & Sewer Commissioners (A. Cilley, B. Boyle, J. Hughes) started their budget.

Utility Partners went from an anticipated 2% to 1.5% actual deducting around \$6,230.00 from what was put into the budget.

Water: contract operation is \$85,455.

total budget is \$178,126.

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Sewer: contract operation is \$219,734.

total budget is \$302,563.

The total operating budget is \$305,189.

There is to be an increase in the water and the sewer rates starting 1-1-14

Water increase of 10%, which for each 100 cubic foot the rate will go from \$3.50 to \$3.85.

Sewer increase of 20%, which for each 100 cubic foot the rate will go from \$6.00 to \$7.20.

The overall budget increased 12.5% overall for both water & sewer.

S. Coleman asked for a copy of the Utility Partners contract.

A. Cilley went over in water:

6230 (contract operations)

6510 (hydrant repairs)

6340 (engineering for GPS mapping) they have 3 years to complete).

There are 12 hydrants that need to be replaced. 4 have already been replaced, 2 had accidents. They have 2 hydrants on hand. All hydrants are operational. There are four different types of hydrants.

6780 (New meters) is a CIP item

570 meters will need to be replaced by 2015.

The capital reserves are not specific for what they can be used for. There is \$72,000 in water accounts and \$22,000. in sewer accounts.

6640 (maintenance) is for the snow attachment for tractor

7015 (pump station maintenance)

7220 (testing—wells) Emery & Garrett is checking for salt in wells. The proposal from Emery & Garrett for well

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testing goes until the year 2017.

A. Cilley went over in sewer:

6230 (contract operations)

6340 (engineering) grant applications for receiving station for  
up to ½ million dollars. Rural development program.

6640 (maintenance) brush hog for tractor.

The income pages need to be fixed.

4070 (thru Oct.) water revenue \$149,278.45

4070 (thru Oct.) sewer revenue \$167,855.91

septic receiving \$181,096.87

The budget committee asked if the commissioners could come in on Wednesday  
November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm to finish their budget presentation. They agreed.

The electric department started their presentation at 7:15pm.

K. Hughes, B. Hoerter, D. Vaughn, L. Nichols

L. Nichols said that they are \$2,600. to the good.

L. Nichols said they have \$150,000. in capital reserves.

He also said that No. Ashland road is 90% complete.

L. Nichols went over 311 (building) over budget due to the overhang & lighting and

Slab for fuel tank

353.1 (poles & fixtures) over due to anchor rods & guard  
wires.

354.2 & 354.3 (overhead conductors & underground  
conductors) used for Levitt Hill and will be reimbursed

361.1 (street light equip) changing lights to LED lighting (near

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Bread & Butter and the interstate)

732.3c (maint. trees & ROW) tree service

782.1 (office equip maint. agreements) Pitney Bose & shredder

782.18 (misc office maint.) stripping of the floors

782.5 (stores & shop) stock up on supplies

797 (hydro maint. exp.) for hydro maintenance warrant article

to get rid of the hydro on River St. It needs generators.

Generators haven't run in 7 years. They want to sell

FERC licence to someone else. Electric Dept. has  
\$50,000. already invested in it.

782.12 (computer expense) upgrade for billing system. So far

they have spent \$10,000. on the new billing system &  
software.

L. Nichols said that the new billing system will be up and running by the beginning of 2014.

6040 & 2160 was for the bond used for N. Ashland Rd. over 15 years

798 (depreciation) depreciation to be put into a capital

reserve account (\$150,000 will be put into capital

reserve divided by 12 months.). In 2018 they will need

a new bucket truck (+/- \$250,000.)

There is a 3% labor increase, health insurance 10% increase.

They were done with presentation @ 7:50pm

S. Coleman to do minutes next meeting

F. Newton made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Badger to adjourn @ 7:54pm. All members  
ayed.

