

ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 8, 2011

DRAFT MINUTES

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: M. Brown

OTHERS PRESENT: P. Tucker, P. Branscombe, E. Badger, M. Badger, J. Felton, B. Hoerter, D. Toth, C. Thompson, P. Heidenreich

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

S. Felton started by saying that minutes will be in draft form until they are approved.

S. Felton stated that the dept. heads did a great job in providing the budget committee with information to help us to do the budget in a more productive manner.

S. Felton spoke about budget responsibilities and priorities.

S. Felton thanked the public for coming to the meetings.

D. Ruell stated that the school budget is not quite ready, that it may be ready late next week. The December 22, meeting date works for the school to meet with us to go over their budget.

The budget committee decided unanimously that the meeting be done by 9:00pm.

On the Executive budget: Felton made the motion, 2nd by Newton to accept the BOS figure of \$6,168. All members ayed.

On the Executive default budget: Newton made the motion, 2nd by Felton that the figure of \$6,168. be the default figure. All members ayed.

On the Election & Register budget: Felton made the motion, 2nd by Stack to change the ER clerk training from \$900 to \$600. 8 members ayed, 1 member nayed.

The 1.5% increase, for non-union employees, is for the cost of living increase. The union employees have step increase raises.

Towns that were checked into, contribute towards their health insurance.

In 2009, all employees were given a .50 cent an hour raise to go towards health insurance, which has not been done.

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Stack made the motion, 2nd by Scarano that all decisions to be made by the budget committee on salaries and related lines to the salary are to be tabled until insurance issues have been resolved. 8 members ayed. 1 member nayed.

Felton made the motion, 2nd by Newton to accept all other lines in the election & register budget (except for clerk training and salary and salary related lines) that the BOS proposed. All members ayed.

Heidenreich made the motion, 2nd by Coleman to accept the election & register default budget figure of \$35,208. All members ayed.

On ballot coding: Stack made the motion, 2nd by Felton to accept the BOS figure of \$5,600 for the budget. All members ayed.

On ballot coding: Heidenreich made the motion, 2nd by Felton to have the default budget figure be \$5,600. All members ayed.

There are 4 elections to be held in 2012. The state pays for some of the ballots.

On the financial budget: Newton made the motion, 2nd by Heidenreich to change the budget committee expenses from \$200 to \$300. All members ayed.

Felton made the motion, 2nd by Stack to accept the BOS figures (except for the salaries, salary related lines and the budget committee expenses) in the financial budget. All members ayed.

Felton made the motion, 2nd by Heidenreich to accept the figure of \$270,343 for the financial default budget. All members ayed.

On revaluation of property: Stack made the motion, 2nd by Felton to accept the BOS figure of \$33,100 for the budget. All members ayed.

Scarano made the motion, 2nd by Heidenreich to accept the figure of \$34,100 for the revaluation of property default budget. All members ayed.

On legal: Stack made the motion, 2nd by Felton to accept the BOS figure of \$15,000 for the budget. 8 members ayed. 1 member nayed.

Scarano made the motion, 2nd by Newton to accept the figure of \$15,000 for the legal default budget. All members ayed.

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On personnel admin: Scarano made the motion, 2nd by Stack to accept the BOS figure of \$10,000 for the budget. All members ayed.

Felton made the motion, 2nd by Coleman to accept the figure of \$13,753 for the personnel admin. default budget. All members ayed.

On planning and zoning: Stack made the motion, 2nd by Felton to accept the BOS figure of \$4,715 for the budget. 8 members ayed. 1 member nayed.

Scarano made the motion, 2nd by Felton to accept the figure of \$3,950 for the planning and zoning default budget. All members ayed.

On general government: Coleman made the motion, 2nd by Heidenreich to change the GGB general expense from \$4,750 to \$3,750. After some discussion between the budget committee members and P. Tucker, Coleman followed by Heidenreich withdrew the motion.

