

ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 8, 2011

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: C. Austin, D. Golden, D. Ruell, K. Stack, S. Felton, S. Coleman, F. Newton, M, Scarano

MEMBERS EXCUSED: I. Heidenreich, M. Brown

OTHERS PRESENT: A. Cilley, J. Hughes, B. Boyle, L. Pack, R. Cross, P. Branscombe, E. Badger, J. Felton, D. Toth, B. Hoerter

The meeting came to order at 6:00pm in the Elementary school library.

The budget committee interviewed Mark Scarano for the vacancy that came available with the resignation of B. LaRiviere. S. Coleman voiced her concern with his possible lack of attendance. M. Scarano said that there should be no problems with the meeting dates we gave him.

S. Felton made the motion, 2nd by F. Newton to appoint M. Scarano to the budget committee. All members voted without opposition.

D. Golden swore M. Scarano to the budget committee at 6:12pm.

We started with the water & sewer budget presentation at 6:15pm.

The budget committee was told that in the 2012 budget, there is \$10,000 more in expenditures in water and \$500.00 more in expenditures in sewer.

The \$433,500 in revenue is broken down to \$192,000 from client rates, and \$241,500 from the haulers (septic receiving). The monies from septic receiving will go into a specific "new" account. The sewer commissioners took \$300,000 and put into a money market account. Septic receiving monies will go into this account every month. The monies deposited will be readily available at any time. It will be run under a general operating account.

Some of the expenses for sewer discussed included:

1. Administrative fee line including treasurer and admin help.

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2. Contract with Utility Partners Inc. They have a 5 year contract and there will be a 3% increase over 2011 for 2012.

The \$40,000 for maintenance with Utility Partners Inc. includes truck repair, meter repair, and some street repair. The pump station is added to contract, which includes the phone and electric (in the pump station only).

3. Depreciation line was discussed. There was a decision by the commissioners, although not unanimous, to designate \$80,000 on this line although there is no actual money planned to be put aside. It was described as a "paper loss" and does not represent the actual amount of depreciation that will be used on the balance sheet to accurately adjust the asset value. There was a recommendation by one of the commissioners to designate \$5,000 for this line.

4. \$8,973 under capital expense was the amount above the initial cost of the job done on Cross Road.

5. Discussion on the septic receiving building

6. Discussion on items not covered under maintenance plan.

7. \$2,500 for meter reader, and \$600 for secretary.

8. Six wells checked two times a year. (not under maintenance contract).

Some of the expenses discussed for water included:

1. Chemicals not included in the maintenance contract.

2. Pumping and distribution fixing

3. The 3% increase over 2011 for 2012 on the contract with utilities partners.

4. To replace two hydrants, brand new, (12 to be replaced over time). They have 110 hydrants in all.

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5. New meter service (cost to be reimbursed by customer)
6. Monitoring wells get tested in cycles, these monitoring wells are around the regular wells.
7. Cleaning and inspection of the water tower, done every 3 years.
8. \$2,500. for meter reader, and \$600. for secretary.

The budget committee went over the list of capital improvements that Utility Partners Inc. provided to the water and sewer commissioners. The expenditures are about \$234,000 for water and \$730,000 for sewer, projected over the next five + years in addition to approximately \$900,000 for eventual sludge removal. There is not currently any plan in place for saving for these expenses.

The budget committee questioned the water and the sewer balance sheets provided.

The budget committee finished up with the water and sewer dept. at 8:00pm.

The next meeting for the budget committee to meet to have the town present their budget is November 10, 2011 @ 6:00pm in the library.

F. Newton made the motion, 2nd by S. Felton to adjourn the meeting @ 8:00pm. All members voted without opposition.

Christine Austin, Secretary

