

Town of Ashland
Budget Committee Meeting
February 4, 2025

Present: Tracy Long, Sandy LaBelle, Sammi Jimmo LaBelle, Mark Rafford, James Risner

Also Present: Interim town Manager Kevin Bushey, Town Treasurer Tammy Gagnon

- I. **Call meeting to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Risner.

- II. **Public Comments:** Gayle Burby asked about the impact to the mil rate of proposed budget and if this was the first time that the committee had seen the police department budget. Treasurer response that it may increase the mil rate but not all expense numbers such as county tax and school expense are known at this time and estimates are included in the draft budget. Chair Risner commented this is the first draft of the budget for the committee to review. Chuck Driscoll asked whether this is the budget for vote in March. Chair Risner indicated no.

- III. **New Business:**
 1. The Committee reviewed the budget for 2025. The following department budgets were recommended for passage: General Administration, Library, Recreation Center, Highway Department, Ambulance Service, Fire Department. The Police Department Budget was determined to require another meeting of the budget committee and have the Police Chief provide an alternative department budget. It was agreed to have the meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, February 7, 2025 in the Council Chambers.

 2. It was the committee consensus to not recommend an expenditure of \$40,000 to replace the trotting park fence. Staff will reflect that change in the draft budget for discussion at the February 11 regular council meeting. \$500 is to stay in the account for trotting park maintenance (mowing, etc), same as the 2024 budget.

- IV. **Old Business:** No old business.


V. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Sammi Jimmo LaBelle



Tracy Long



Sandy LaBelle



Mark Rafford



James Risner