

**/ASHFORD BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 19, 2023
Hybrid Meeting / In-Person and Zoom
Ashford, CT 06278**

1. **Call to Order** was at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Judith Austin. Members present were Garth Bean, Jesse Burnham, Christina Davis, Angie DeSanto, John Kopec, Hugh M. Mackenzie, and Paul Varga.

Guests

Meeting Facilitator, John Guskowski

Selectman, William Falletti, Ex-Officio Member

King, King & Assoc. Auditor Sean O'Grady

2. **Roll Call and Seating of Alternates:** roll call was taken, alternates not needed

3. **Communications:** none

4. **Public Comments (3 minutes time limit per speaker):** none

5. **Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting Thursday December 8, 2022**

MR. VARGA MOVED AND MS. AUSTIN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY DECEMBER 8, 2022. MOTION PASSED WITH THREE ABSTENTIONS FROM MR. BURNHAM, MS. DESANTO AND MR. KOPEC.

6. **New Business**

- a. **Selectman's Update:** Mr. Falletti noted two upcoming meetings

Feb. 11, 2023, Saturday, 10:00 a.m., Town Meeting, Public Hearing adjourning to a Town Meeting.

Meeting to be held at the Ashford School Cafeteria / virtual meeting

About School Roof Project. No decision yet if voting will be just in-person or via Zoom. In-person voting would be the most successful he felt. A big turnout is wished; BOF members are encouraged to attend.

Feb. 13, 2023 7:00 p.m., Public Hearing before the Planning & Zoning Comm., via Zoom

Will involve application for use of Ashford Motel area property (at I84, exit 72 and Rte 89) and proposed changes in zoning regulations.

Ms. Sherri Soucy is now Ashford's Treasurer. Union representing town employees, Local 1303, will be negotiating their new yearly contract during February/March. The School generator blew up requiring rental of one; the insurance company has done an inspection, and we await any compensation. The Covid rate is considered high in Ashford; text kits are available at Town Hall.

6. **New Business**

- b. **Audit Presentation by King, King & Associates, Mr. Sean O'Brien**

Mr. Sean O'Brien presented an overview of data in the town audit for year ending June 30, 2022, the Federal Single Audit and the State Single Audit. The two latter audits set out federal and state financial awards respectively to Ashford. Hard copies of these reports were sent to the town but have not been received. As a result, a check will be made and new reports, at least 15 copies, will be sent if needed. [No audit report is listed in documents under the Board of Finance on the town website]

Mr. O'Brien put the audit documents up on the screen and proceeded to review pages of importance. The BOE did not spend \$85,000 of their budget so these funds can be transferred to the BOE's Nonlapsing Fund, per Mr. O'Brien's answer to Mr. Falletti's question.

The federal funds provided to Ashford were: \$285,000 nutrition cluster / \$362,000 education grants / \$135,000 ARPA funds / \$30,000 FEMA funds. The state funds provided and expended were noted as about 4.3 million dollars for

Education Cost Sharing / \$294,000 for roads / \$125,000 for Small Town Economic Assistance Program and \$113,000 for School Readiness.

The review ended noting the Management Letters for both 2021 and 2022. These review any auditing concerns, how they were acted upon as noted in 2021 and new concerns noted for 2022. Both years the Babcock Library was stated as needing some different financial procedures; all procedures suggested in 2021 have been implemented. New accounting standards are included in the report but should not affect the town very much. Questions of Mr. O'Brien were answered, and he was thanked by the Chair for his presentation at 7:47 p.m.

6. New Business

c. Appointment of Board of Finance representative to Capital Improvements Committee

Mr. Varga said he could explain to anyone interested what was involved. With no volunteer, this will be on the next agenda. This Committee decides what departmental projects should be proposed for funding.

6.. New Business

d. Initial FY 2023 - 2024 Budget Discussion - discussion to be held at next meeting

7. Old Business

Expenditures and Revenue Review - reports not received, review to be held at next meeting

8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Selectman's Update
BOF member appointment to Capital Improvements Committee
Expenditures and Revenues Review
Need for BOF Clerk

9. Other Comments and Remarks for the Good of the Board

Mr. Varga wishes to leave the BOF Clerk position due to increased work responsibilities. A new Clerk will be needed by February 1, 2023. Mr. Burnham asked about annual reports from departments for year 2022. Mr. Falletti noted that the Treasurer included that request in notices to town departments about new budgets. Mr. Kopec could not locate recordings of BOE meetings; they are not on the town web site. [on town web site, under BOE, Ashford School, can locate meetings with agendas and minutes only]

10. Adjournment

MS. DESANTO MOVED AND MR. BURNHAM SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AT 8:01 P.M.

*Respectively submitted by,
Valerie B. Oliver, Recording Secretary
1/20/2023*