

## ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

JANUARY 14, 2016

### MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: N. DeWolfe, D. Ruell, C. Cilley, G. Dion, S. Coleman, B. Hoerter, S. Downing, H. Lamos, W. Durack

OTHERS PRESENT: A. Cilley, M. Badger, K. DeWolfe, L. Nichols, H. Thibedeau, S. Heath, T. Randall, T. Paquette, S. Felton, J. Lyford, S. Weinberg, A. Staples, Gene from Genesis

The town public hearing started at 7:00pm in the Ashland elementary café.

D. Ruell did the presentation.

#### TOWN OPERATING BUDGET

Coleman stated that the BOS created a new line (longevity) and put monies in that line in the default budget. DeWolfe agreed that monies for the default budget should not be in the longevity line but the \$21,202. should all be in the salary line for both tax collector and town clerk.

DeWolfe made the statement that the budget committee is not a committee that purviews individuals within the town with different raises. K. DeWolfe asked about the financial officer getting no raise.

TA Thibedeau made the comment to be careful about talking about individuals. Talking about positions is different than talking about individual people.

S. Heath clarified that in FD contract services, firehoses is a kind of software.

T. Randall asked if the \$4,507. in Park & Rec. contracted cleaning service should have contract written beside it. We agreed that it should.

K. DeWolfe clarified that in Park & Rec. summer/vacation programs, beach construction 2015 actual figure is not correct. The figure is over \$1,427. The exact figure could not be given at tonight's meeting. She informed us of what permits were needed and paid for.

Gene from Genesis spoke and thanked us for the past support we have given, and hopes that we continue to support Genesis.

There were no other comments or questions re: town-operating budget.

#### REVENUES

There were no comments or questions re: revenues.

## ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

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MINUTES—PG. 2

### ELECTRIC

DeWolfe stated that it would have been helpful to have year-end actual figures for the electric budget. We are working with 11/18/15 actual figures.

M. Badger recommended that Article 6 (Ashland electric dept. operating budget), Article 7 (Ashland water dept. operating budget), and Article 8 (Ashland sewer dept. operating budget) have the last sentence in each of the articles to read in **bold** letters: **with no amount to be raised by taxation.**

There will be four separate budget figures on the ballot this year, separating town, water, sewer, and electric.

The town public hearing closed at 8:15pm.

Budget committee meeting started at 8:22pm.

### SCHOOL

DeWolfe made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dion to accept the figure of \$834,465. for total school revenue & credits. 9 ayed, 0 nayed.

### TOWN OPERATING BUDGET

#### FINANCIAL

DeWolfe made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruell to restore an increase of \$1,000. for the finance officer with salary related lines adjusted. The salary figure will go from \$36,400. to \$37,400. which is a 3.66% increase. 4 ayed, 3 nayed, 2 abstained.

#### GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Lamos made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hoerter to reduce the figure for general assistance from \$25,000. to \$20,000. 6 ayed, 3 nayed.

Coleman made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hoerter to decrease the total bottom line figure of the town-operating budget by \$75,000. Ruell read RSA 32.5 section 3 and said that cutting the bottom line could not be done by the budget committee. Ruell told Coleman that if she wanted to cut certain budgets lines she could and the budget committee could then vote on the changes. Coleman can bring this motion up at the deliberative session. Hoerter withdrew the motion, as did Coleman.

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MINUTES—PG. 3

Ruell made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dion to recommend the operating budget as presented with changes voted on this evening. Figures for FICA and Medicare to be available by the deliberative session. 6 ayed, 3 nayed.

TOWN REVENUE

Dion made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Durack to recommend the proposed revenues as presented tonight. 7 ayed, 2 nayed.

ARTICLES

DeWolfe made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Durack to recommend Article 3 (to enter into a five year lease/purchase agreement to obtain a new fire engine/pumper which has a total purchase price of \$485,163). 6 ayed, 3 nayed.

Durack made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruell to recommend Article 4 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$800,000. for the purchase, renovation and furnishing of the former elementary school property from Tri-County CAP for the use of the Ashland town library). 3 ayed, 6 nayed. The budget committee did not recommend this article.

Durack made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DeWolfe to recommend Article 9 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,938. for the second year payment of the four year lease/purchase of the transfer station mini loader). 9 ayed, 0 nayed.

Durack made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lamos to recommend Article 10 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,189. for the fourth year payment of the five year lease/purchase for the PWD loader). 9 ayed, 0 nayed.

DeWolfe made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Durack to recommend Article 11 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000. to be placed into the Road Improvements capital reserve fund). 5 ayed, 4 nayed.

DeWolfe made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruell to recommend Article 12 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000. to be placed into the Police Dept. capital reserve fund). 9 ayed, 0 nayed.

Durack made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DeWolfe to recommend Article 13 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000. to be added into the Fire Dept. capital reserve fund). 7 ayed, 2 nayed.

