

**ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2014
ASHLAND FIRE STATION
5:30 PM**

MINUTES

Chairman David Ruell called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Members Present: David Ruell, Dave Toth, Mardean Badger, Norm DeWolfe, Christine Cilley, Harold Lamos, Sandra Coleman.

Member absent with Notice: Mark Scarano

Alternate Present: Fran Newton.

Alternate Absent with Notice: Renee Liebert.

Agreed to start with review of remaining warrant articles not voted on previously.

Review of warrant articles

Article 2 - 5 year lease/purchase of Fire Engine for \$450,000.. F. Newton explained the \$75,000. down payment. She also explained the escape clause reasoning and how this will cause the future lease payments to be part of the budget including default. There was discussion around the whole issue of total cost, amount financed, interest, yearly approval of the warrant article and various approaches to help this warrant article to be approved by the voters. S. Coleman questioned the total amount financed and that the numbers did not add up because the total amount of down payment and payments added up to \$474,810 and the interest amount was not stated separately. FD Chief Steve Heath helped to explain the process involving the numbers in the warrant article. S. Coleman stated that she felt the way this article was written that it would not pass, especially in light of the fact that it will require a 60% approval vote. There was considerable time spent discussing this article. C. Cilley brought up the transmission, trade in and part out of the old truck. At this point, a motion was made by D. Ruell to recommend the article. Seconded by M. Badger. In further discussion, S. Heath mentioned the fact that the voters had been paying \$62,000 on the last engine which ended this year, so the net is only an increase of \$17,000 yearly to the tax payers. S. Coleman continued to express her concern that this article wouldn't pass as written. Again, the escape clause issue was discussed. H. Lamos brought up using CR money in the future to pay the payments, but this was made clear that the intent of the future CR money was for the second engine. M. Badger expressed her concerns regarding the escape clause and the intent of the article. Discussed RSAs.

Call to Vote 5Y-1N-1AB

There was also a motion by S. Coleman, seconded by C. Cilley, to recommend that article 2 state the total cost, interest, specify yearly amount and to contain an escape clause. Vote 3Y-2N-2AB.

Article 9- Capital reserve for FD for \$50,000. Motion to recommend by H.Lamos, Seconded by C. Cilley. Vote 5-Y,1-N,1-AB

Article 5- Lease payment for John Deere Loader for 28,189. for third year payment. Motion to recommend by C. Cilley, Seconded by H.Lamos. Vote 7-Y,0-N.

Article 7- Lease purchase of PD vehicle for \$29,478 with yearly payments of 7,370 plus outfitting costs of \$25,300. Motion to recommend by M.Badger, Seconded by H.Lamos. In discussion S. Coleman brought up recommendation that this be written similar to recommendation for fire engine.
Vote 6-Y,1-N

Article 8 - CR fund for \$20,000 for PD
Motion to recommend by C. Cilley, seconded by D. Toth. Vote 6-Y,1-N

Article 11- CR for town office windows for \$60,700.
It was noted that payback was 6.7 years
Motion to recommend by H.Lamos, seconded by M.Badger. Vote 4-Y,3-N

Article 12- CR fund for town owned buildings for \$25,000
Motion to recommend C. Cilley, seconded by N. DeWolfe
Discussion revolved around the need to get more detailed specific information regarding what is needed. D. Ruell felt this was the weakest article. Vote 6-Y,1-N.

Budget Review:

HWY Equipment lease payment- page 23- 01-4312-10-741. Need to change budget to 0 from 28,189 for John Deere Loader.
Motion by C. Cilley to change budget line from \$29,189 to zero(\$0), seconded by D.Toth.
Vote 6-Y,0-N,1-AB.

Insurance-INS Health Insurance (Retirees)-Page 14- 01-4196-10-210. Need to vote to finalize amount. Motion to approve amount of \$40,235. Moved by C.Cilley, seconded by M.Badger.
Vote- 7-Y,0-N

Other Business

Discussed receipt of resignation e-mail from Jamie Lyford and the need for him to send letter to Town Clerk. There was a consensus agreement not to fill vacancy at this time.

There was discussion regarding S. Coleman bringing up union salaries as approved b the budget committee and the fact that the evergreen clause was repealed in 2011. Therefore, there should be no step increases if town remains on old contract. It was stated that this had a minimal financial impact on the town. This is an item that needs further research, but the Budget committee took no further action on salaries.

Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of December 11,2014. Moved by N.DeWolfe, seconded by S.Coleman. Vote 7-Y,0-N

Minutes of December 16,2014. Correction to change wording from "article 3" to "School Budget" in original motion. Also needed to add changes included in motion to deduct \$2000. under reg. ed. medical insurance and to add \$2000. under curriculum ATA Professional Development. Motion to approve minutes with corrections by N.DeWolfe, seconded by H. Lamos. Vote 7-Y,0-N.

Minutes for December18,2014. Motion to approve minutes by C.Cilley, seconded by D. Toth. Vote 7-Y, 0-N.

There was a motion to hold a meeting immediately after the deliberative session if need to revote on amended articles. Moved by M.Badger, seconded by D. Toth. Vote 7-Y,0-N

It was announced that the budget will need to be signed by the BC 7 days before deliberative session.

It was announced that the BC will discuss petitioned articles at the school budget hearing on 1/14/15.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:57 PM. Moved by C. Cilley, seconded by M. Badger. Vote 7-Y, 0-N Motion Passed.

Minutes by Norm DeWolfe