

ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

JULY 14, 2011

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Ruell, S. Felton, C. Austin, D. Golden, I. Heidenreich, B. LaRiviere, K. Stack, S. Coleman, S. Lake

MEMBERS EXCUSED: M. Brown

OTHERS PRESENT: P. Tucker

The meeting came to order at 7:00pm in the Elementary school café.

S. Felton headed a review of the first half of meetings with dept. heads and gave us an outline of potential items to discuss during the second round of meetings.

We discussed that each budget should show last year/this year/current month/and ytd.

Heidenreich made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Felton, for the committee to request comparative statements from each of the governing bodies (1. Selectmen 2. Electric commissioners 3. Water & sewer commissioners) . Passed without dissent.

We discussed capital reserve (6 to 10 years projection).

We discussed organizing a capital improvement committee.

We discussed the budget committee to talk with the planning board re: capital improvement funds. Steve F will talk with the planning board to put us on the agenda for this discussion

We discussed a format for the dept. heads to use to communicate future capital improvement needs.

We discussed depreciation. We would like from each dept:

1. What assets are being depreciated (breakdown of assets)
2. How much each asset is being depreciated (depreciation table).

S. Felton made the motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by K. Stack that the budget committee request from the electric and water & sewer commissioners a

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breakdown of depreciation schedule, electronically and from the town, how depreciation is determined, and a list of fixed assets and depreciation schedule, electronically. Passed without dissent.

There was a voice recognition that there is a big problem with the water budget.

S. Felton made the motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by K. Stack for the budget committee to suggest immediate and appropriate action plan to remedy the water /sewer financial position from the commissioners (ex: rates/expenses). The budget committee will send a letter to the commissioners re: recognition of financial losses of water & sewer. The request for a plan of action to be prepared and given to the budget committee before the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Passed without dissent.

We discussed seeing a copy of the contract between the electric dept. and utility partners (both the last contract and the new contract).

We discussed that the contract from the utility partners needs to define the breakdown of the \$40K for maintenance. We would like to see a copy of the breakdown.

S. Felton made the motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by I. Heidenreich for the budget committee to have receipt of the power purchase contract (2012 to 2017) from the electric dept. by Friday August 5, 2011. Passed without dissent.

We discussed to have the 2012 preliminary budgets from the depts. forwarded to the budget committee by October.

The next meeting for the budget committee to meet with the fire dept. and the electric dept. is August 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00pm.

S. Lake made the motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by B. LaRiviere to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm.

Christine Austin, Secretary