Felton made the motion, 2nd by Heidenreich to request that the BOS create a new line for “matching grants” and take \$1,000 out of general expense and put the amount into the new line. All members ayed.

Felton made the motion, 2nd by Newton to accept the BOS figure of \$36,200 for the budget. All members ayed.

Scarano made the motion, 2nd by Heidenreich to accept the figure of \$26,750 for the general government default budget. All members ayed.

On cemeteries: Scarano made the motion, 2nd by Stack to accept the BOS figure of \$0.00 (zero) for the budget. All members ayed.

Ruell made the motion, 2nd by Felton to accept the figure of \$450 for the cemeteries default budget. All members ayed.

On insurance: Felton made the motion, 2nd by Stack to accept the BOS figure of \$112,495 for the budget. 8 members ayed. 1 member nayed.

Felton made the motion, 2nd by Stack to accept the figure of \$112,495 for the insurance default budget. All members ayed.

On advertising & regional: Scarano made the motion, 2nd by Newton to accept the BOS figure of \$1,741 for the budget. All members ayed.

Felton made the motion, 2nd by Scarano to accept the figure of \$1,741 for the advertising & regional default budget. All members ayed.

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On other general government: Scarano made the motion, 2nd by Stack to accept the BOS figure of \$2,500 for the budget. 8 members ayed. 1 member nayed.

Stack made the motion, 2nd by Felton to accept the figure of \$4,500 for the other general government default budget. All members ayed.

S. Felton passed out a handout of 2009 police budgets of other towns.

On police department: Stack made the motion, 2nd by Scarano to accept the BOS figure of \$35,000 for part time officer's wages. All members ayed.

Newton made the motion, 2nd by Stack that the computer system maintenance line be changed due to the fact that software maintenance was not included in the figure of \$10,220. The new figure asked for by the chief and approved by the BOS is \$14,520. 7 members ayed. 2 members nayed.

Scarano made the motion, 2nd by Felton to table consideration of the equipment purchase line until the chief can let us know why he wants patrol rifles instead of shotguns. All members ayed.

Felton made the motion, 2nd by Coleman to change PD gasoline from \$14,000 to \$13,000. 5 members ayed. 4 members nayed.

Stack made the motion, 2nd by Newton to accept the BOS figure of \$5,000 for PD uniforms. 8 members ayed. 1 member nayed.

Felton made the motion, 2nd by Stack to accept the BOS figures (except for salaries, salary related lines, voted lines and tabled lines) for the budget. 8 members ayed. 1 member nayed.

Scarano made the motion, 2nd by Newton to accept the figure of \$552,781 for the police dept. default budget. All members ayed.

On detail: Stack made the motion, 2nd by Felton to accept the BOS figure of \$5,228 for the budget. All members ayed.

Felton made the motion, 2nd by Golden to accept the figure of \$5,228 for the detail default budget. All members ayed.

At 8:45pm the budget committee started to approve the minutes of meetings past.

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Scarano made the motion, 2nd by Ruell to approve the minutes of November 17, 2011. 7 members ayed. 2 members abstained.

On the minutes of November 15, 2011, page 4- paragraph 1, there is to be added that Lee Nichols also stated audited financial figure was different.

Felton made the motion, 2nd by Scarano to approve the minutes of November 15, 2011 with the above mentioned amendment. 7 members ayed. 2 members abstained.

On the minutes of November 10, 2011, page 1-paragraph 4, the word proposed needs to be added so the paragraph reads, "the proposed town budget is increased by 3.75%, which is \$98,637, which includes the \$11,317 cost of living raise.

Newton made the motion, 2nd by Golden to approve the minutes of November 10, 2011 with the above mentioned amendment. 7 members ayed. 2 members abstained.

Our next meeting for the budget committee to meet is Tuesday December 13, 2011 at 6:00pm in the school library to start deliberating the electric dept budget and possibly continue on the town budget.

Newton made the motion, 2nd by Heidenreich to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm. All members ayed.

Christine Austin, Secretary