

Town of Ashland

Town Council & Budget Committee Meeting- Joint session

February 12, 2025

Present: Chairman Tyler Michaud, Sherri Calhoun Christopher Bessey, Gerard Raymond, Gayle Burby and Interim Town Manager Kevin Bushey.

Budget Committee Chair James Risner, Mark Rafford, Sammi Labelle and Tracy Long

Absent: Budget Committee member Sandy Labelle

- I. **Call meeting to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Michaud.

- II. **Public comments:** No public comments
- III. **Consent items: Budget Committee**
 1. Budget Committee review and approve February 7 meeting minutes. Tracy Long motioned to approve the February 7 Budget Committee meeting minutes. Sammi Labelle seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

 2. Revisit Ambulance department budget due to a formula error on initial draft. The meeting on 2/7 had the wrong formula. It has now been corrected. Tracy Long motioned to pass the ambulance budget using the new formula. Sammi Labelle seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

- IV. **New Business: Budget Committee**
 1. Review budget for 2025 and either recommend or not recommend. Police Budget- After some discussion a motion was made by Tracy Long to accept the police budget as presented. Sammi Labelle seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion Passed.

- V. **Adjournment: Budget Committee**

Sammi Labelle motioned to adjourn the Budget Committee. Mark Rafford seconded. Budget Committee was adjourned at 6:43 PM

- VI. **Consent Items: Town Council**
 1. Revisit of the Ambulance department budget due to formula error on initial draft. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve the Ambulance Budget as presented by the Budget Committee. Chris Bessey Seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

- VII. **New Business: Town Council**

Review budget for 2025 and either recommend or not recommend. Police Budget- Some of the things discussed were Chris Bessey and Chair Michaud were hoping the police budget was closer to the numbers last year. Gerard Raymond asked if we would still be able to patrol the mills. The Interim Town Manager Kevin Bushey replied that the town will still keep an open dialog with the surrounding towns and mills but short of any new grants, with this schedule I don't think we could cover the surrounding towns. Sherri Calhoun mentioned she was grateful her husband only had to wait 8 minutes because we had an officer on duty. Chair Michaud said the biggest

concern of the townspeople were the drugs and that there wasn't enough coverage. He said we should give them a year to get grants and see what happens with the drug problem. Chris Bessey said he had spoken to the Sheriffs and State Police, and they said the town was doing the right things. Chris said we have committed to the police, and we need to see it through. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve the Police budget as recommended by the budget committee. Gerard Raymond seconded it. Four approved and one abstained. Motion passed.

- I. **Old Business:** No Old Business
- II. **Council items:** No Council Items

- III. **Adjournment:** Sherri Calhoun motioned to adjourn the meeting; Chris Bessey Seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

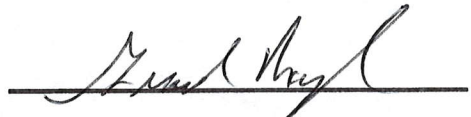
Respectfully submitted,



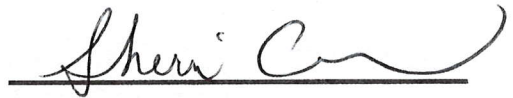
Susan Jimmo

Recording Secretary

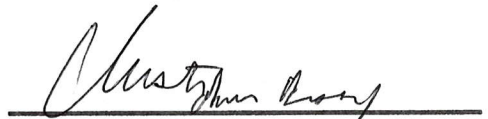
Tyler Michaud, Chairman



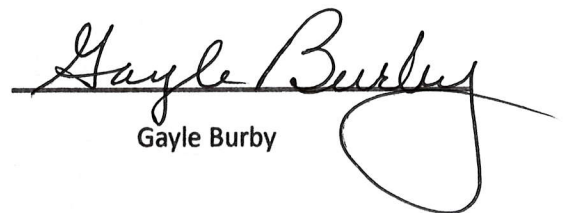
Gerard Raymond



Sherri Calhoun



Christopher Bessey



Gayle Burby