

Town of Ashford
Special Town Meeting
(following Public Hearing)
Monday, August 8, 2022, 7:00 P.M.
Ashford Town Offices Lower Level Meeting Room
and via Zoom

Minutes

Present: First Selectman William Falletti, Selectman Cathryn Silver-Smith, Selectman Roger Phillips, Town Clerk Sherri Mutch, Meeting Facilitator Michael D’Amato, Assistant Town Clerk Karen Zulick, Democratic Registrar of Voters Lauren Olson; members of the public. Total present: 27 people. Total on Zoom: 31 people

Call to Order: At the conclusion of the Public Hearing held to discuss the funding requests listed below, First Selectman William Falletti called the Special Town Meeting to order at 8:48 P.M.

1. Dennis Poitras made a motion for William Falletti to act as moderator. Motion seconded by Loretta Wrobel; motion passed.

2. Approval of the allocation of ARPA funding. The Moderator explained that each of the American Rescue Plan Funds items would be voted on separately. Motions, votes taken, and discussions (if any) follow description of each item (a) thru (u) below:
 - a) Pompey Hollow Park Pickleball/Tennis Court repairs in an amount not to exceed \$25,000
Motion to approve by Lauren Olson; second by Loretta Wrobel.
Yes: 47 No: 0 Motion passed.

 - b) Knowlton Hall – installation of mini-split heating/air conditioning units in an amount not to exceed \$90,000
Motion to approve by Loretta Wrobel; second by Lauren Olson.
Yes: 47 No: 0 Motion passed.

 - c) Knowlton Hall – Installation of heat coils and stamped concrete paving of access area to ensure safer access to the building in an amount not to exceed \$40,000
Motion to approve by Lauren Olson; second by Dennis Poitras.
Yes: 47 No: 0 Motion passed.

 - d) DPW/AVFD – Upgrade to state supported mobile radio system to provide interoperability between state, town and fire department agencies in an amount not to exceed \$80,000
Motion to approve by Loretta Wrobel; second by Dean Clark.
Yes: 47 No: 0 Motion passed.

- e) AVFD – purchase of Hurst Tool (Jaws of Life) in an amount not to exceed \$16,500
Motion to approve by Lauren Olson; second by Karen Zulick.
Yes: 47 No: 0 Motion passed.
- f) AVFD – upgrade and installation of mini-split heating/air conditioning units in an amount not to exceed \$30,000
Motion to approve by Lauren Olson; second by Dennis Poitras.
Yes: 47 No: 0 Motion passed.
- g) AVFD – replacement and/or addition to the AVFD supply of emergency equipment in an amount not to exceed \$11,500
Motion to approve by Loretta Wrobel; second by Lauren Olson.
Yes: 47 No: 0 Motion passed.
- h) Town Office Building – Installation of handicap access mechanism to front door of building in an amount not to exceed \$3,500
Motion to approve by Loretta Wrobel; second by Lauren Olson.
Yes: 47 No: 0 Motion passed.
- i) Town Office Building – interior/exterior lighting upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$36,500
Motion to approve by Lauren Olson; second by Loretta Wrobel.
Yes: 47 No: 0 Motion passed.
- j) 2023 School Bus – the estimate we received from our supplier not to exceed \$115,000
Motion to approve by Lauren Olson; second by Loretta Wrobel.
Yes: 47 No: 0 Motion passed.
- k) Electric vehicle charging station in an amount not to exceed \$20,000
Motion to approve by Loretta Wrobel; second by Lauren Olson.
Yes: 41 No: 5 Motion passed.
- l) DPW/Ashford School gasoline dispenser in an amount not to exceed \$17,000
Motion to approve by Lauren Olson; second by Loretta Wrobel.
Yes: 48 No: 0 Motion passed.
- m) DPW/Transfer Station – Installation of fencing and gate in an amount not to exceed \$14,000
Motion to approve by Lauren Olson; second by Loretta Wrobel.
Yes: 46 No: 0 Motion passed.

- n) Ashford Memorial Park – installation of safety fencing in an amount not to exceed \$8,500
 Motion to approve by Loretta Wrobel; second by Lauren Olson.
 Yes: 45 No: 1 Motion passed.
- o) Social Service Department – appropriation for family support in an amount not to exceed \$20,000
 Motion to approve by Lauren Olson; second by Loretta Wrobel.
 Yes: 47 No: 0 Motion passed.
- p) Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments – ARPA reporting support - \$2,176
 Motion to approve by Lauren Olson; second by Loretta Wrobel.
 Yes: 46 No: 0 Motion passed.
- q) Text My Gov – support platform, \$3,000
 Motion to approve by Lauren Olson; second by Loretta Wrobel.
 Yes: 46 No: 0 Motion passed.
- r) Housing Authority Rental Subsidy - \$25,100
 Motion to approve by Dean Clerk; second by Lauren Olson.
 Yes: 47 No: 0 Motion passed.
- s) Housing Authority Development Corp – seed money - \$20,000
 Motion to approve by Loretta Wrobel; second by Lauren Olson.
 There was discussion over the motion could be amended to increase the amount approved for seed money. The First Selectman stated that town counsel had indicated that that was not possible, but believed that the Housing Authority could come back for additional money later. Lauren Olson moved the question.
 Yes: 47 No: 0 Motion passed.
- t) Broadband Buildout - \$60,000
 Motion to approve by Loretta Wrobel; second by Lauren Olson.
 Yes: 46 No: 0 Motion passed.
- u) Development of bike lanes - \$15,000
 Motion to approve by Loretta Olson; second by Lauren Olson.
 The moderator explained that the funds were for a study, not the actual construction of bike lanes. There was discussion over the current and projected increased traffic loads on the proposed route of Westford Hill Road. Also discussion over liability, choices of routes, safety.
 Yes: 19 No: 18
 As the vote was unclear and very close, the Moderator called “to take the tally again for clarification.”
 Yes: 19 No: 19 Motion failed.

3. Approval of the conveyance by the Town of Ashford of the former roadbed of Grant Road to Paul E. Belanger and Pamela B. Belanger, Trustees of the Paul E. Belanger Trust, and to accept the conveyance to the Town of the current roadbed of Grant Road from Paul E. Belanger and Pamela B. Belanger, Trustees of the Paul E. Belanger Trust, to reflect the prior relocation of said roadway;

Lauren Olson moved to approve “the conveyance by the Town of Ashford of the former roadbed of Grant Road to Paul E. Belanger and Pamela B. Belanger, Trustees of the Paul E. Belanger Trust, and to accept the conveyance to the Town of the current roadbed of Grant Road from Paul E. Belanger and Pamela B. Belanger, Trustees of the Paul E. Belanger Trust, to reflect the prior relocation of said roadway.”

The motion was seconded by Loretta Wrobel.

Paul Belanger gave a brief history of the situation.

Yes: 20 No: 1 Motion passed.

4. Approval of the allocation of \$100,000 as recommended by the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen, to represent a municipal match of funds to enhance the town’s application for \$500,000 in Small Town Economic Assistance Program funding for the reconstruction and paving of Southworth Drive.

Loretta Wrobel moved to approve “the allocation of \$100,000 as recommended by the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen, to represent a municipal match of funds to enhance the town’s application for \$500,000 in Small Town Economic Assistance Program funding for the reconstruction and paving of Southworth Drive.”

The motion was seconded by Lauren Olson.

Yes: 20 No: 0 Motion passed.

Lauren Olson moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Loretta Wrobel. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.

Submitted by,

Sherri L. Mutch
Ashford Town Clerk