

**ASHFORD BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday December 8, 2022 / Ashford, Connecticut
7:00 P.M.**

Present:

Judith Austin, Chairman, Garth Bean, Hugh MacKenzie, Paul Varga

Document supplied to members:

Munistat Services, Inc. Madison, CT and Port Jefferson, NY. *Introduction Presentation Town of Ashford, Connecticut.* Multi-page document by this independent municipal advisory firm dealing with public finance.

Resolution appropriating document regarding Ashford School Rooftop Replacement Project. [n.d.]
2pp.

Town of Ashford Annual Report, Ashford Municipal Offices, July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021.
Town of Ashford, GF Budget to Actual document FY 2022-23. Covers 7/1/22 - 11/30/22.

Call to Order

Ms. Austin called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Seating of Alternates

A roll call was carried out. Mr. MacKenzie was seated for Mr. Burnham.

3. Communications

Mr. Varga noted an email from the Town Clerk's office regarding BOF vs. BOE meeting schedules.

4. Public Comments. none

5. Approve Minutes of Meeting Thursday, November 17, 2022

MR. VARGA MOVED AND MR. MACKENZIE SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BOF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2022. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. New Business

a. Selectman's Update - Selectman not present

New Business

b. Ashford School Roof Project Bonding Resolution

The resolution document indicated that \$5,000,000.00 (5 million dollars) be appropriated by the town, cost covering "planning, design, and construction of a new roof [or roofs] at the Ashford School..." A bonding resolution discussion regarding the cost followed. Assurances were made that no bid over the stated amount would be entertained. This confidence stemmed from the fact that a separate School Building Committee with several professionals who have building and construction experiences were(are) in charge of the project deliberations and decisions. Three bids will be required. It was felt that the high costs are due to lack of adequate roof repairs over several years. It is not required that the lowest bidder automatically is awarded the project. Mr. Varga noted that there are many reasons why a lowest bidder or a higher bidder would not be considered appropriate for a given project.

MR. VARGA MOVED AND MS. AUSTIN SECONDED A MOTION THAT THE BOARD OF FINANCE RECOMMENDS THAT THE TOWN OF ASHFORD APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$5,000,000.00) FOR THE COSTS RELATED TO THE PLANNING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ROOF AT THE ASHFORD SCHOOL AND THAT THE TOWN ISSUE BONDS OR NOTES AND TEMPORARY NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000,000.00 TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Old Business

a. Review of Current Expense and Revenue Reports- tabled until next meeting; let Chair know of any concerns

b. FY 2020-2021 Annual Report Update - report completed and available.

MR. VARGA MOVED AND MS. AUSTIN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH CORRECTION THE TOWN OF ASHFORD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020-2021. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Correction in BOF section: MacKenzie

c. FY 2021-2022 Audit Update

Auditors King & King Associates ask for a Zoom meeting. The Chair will send them out meeting calendar and ask them to select a meeting before Jan 13, 2023.

The fact that BOF and BOE scheduled future meetings on the same day was discussed. It was decided to leave the BOF meeting calendar as written.

8. Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

Expenditures and revenues report

A question on the BOE budget presentation was discussed. It was decided that all departments deal with insurance and fuel/electricity costs as rising and uncertain. Therefore, all departments will be asked to present their proposed budgets by Jan. 13, 2023. The School Superintendent will be informed.

9. Remarks for the Good of the Board

It will be a difficult year per Chairman Austin. With commercial properties' valuations up 46% increased costs result for many.

10. Adjournment

MR. VARGA MOVED AND MR. MACKENZIE SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AT 8:25 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Valerie B. Oliver, Recording Secretary
12/9/2022*