

**Town of Ashland
Special Town Council Meeting
January 24, 2024**

Present: Chairman David Milligan, Sherri Calhoun, Christopher Bessey, Gerard Raymond, Tyler Michaud Manager Cyr Martin and Treasurer/Tax Collector, Tammy Gagnon,

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

II. **Public Comments:**

1. Fire Chief, Don Bouley, requested an approval from the Council to purchase a new 2024 rescue snowmobile from Fort Kent Powersport. He suggested since they added sales taxes that he would like to use the sales tax refund to purchase a trunk for the snowmobile. There was a discussion on other quotes and services agreement. A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun, seconded by Christopher Bessey, to purchase the 2024 rescue snowmobile by using a split between Fire Truck Reserve Account and New Equipment Reserve Account. No further discussion. Motion carried.

III. **New Business:**

1. Town Manager Martin presented the 2024 proposed Budget. Manager Martin gave an overview of all the insurances, Income, Expense per Departments and Other Expenses. Listed below are the discussions per items:
 - a. Council Raymond asked about the retirement plans and Council Michaud unemployment expenses. Manager Martin explained the two expenses.
 - b. Council Calhoun gave an overview of the 2024-2025 school payments for the State. Smaller communities are receiving less financial support.
 - c. Council Michaud recommended removing the budgeted amount from the Town Forestry Tax Reducing and place all funds into the DACF-Stumpage Reserve. Council Michaud also would like to have Forestry quarterly reports. A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun, seconded by Christopher Bessey, to remove the Town Forestry Tax Reducing amount from the budget. No discussion. Motion carried.
 - d. Manager Martin stated that there were extra funds put into the Library Building Maintenance for a new furnace. There were discussions on the furnace, department positions, wages, the billing the County for Fire and invoicing non subsidy towns for rescues. Manager Martin explained that the ambulance department has two full-time paramedics and one full-time EMT. Manager Martin also explained the wage difference on certain departments was due to not fully staff all year.

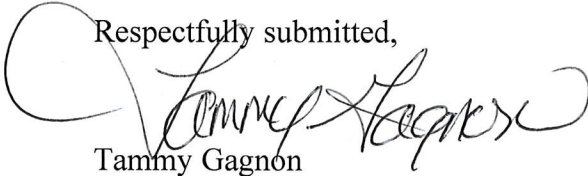
- e. Manager Martin stated the County Tax is for this year will one year and a half payment because the County changed their fiscal year.
- f. Council Bessey mentioned the removal of the Cemetery Vault.

A motion was made by Sherrie Calhoun, seconded by Christopher Bessey, to approve the 2024 Budget as presented with the one recommended change to the Town Forestry account. Motion carried.

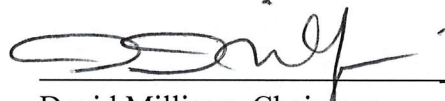
IV: **Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun, seconded by Christopher Bessey, to adjourn the meeting, Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

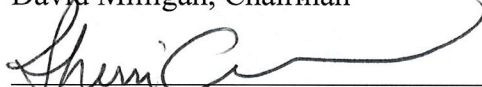
Respectfully submitted,




Tammy Gagnon
Substitute Recording Secretary



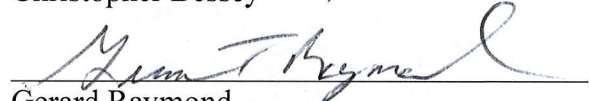
David Milligan, Chairman



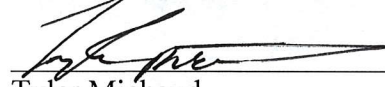
Sherri Calhoun



Christopher Bessey



Gerard Raymond



Tyler Michaud