

**ASHFORD BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY AUGUST 25, 2022/ Held Virtually via zoom/Ashford, Connecticut
7:00 P.M**

Present

Judith Austin, Chairman, Christina Davis, John Kopec, Garth Bean, William Falletti, First Selectmen, Ex Officio Member

Documents supplied to members prior to the meeting:
Reduction in Local Capital Improvement Program 2022

1. Call to Order

Ms. Austin call the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Seating of Alternates

A roll call was carried out. Ms. Davis was seated for Ms. Desanto.

3. Communications

- a. Ms. Austin informed the group, of her delegation of John Kopec, to be seated in an observatory role in her absence, during the contract negotiations' meeting at the Ashford School. There is no board of finance power decisions in this role, just to observe the process. Ms. Austin mentioned her choice for Mr. Kopec was due to his prior experience.
- b. Ms. Austin reviewed of the "Reduction in Local Improvement Capital Improvement Program 2022". 2022 Original entitlement amount was 50,881.00, the adjusted amount is 50,550.00. A reduction of 331.00 in the next entitlement.
- c. Ms. Austin notified the Board of Finance members that there is discussion on the Ashford School Roofing bond but that she currently does not have all the details and perhaps Mr. Falletti could elaborate during the Selectmen's update.

4. Public Comments-none

5. Approve Minutes of Meeting Thursday, July 14, 2022

MS. DAVIS MOVED AND MR. KOPEC SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOF REGULAR MEETING JULY 14, 2022 AS WRITTEN. MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION BY GARTH BEAN.

6. New Business

a. Selectmen's Update

There will be a public hearing on Sept 8th at 6:30 p.m. on zoom and in person to discuss the Caddlerock property usage.

-The Rec Commission is in discussion with the Town and Ashford School for an After School Program that would be self sufficient paid for by the users.

-The Roofing project in discussion for bonding. The cost went from 1.5 million in the past, to 4 million currently. The Board of selectmen is considering moving on the project by a separate referendum for November which will cost the town roughly \$5000.00.

-Mr. Falletti and Ms. Ford are discussing grants from Eversource and other vendors for Solar panels for the school at no cost.

-The Board of Education is looking into grants for Electric buses. Grants could replace one bus or entire fleet of buses. Gas buses were in the range of 90,000 last year are now 115,000. Electric buses are approximately 385,000 each. Research is on going for environmental hazards along with reliability. Ms. Austin questioned the fire hazard due to the Electric buses that have had combustion issues in the Hartford. Mr. Falletti mention that they have taken all the buses off line and this was part of the conversation. Along with the buses, they would be constructing a canopy and charging stations. The grant may cover some or all of the infrastructure.

- Ms. Davis asked Mr. Falletti about an update on the Treasurer's position. Mr. Falletti replied that they have had no luck and were reaching out to other towns to consider sharing resources. Mr. Falletti noted, that the Board of Selectmen may be considering refining their search criteria.

b. Update on school oil tank replacement.

Ms. Ford, current Superintendent of Ashford School, has been looking into the BAS Grant for the Oil Tank. Originally insurance company was not going to maintain coverage after October 1st but has extended the coverage because of an acceptable pressure test. State originally was going to reimburse the town for the replacement of the Oil Tank project 73%-74%, but the current reimbursement noted is 63%. The estimation has remained 270,000.00, with the town and the School Non-Lapsing Fund, splitting the cost at 135,000.00 each.

7. Old Business

FY 2020-2021 Annual Report Update

Mr. Burnham was unable to attend the meeting but notified Ms. Austin that there are a few outstanding reports from the school. It was recommended that the next budget season we should require every department that doesn't submit the report with the budget request, to come speak to the BOF about their budget, then not approve their budget until the report is submitted.

FY 2020-2021 Audit Update

There has been no update.

8. Agenda items for next meeting

Request reports for expenditures and collections.

Report on any updates on ongoing projects i.e., oil tank cost, installation, state reimbursement.

Report on Roofing project referendum

9. Remarks for the good of the Board

Ms. Austin stated it was great to see everyone. Stay safe and healthy.

10. Adjournment

MS. DAVIS MOVED AND MR. KOPEC SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN.

No vote was requested from the Chair for all those in favor was taken. Next meeting this will be corrected.