

Town of Ashland
Budget Committee Meeting
February 7, 2025

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

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

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

- II. **Public Comments:** No public comments. Chair Risner indicated public comments will be allowed after new business.

- III. **New Business:**
 1. The Committee reviewed the police department budget for 2025. Member Sandy LaBelle expressed her concerns on the police department budget and also inquired about the health insurance for Chief Cyr. It was her understanding that the Chief was not utilizing that benefit from the town, referencing a comment made by a councilor at a previous regular town council meeting. Manager Bushey explained that Chief Cyr's contract provides access to any benefits accorded to all staff. Member Tracy Long expressed her concern the draft budget is not affordable though she is supportive of the police department. Manager Bushey passed out a third draft police department budget that had no change to the overall department bottom line but reflected the Chief's health insurance remaining in the budget. After discussion and concerns raised by Chair Risner, it was the consensus of the committee to defer further review until the committee can have a joint meeting with the full council. Chair Risner asked for a joint committee with the council to be held on Wednesday, February 12, at 6:30 p.m. at council chambers.

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

- V. **Public Comment:** Vickie Belanger commented that police officers should get paid for the hours they work.

VI. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45. p.m.



Sammi Jimmo LaBelle

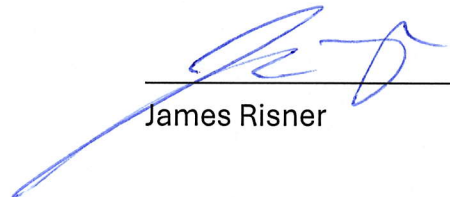


Tracy Long

Sandy LaBelle



Mark Rafford



James Risner