

**Ashley Village Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 18, 2024**

The regular council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Ann Paksi.

Roll call was taken with, Ann Paksi, Mike Turner, Dave Foote-arrived subsequently, David Kimball, Robert Studt, Michelle Fitzpatrick-Clerk/Treasurer. Paul Beck-DPW Supervisor Absent : Kristin Mills, Doug Schneider

**Visitors:** Paula Pettigrew

After review and discussion **R. Studt** made a motion to approve the 01/18/24 agenda with amendment policies and procedures and fire hydrants to the agenda. Supported **M. Turner**. Motion carried.

After review and discussion **R. Studt** made a motion to accept the Council Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2023 as presented. Supported by **M. Turner**. Motion carried.

After review and discussion **D. Kimball** made a motion to approve the check register December 15, 2023 through January 18, 2023 Supported, **M. Turner**. Motion carried.

Committee Chairman Jane Unterbrink presented updates for the Village of Ashley Country Christmas.

- Paula gave financial update
- Chairman Unterbrink discussed next year options for dates/train for NPE.
- Chairman Unterbrink requesting the consideration of an added co-chairman for the Christmas committee
  - After review and discussion Council gave permission to allow for a co-chairman
- Chairman Unterbrink update on flag purchases.

**Old Business:**

Tree removal – On the budget for next year.

Clerk/Treasurer Fitzpatrick gave update of the Water Tower property.

Clerk/Treasurer Fitzpatrick gave update from the county regarding Millage rate increase for the village.

After review and discussion, it was determined to put the millage rate increase on the August ballot.

Clerk/Treasurer Fitzpatrick stated that the Point Broadband contract will be ending in February.

After review and discussion council requested clerk/treasurer Fitzpatrick to call and discuss with Point Broadband.

Chairman Unterbrink requested a new position - Country Christmas Assistant part time position working remotely with a list of job duties and pay scale.

After review and discussion **R. Studt** motioned to accept Chairman Unterbrinks recommendation to hire a Country Christmas assistant starting at \$12,000 annual salary. Supported by **D. Kimball**. Motion Carried.

After review and discussion council approved the position and requested it to be posted for two weeks with a review of applicants and interviews starting the week of 02/04/24.

After review and discussion **D. KIMBALL** motioned to accept 2024-01 **A RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 2017-01 A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A “VILLAGE OF ASHLEY COUNTRY CHRISTMAS TRAIN COMMITTEE.”**

Roll call was taken by the clerk.

Ayes: D. Foote, D. Kimball, M. Turner, R. Studt, A. Paksi

Nays: None

Absent: Kristin Mills, D. Schneider

Resolution 2024-01 Declared ADOPTED January 18, 2024

Resolution 2017-01 becomes Null and Void.

Work Session committee recommended the re-evaluation of Kevin Saylor’s request to purchase property from village for his welding business.

After review and discussion council discussed options and will contact Mr. Saylor to re-evaluate and discuss other options with him.

**New Business:**

The Planning Commissions recommended letter to businesses to offer opportunities to purchase land for their business.

After review and discussion council approved the letter and recommended to keep the letter on file for future use.

After review and discussion **R. Studt** motioned to accept Budge Committee recommendations to Adopt amended FY23-24 budget. Supported by **M. Turner**. Motion Carried.

Fiscal Year 24/25 forecasted budget recommendations were discussed.

2024 Village Lawn Care options was discussed.

After review and discussion village council decided to split up the 2024 lawn care between a contracted company and DPW employees.

Clerk/Treasurer requested to cancel current credit card with Elan and apply for a credit card with Mercantile bank.

After review and discussion **R. Studt** motioned to cancel Elan credit card and apply for a Mercantile bank credit card. Supported by **M. Turner**. Motion Carried.

After review and discussion council determined that it was for the benefit of the village to hire a Grant Writer and will be budgeted into FY 24/25 budget.

Clerk/Treasurer brought up the terms ending for Council Members this year.

After review and discussion **M. Turner** motioned to give DPW/Clerk/Treasurer employees COLA increase of 6%. Supported by **D. Foote**. Motion Carried.

DPW Supervisor Beck discussed the repairs needed for Well #1 soft start.

After review and discussion **M. Turner** motioned to allow expenditure up to \$8,000 for the replacement of Well #1 Soft Start, allowing anything above \$8,000 expenditure to be approved by President Paksi up to \$1,000. Supported by **D. Kimball**. Motion Carried.

DPW Supervisor and OIC brought to councils' attention that the AAFA Fire department did not inform DPW that they used a hydrant for a Fire. It was caught by the OIC in time for DPW to drain the hydrant before any extensive damage.

After review and discussion, it was determined that the village must Mandate that the AAFA Fire department must have an AAFA FD volunteer man the hydrant while in use and contact DPW when in use. If this is not done accurately, AAFA Fire Department will be responsible for all damages to the water lines and fire hydrants.

Trustee Kimball asked if the village had a Policy and Procedure manual for council to adhere to. It was stated that the council adheres to the *Handbook for General Law Village Officials* that every council member has a copy.

**D. Foote** motioned to adjourn regular council meeting at 10:24pm. Supported by **R. Studt**. Motion Carried.

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Ann Paksi, Village President

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Michelle Fitzpatrick, Village Clerk