

TOWN OF ASHLAND
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING CERTIFIED VOTE
Wednesday, November 19, 2025
Vote on Article 12

Article 12: Update Bylaw: Dog Kennel Bylaw
Sponsor: Town Clerk

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 87, Animal Control, section 87-8 of the Town of Ashland General Bylaws as follows (underline and bold new and ~~cross-out~~ removed):

§ 87-8. Licensing Requirements.

- (A) Every dog (6) months old or older kept in the Town of Ashland shall be duly registered, numbered, described and licensed.
- (B) Every person who becomes an owner or keeper of such a dog shall, within thirty (30) days of its becoming six (6) months old or thirty (30) days of becoming its owner or keeper, whichever shall last occur, shall obtain such license from the Licensing Authority. The ~~O~~owner or ~~K~~keeper shall submit an application on the form prescribed along with proof of vaccination or notarized letter from a licensed veterinarian stating that the dog has been vaccinated, or Board of Health Declaration that the dog is exempt from the vaccination requirement to the Licensing.
- (C) The registering, numbering, describing and licensing of a dog shall be done by the Licensing Authority, and shall be subject to the conditions expressed therein that the dog which is the subject of the license shall be controlled and restrained from killing, chasing or harassing livestock, fowls or wildlife.
- (D) The owner of a licensed dog shall cause it to wear around its neck or body a collar or harness of leather or other suitable materials, to which shall be securely attached a tag on a form ~~prescribed~~ prescribed and distributed by the Licensing Authority when a license is issued. Such tag shall state "Town of Ashland," the year of issue and tag number. The Licensing Authority shall maintain a record of the identifying numbers.
- (E) If any such tag is lost the owner shall secure a substitute tag issued by the Licensing Authority.
- (F) The Licensing Authority shall not grant any license until and unless a current rabies vaccination certificate or Board of Health Declaration that the dog is exempt from the vaccination requirement for the animal has been presented.
- (G) A transfer license from another location in Massachusetts shall be granted upon application provided that adequate proof is presented to the Licensing Authority at the time of application. Such application shall occur within thirty (30) days of establishing residency within Ashland.
- (H) The license fee for spayed or neutered dogs shall be \$15.00 and shall be \$20.00 for intact dogs. There shall be no license fee for persons over the age of seventy (70) years or for service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or regulations promulgated thereunder.

§ 87-9. Kennel Registration and Fees.

- (A) Any person maintaining a Commercial Boarding or Training Kennel, Commercial Breeder Kennel,

Domestic Charitable Corporation Kennel, Personal Kennel, or Veterinary Kennel, upon application shall be issued a kennel license. Prior to the issuance of a kennel license, the Animal Control Officer ~~may~~ **shall** inspect the proposed facilities to ~~insure~~ **ensure** they comply with any rules and regulations as they may relate to Kennels.

