

ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 12, 2012

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: S. Felton, D. Ruell, C. Austin, P. Preston, D. Toth, I. Heidenreich, M. Brown, S. Coleman, M. Scarano

Meeting was brought to order at 6:10pm in the Elementary School Café.

Felton spoke with the committee about how financial forum 2 is going to be presented.

Financial forum 2 started at 6:30pm

OVERVIEW:

- Current financial situation and trends
- Ideas for moving forward
- Proposed budget for 2013
- Public feedback/recommendations

PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FROM 2009 to 2012

TOWN AND SCHOOL BUDGET TREND

CURRENT SITUATION:

- Fire dept roof
- Collins street bridge
- Minimal cash on hand
- Capital reserves
- TAN
- Capital reserves approved by voters in 2012
- Long term debt
- Unassigned general fund balance
- Uncollected property tax 2011
- Tax liens issued in 2011
- Property assessments
- Reduction in state and federal dollars
- Increase in state and federal mandated and unfunded programs
- Poor economy

LONG TERM DEBT

FUTURE CAPITAL NEEDS SUBMITTED TO CIP COMMITTEE

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FUTURE CAPITAL NEEDS

WHAT THIS WILL MEAN

MOVING FORWARD

2013 TOWN BUDGET

2013 UTILITY BUDGETS

THE CHALLENGE

FEEDBACK & QUESTIONS:

- Sharing of town services—see what different towns have for assets and what are they willing to share.
- The Electric dept told the public that they are going to abolish the FPAC portion of the electric bill which will reduce the bill 1 cent per kilowatt hour effective January 2013
- Independent financial review, complete analysis would cost between \$35,000 to \$50,000. Could PSU students get involved?
- How can other members of the town give feedback or ask questions that cannot be present at meetings? One way is the town website.
- Outsourcing the utilities—electric dept has info
- Collins St. bridge—did the town look for grants?---yes they did
- Scarano spoke on grants, on our trends and about expenses—most solutions take time and should be looked at in advance.
- The possible decrease in services.
- Money freeze on budget
- What amounts/cap to be put in capital reserves. For utilities (electric and water & sewer) and the town?
- Coleman stated the taking of the stipends from the town trustees and the BOS. Felton said that it will be brought up at another meeting
- What is the figure of uncollected property taxes?
- The possibility of getting a \$400,000 bond for roads

Felton stated that if anyone else had questions or suggestions to write them down on the feedback sheet provided, and the budget committee would discuss them in their next meetings.

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Scarano made the motion, 2nd by Brown to adjourn the meeting/forum at 8:14pm.
All members ayed.

Christine Austin--secretary