

Town of Ashland
Special Town Council Meeting
January 29, 2024

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

Absent: None

I. **Call meeting to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Chairman Milligan.

II. **Public Comments:** None

III. **New Business:**

1. Review, approve, and signed minutes from the January 24, 2024, Council Budget Meeting. A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun, seconded by Christopher Bessey, to approve the January 24, 2024, minutes. Motion carried.
2. The Council reviewed the Budget Committee recommendation to keep the budget amount of \$25,000 for Town Forestry Tax Reducing. Council Michaud disagreed. A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun, second by Christopher Bessey, to approve the Budget Committee recommendation to keep the budget amount of \$25,000 for Town Forestry Tax Reducing. Three Council members approved, and two Council members opposed. Motion carried.
3. Town Manager Martin presented the 2024 proposed Budget. A discussion on:
 - a. Council Raymond requested information on Contract Services amounts per contract vendor. Treasurer Gagnon was asked to provide that information immediately.
 - b. Council Raymond inquired how the Ambulance Department is going to control the 2024 budget. Ambulance Director, Tara, stated that the Ambulance Department is now fully staff along with looking for grants.
 - c. Council Michaud inquired about when the Town is going to set aside funds for maintaining the Town roads. Council Calhoun is hoping that the Town will get funds exceeding the \$25,000 budgeted for the Town Forestry which can be put into the Resurfacing Street/Roads. Manager Martin stated that other designated surplus funds may be used for roads.
 - d. Manager Cyr gave an overview that Town has no loans and at some point, would like not to use the Tax Anticipated Note (TAN).
 - e. Manager Cyr stated that in the future may have to budget for roads. Manager Cyr stated where the Town can decrease expenses so not to increase the mil rate. Council Michaud suggested to cost of living increase.

A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun to approve the 2024 Budget with a 2% cost of living raise by using an estimated mile rate of 25.25 with an overlay of \$75,000 that will be presented to the Town residents for final approval. No seconded. Motion did not carry.

A motion was made by Gerard Michaud to approve the 2024 budget with a 0% cost of living raise by using an estimated mile rate of 24.75 with an overlay of \$76,000 that will be presented to the Town residents for final approval. No seconded. Motion did not carry.

A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun to approve the 2024 budget with a 2% cost of living raise by using an estimated mile rate of 25.00 with an overlay of \$55,000 that will be presented to the Town residents for final approval, seconded by Christopher Bessey. Three Council members approved, and two Council members opposed. Motion carried.

IV: **Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun, seconded by Christopher Bessey, to adjourn the meeting, Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

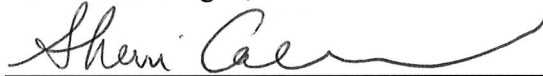
Respectfully submitted,



Tammy Gagnon
Substitute Recording Secretary



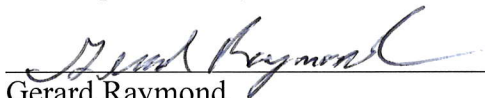
David M. Milligan, Chairman



Sherri Calhoun



Christopher Bessey



Gerard Raymond



Tyler Michaud