- (B) An owner of a Personal Kennel must maintain a kennel license in addition to licensing each dog individually. ~~or keeper of less than four (4) dogs, three (3) months old or older, who does not maintain a Kennel may elect to secure a Kennel license in lieu of licensing each dog individually, provided however that such owner or keeper shall be subject to all provisions of this bylaw relating to the maintenance, operation and licensing of Kennels as if he or she were maintaining a Kennel.~~ **Notwithstanding the foregoing, there shall be no additional fee for individual licenses for Personal Kennels.**
- (C) The Animal Control Officer may at any time inspect any Kennel located in the Town of Ashland, **and shall inspect each Kennel located in the Town at least once per year.**
- (D) Petitions or complaints against any such Kennel shall be filed with the Select Board. The Board, as well as the Town Manager, shall have investigatory powers over any such petitions or complaints. Said investigation shall be conducted by the Town Manager who, within seven days after the filing of such petition or complaint, shall give notice to all parties of interest of a public hearing to be held before the Select Board within fourteen (14) days after the date of such notice. After such public hearing the Board may make an order either revoking or suspending such kennel license or otherwise regulating such Kennel, or dismissing said petition. Within ten days after receipt of such order, the holder of such license may bring a petition in the district court as outlined in G.L. c. 140, § 137C. Any person maintaining a Kennel after the license has been revoked, or while such license is suspended shall be punished as set forth in the penalty provision of this bylaw.
- (E) ~~A kennel license shall be in lieu of any other license for a dog kept at a Kennel during any portion of the period for which the kennel license is valid.~~ **A kennel license may not be used in lieu of individual dog licenses.** A kennel licensee shall cause each dog kept in its Kennel to wear, while it is at large, a collar or harness of leather or other suitable material, to which a tag shall be securely attached. Such tags shall be provided to the kennel licensee by the Licensing Authority and shall state "Town of Ashland," the year of issue and kennel license number. **The Licensing Authority shall specify on the kennel license the maximum number of animals that may be maintained by a licensee following an initial inspection, or the kennel's first inspection after this policy becomes effective, and each annual inspection thereafter.**
- (F) Failure to comply with this Section 87-9 shall result in a fine of not less than \$50.00 for the first offense and not less than \$100.00 for each offense thereafter in any twelve (12) month period **except a person maintaining a Kennel after a Kennel license has been revoked or suspended shall be assessed a fine by the Licensing Authority a fine of not more than \$250 for a first offense, by a fine of not less than \$500 for a second offense and by a fine of not more than \$1,500 for a third or subsequent offense.**
- (G) Kennel owners/operators shall be subject to § 87-10 (Failure to License) of this bylaw.
- (H) **The Licensing Authority shall keep a list of all kennels and their addresses. The Licensing Authority shall submit said list to the Department of Agricultural Resources prior to June 1st annually.**

§ 87-12. Non-Criminal Disposition of Violation (Ch. 140, section 173A).

Violations of any provision of this bylaw, or of any duly adopted and filed rules and regulations applicable to the control of animals, may be processed pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 21D of the general

laws of the commonwealth. Fines for violations shall be assessed according to the schedule listed in section 87-21 hereunder.

If the owner of a dog fails to respond to a citation within twenty-one days, the Animal Control Officer shall forward a copy of the citation to the District Court where it shall be handled under the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 21 D.

Enforcement of this bylaw under the Non-Criminal Disposition process shall be carried out by the Animal Control Officer, members of the Board of Health when so designated by the Board, any person having police powers, or other person so designated by the Town Manager shall have enforcement powers under this paragraph.

Each day or part thereof of violation of any provision of this bylaw or such rules and regulations, whether such violation is continuous or intermittent, shall constitute a separate and succeeding offense.

§ 87-21. Fees (license/kennel), Penalties and/or Fines.

The Licensing Authority shall determine fees for dog and kennel licenses pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 22F, provided:

- i. the license fee for unneutered males/unspayed females shall be more than the license fee for neutered males/spayed females;
 - ii. no fee shall be charged for a license issued for a service animal as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or regulation promulgated thereunder; and
 - iii. no fee shall be charged for a kennel license issued to a Domestic Charitable Corporation Kennel.
- (B) Non-criminal Disposition Fines for violations of any provision of this bylaw, except where otherwise indicated shall be:

First offense in any twelve (12) month period	\$25.00
Second and each subsequent offense in any twelve (12) month period	\$50.00
Each day of all said violations shall constitute a separate offense.	
Failure to obtain <u>dog</u> license (§ 87-10)	\$50.00 per license year
<u>Failure to obtain kennel license</u>	<u>\$500 for first offense</u> <u>\$1,000 for subsequent offenses</u>

(C) Exemption(s)

Residents over seventy (70) years of age shall be exempt from the fees set forth in section

- (A) above for individual dog licenses.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The Finance Committee recommends that the Town amend Chapter 87, Animal Control, section 87-8, 87-9, 87-12 and 87-21 of the Town of Ashland General Bylaws as set forth in Article 12 of this Warrant.

