

**Town of Ashland**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
**January 14,2025**

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

**Absent:** Sherri Calhoun

- I. **Call meeting to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Michaud.
- II. **Public comments:** Chuck Driscoll was concerned that the company hired to clean the town sidewalks was using a plow truck to clean the sidewalks and filling in a lot of driveways with snow. Chair Michaud said the company was supposed to use a snowblower to do the sidewalks. Interim Town Manager Kevin Bushey said he would contact them and tell them they must use a snowblower from now on. Chuck Driscoll also had concerns of rumors the new Police Chief was spending a lot of money. He also heard that he uses a police cruiser to drive back and forth to his residence and that the town pays for his gas. Councilor Chris Bessey said because the town wasn't paying for health insurance for the new chief, the council let him take a cruiser back and forth and gas was a benefit they gave him. Chair Michaud said they need to give the new chief a chance.

Ellie Michaud wanted to give an update on the town's Christmas Lights. She said she was going to ask Businesses to sponsor a light fixture, and people can sponsor a light fixture in memory of someone. Checks can be made out to The Town of Ashland for the lights.

- III. **Consent items:**
1. Review, approve and sign minutes from December 17, 2024 Regular Town Council Meeting. Chris Bessey motioned to approve December 17, 2024, Regular Town Council Minutes. Gerard Raymond seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.
  2. Review, approve and sign treasurer warrants #50V, 50P, 51V, 51P, 52V, 52P, 1V, and 1P. A motion was made by Chris Bessey to approve the noted warrants. Seconded by Gerard Raymond. No discussion. Motion carried.
- IV. **New Business:**
1. Review and Approve for a 2025 TAN application. A TAN note for \$500,000.00 with Katahdin Trust. Chris Bessey motioned to approve filling out the TAN application with Katahdin Trust for 2025. Gerard Raymond seconded. Motion carried.
  2. Discuss Budget dates for Budget Committee and Council. Feb 4, 2025, Budget Committee Meeting. February 11,2025 Town Council Meeting. March 18,2025 Town Meeting and Vote.

3. Discuss 2025 Subsidies process for surrounding towns. Portage Council Meeting is January 15, 2025, to discuss Subsidies. Interim Town Manager Kevin Busey and Chair Michaud will both attend.

**V. Old Business:**

1. Civilian Advisory Group for Police Dept- Request to table. Chris Bessey motioned to table discussion until further notice. Tom Gerard seconded. Motion Passed.
2. Ashland Trotting Park- National Registry application- request to table. Chris Bessey Motioned to table the discussion until we have more information. Gayle Burby seconded. Motioned passed.

**VI. Managers report:**

1. Received a thank-you letter from Lifeflight for our gift of \$605.00
2. I received the Food Pantry request for 2025 for \$867. We will include \$1,000 in the 2025 budget as was done in 2024.
3. We replaced the 20+ yr old hot water heater at the Rec Center: \$1383 installed
4. We received the Woodlands budget from Prentiss and Carlisle. Net of \$5870 for 2025.  
Bob Chandler comment: "The road cost is included in the top line (Stumpage Sales) on the first page of \$19,375. In other words, the \$10,400 road expense is not an additional cost to the first page – it has already been included. We just break it out in the sub-reports so the Town understands what kind of money we are investing in forest roads each year to harvest the budgeted volume of wood. Hopefully that helps but let me know if you need any further explanation. Thanks, Bob"
5. I've asked the Ashland Historical Society to transfer their items from the Library basement to their new space at the old VFW. Hilary needs that space for storage as she is increasing her circulations from her grant and accommodating the new PC training classes in the basement and storage is at capacity now. We will offer assistance from the highway crew to help with the transfers. A letter was provided to Rose Chambers for their meeting on Monday, 1/13/25, to transfer the items by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Historical Society has some things they would like to keep at the library but they will talk to Hilary to see if that could work.
6. A \$5K check was sent by Masardis for the Library subsidy. The remaining balance of \$5522.69 is now an accounts receivable. I don't anticipate any further pay't from Masardis.  
Council can decide whether to write off or send to collection in the future.
7. Expect to finish the 2024 annual performance reviews by Jan 31<sup>st</sup>.

- VII.** 8. Chief Cyr applied for a grant and will receive from the county EMA approx. \$7000 for the car repeater going into the new police truck (lowering our \$23,757 outlay). We anticipate submitting grant requests to the Northern Border Regional Commission and Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for workforce development/new hire funds. COPS grants may provide up to 3 yrs funding for a new hire if we're approved for it. The County Sheriff's department is assisting the Chief and are being very helpful with the his efforts with these grant requests.

**VIII. Council Items:**

1. Chair Michaud said the Rec Bus is having mechanical issues. Foreman of the Highway Dept found the bus needed Tye Rods and he has ordered them. The town will do the repairs. Interim Town Manager Kevin Bushey talked to Superintendent/Principal Joel Hall, and he said if the rec needs

a bus the school will help out with out of town trips. But the town would need to pay for gas. Joel also said the school is applying for a new bus and if they get one, they will have a bus they would sell.

**Executive Session:** Chris Bessey made a motion to go into Executive session Gerard Raymond seconded. Motion Passed. Executive Session started at 7:25 pm.

**Executive Session:** Chris Bessey motioned to come out of Executive Session. Gerard Raymond seconded. Motion Passed. Executive Session ended at 7:55 pm.

**Adjournment:** Chris Bessey motioned to adjourn the meeting; Gerard Raymond Seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Jimmo

Recording Secretary



Tyler Michaud, Chairman



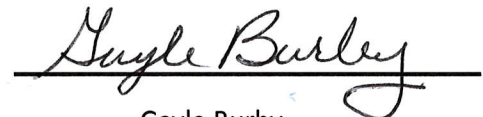
Gerard Raymond

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Sherri Calhoun



Christopher Bessey



Gayle Burby