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MINUTES—PG. 4

Durack made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lamos to recommend Article 14 (to establish a capital reserve fund to be known as the Dept of public works fund for the purpose of vehicle or equipment purchase, replacement or repair and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000. to be added to the fund). 5 ayed, 4 nayed.

DeWolfe made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Durack to recommend Article 15 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000. to be added to the town building maintenance and repair fund). 5 ayed, 4 nayed.

DeWolfe made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruell to recommend Article 17 (to authorize the collection of an additional fee for motor vehicle registrations in the amount of \$5.00 to be deposited in a capital reserve fund to be used for the purpose of municipal transportation improvements). 4 ayed, 5 nayed. The budget committee did not recommend this article.

Durack made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DeWolfe to recommend Article 19 (to establish a capital reserve fund to be known as the emergency management capital reserve fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000. to be deposited into that fund). 9 ayed, 0 nayed.

Ruell made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Durack to recommend Article 23 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,400. for voices against violence). 7 ayed, 2 nayed.

DeWolfe made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Durack to recommend Article 24 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000. to be place into the Ashland library building fund—if the article for purchasing and renovating the former elementary school fails). 5 ayed, 4 nayed.

Dion made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruell to recommend Article 25 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000. for CADY). 7 ayed, 2 nayed.

Durack made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DeWolfe to recommend Article 26 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,478. for Pemi-Baker Community Health). 9 ayed, 0 nayed.

DeWolfe made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lamos to recommend Article 27 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000. to support the Grafton county senior citizens council). 9 ayed, 0 nayed.

Lamos made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Durack to recommend Article 28 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500. for the day away program). 8 ayed, 1 nayed.

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MINUTES—PG. 5

Durack made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DeWolfe to recommend Article 29 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,107. for Tri-county CAP fuel assistance program). 9 ayed, 0 nayed.

DeWolfe made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dion to recommend Article 30 (to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500. to support Genesis behavioral health). 8 ayed, 1 nayed.

UTILITIES

ELECTRIC:

Hoerter made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Downing to recommend the bottom line of \$3,162,531. for electric expenses and \$3,206,500. for electric revenues as proposed. 8 ayed, 0 nayed, 1 abstained.

WATER:

Hoerter made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dion to recommend the bottom line figure of \$250,000. for both water revenues and water expenses. 6 ayed, 1 nayed, 2 abstained.

SEWER:

Dion made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hoerter to recommend the bottom line figure of \$390,000. for both sewer revenues and water expenses. 6 ayed, 1 nayed, 2 abstained.

Hoerter made the statement that the water & sewer commissioners had several opportunities to come back before the budget committee to discuss the reductions and have not. Water & sewer will make a presentation at the deliberative session on January 30.

Commissioner Cilley (from water & sewer) stated that LGC, DRA and the new accountant for water & sewer, all have different opinions on how the budget should be presented.

MINUTES

DeWolfe made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lamos to accept the minutes of January 13, 2016 as written. 7 ayed, 0 nayed, 2 abstained.

**ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**JANUARY 14, 2016**

**MINUTES—PG. 6**

**MEETINGS**

There will be a budget meeting immediately after the town deliberative session on January 30, 2016. Both meetings will be held in the school gym starting at 1:00pm.

There will be a budget meeting immediately after the school deliberative session on February 2, 2016. Both meetings will be held in the school café starting at 7:00pm.

Hoerter made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Downing to adjourn the meeting at 9:22pm. All aye.

Submitted by:

Christine Cilley

Budget Committee votes on town budget January 14

Operating Budget

Fin Salary Finance Officer \$37,400 (also Fica and Medicare)

GA General Assistance \$20,000

Approved town budget as presented, with the two above changes

Approved town revenues as presented

Warrant Article votes (all motions were to recommend)

- ✖ #3 Fire Engine 6-3
- ✖ #4 Library building 3-6 (so not recommended)
- ✖ #9 Mini loader 9-0
- ✖ #10 Public Works loader 9-0
- ✖ #11 Road improvement CRF 5-4
- ✖ #12 Police CRF 9-0
- ✖ #13 Fire CRF 7-2
- ✖ #14 Public Works CRF 5-4
- ✖ #15 Town Building Fund 5-4
- ✖ #17 \$5 fee for Municipal Transportation Fund 4-5 (so not recommended)
- ✖ #19 Emergency Management CRF 9-0
- ✖ #23 Voices Against Violence 7-2
- ✖ #24 Library Building Fund 5-4
- ✖ #25 CADY 7-2
- ✖ #26 Pemi Baker Community Health 9-0
- ✖ #27 Grafton County Senior Citizens 9-0
- ✖ #28 Day Away 8-1
- ✖ #29 TCCAP 9-0
- ✖ #30 Genesis 8-1

Electric Department expenditures 3,162,531

Water Department expenditures 250,000

Sewer Department expenditures 390,000