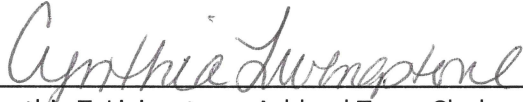
MOTION MADE: That the Town amend Chapter 87, Animal Control, section 87-8, 87-9, 87-12 and 87-21 of the Town of Ashland General Bylaws as set forth in Article 12 of this Warrant.

The motion was seconded.

A simple majority is required.

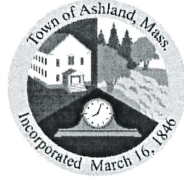
VOTE ON ARTICLE 12: Passed unanimously

A True Copy Attest:



Cynthia T. Livingstone, Ashland Town Clerk





TOWN OF ASHLAND
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING CERTIFIED VOTE
Wednesday, November 19, 2025
Vote on Article 13

Article 13: Municipal Tax Payment Agreement Bylaw
Sponsor: Town Manager/Finance Director

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Ashland General bylaws by adding a new Chapter, 26-7 Municipal Tax Payment Agreements in accordance with accordance with General Laws Chapter 60, Section 62A as follows:

Chapter 26-7 – Municipal Tax Payment Agreements

A. Authority: Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 60, §62A, the Treasurer shall have the authority to enter into written payment agreements with every person entitled to redeem ownership of parcels in tax title which have been taken by the Town as a result of nonpayment of real estate taxes. The payment agreement shall be executed on such terms and conditions for payment of the delinquent taxes, interest and any other costs, fees or charges associated with the same, in accordance with G.L. c. 60, §62A and this by-law.

B. Applicability: This by-law shall apply to all taxpayers with parcels in the following assessment categories of tax title in the Town:

- a. Commercial property;
- b. Residential property;
- c. Industrial; and
- d. Open space.

C. Agreements: All payment agreements shall comply with the following requirements:

- a. The payment agreement shall have a term of five (5) years;
- b. The payment agreement must state the amount of the payment due from the taxpayer at the time of execution of the agreement, which must be ten percent (10%) of the amount needed to redeem the parcel at the inception of the agreement.

D. Payments: Payments under the agreement must be made payable to the municipality and directed to the Treasurer's Office in the form of cash, check, or credit/debit.

E. Abeyance of Amount Due: During the term of the agreement, the Treasurer may not bring an action to foreclose the tax title if payments are made in accordance with the schedule set out in the payment agreement and all current taxes on the same parcel are paid timely during the duration of the agreement. If any payments are late or missed, the agreement would be considered breach and the Town would be released from it.

F. Interest: This bylaw cannot and does not modify the statutory interest rate or waive any collection

costs, charges or accrued interest upon completion of the agreement.

G. Status of Land Court Action: If an action to foreclose in the Land Court is already pending at the time the agreement is executed, the pending case will not be withdrawn from consideration of the Court until the balance is paid in full. However, if the payments under that agreement are being made under the terms of the agreement, the Treasurer or Town will not request the Court enter judgment for the Town.

Or take any action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The Finance Committee recommends that the Town amend the Town of Ashland General bylaws by adding a new Chapter, 26-7 Municipal Tax Payment Agreements in accordance with General Laws Chapter 60, Section 62A as set forth in Article 13 of this Warrant.

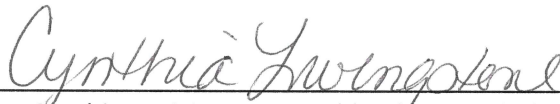
MOTION MADE: That the Town amend the Town of Ashland General bylaws by adding a new Chapter, 26-7 Municipal Tax Payment Agreements in accordance with General Laws Chapter 60, Section 62A as set forth in Article 13 of this Warrant.

The motion was seconded.

A simple majority is required.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 13: Passed unanimously

A True Copy Attest:


Cynthia T. Livingstone, Ashland Town Clerk

