

**Ashford, Connecticut**  
**ASHFORD BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday April 6, 2023**

Hybrid Meeting / In-Person - Ashford Town Hall, and Zoom

**1, Call to Order** was at 7:06 p.m. by Chairman Judith Austin. Members present were: Jesse Burnham, Christina Davis, Angie DeSanto, John Kopec, and Paul Varga.

**2. Roll Call and Seating of Alternates:** The roll call was taken, and Ms. Davis was seated for Mr. Bean.

Town staff recommend action of removing the remainder of the previous years left over Board of Education funds

**3. Communications:**

1. The Chair read the legal notice for the Annual Budget Meeting.
2. Town staff recommended that action on moving the remaining Board of Education 1% funds that were in excess of the 1% cap be moved at a later date following adoption of the budget.
3. The Chair reminded the Board of Finance that the Board is run using Robert's Rules of Order and specified how speakers should request acknowledgment by the Chair prior to speaking.

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

**5. Approve Minutes of the Meeting Thursday, March 30 2023**

**ANGIE DESANTO MOVED AND JUDITH AUSTIN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BOF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 30, 2023 AS CORRECTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Corrections: Page 2, New Business item b. add John Kopec to the list of affirmative votes (5) for the motion. Mr. Burnham also noted that he was late to the meeting and did not request to replace the alternate that was seated for him.

**6. New Business:**

1. **Selectman's Update:** None

2. **Budget feedback from the public and any changes from hearing:**

**JUDITH AUSTIN MOVED AND JESSE BURNHAM SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$3,680,487 FOR AHSFORD'S SHARE OF THE \$23,603,830 REGION 19 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024. AN INCREASE OF 5.1%. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **Amendment of Ashford Board of Finance Budget Polices specifically pg. 2, paragraphs 5,7, & 8 corrections of dates.**

Paragraph 5. On **March 28, 2023**, the Region 19 Board of Education shall adopt a Superintendent's proposed budget. On **May 1, 2023** the Region 19 Board of Education shall adopt a finalized budget, which shall be presented at the Region 19 Annual Budget Meeting on May 2, 2023.

Paragraph 7. The Board of Finance shall hold at least one Public Hearing for the **2023-2024** budget shall be scheduled for **April 4, 2023**. Following the Public Hearing, the Board of Finance shall review the recommendations and adopt a proposed budget, including a recommended appropriation, which shall be published in the Ashford Citizen or a newspaper in general circulation in the Town at least five days prior to the annual Town Meeting for budget consideration.

Paragraph 8. The Annual Town Budget Meeting shall be held on **April 4, 2023**. This

meeting shall consider the budget presented by the Board of Finance and may approve or lower the general Government, Ashford Board of Education and/or Capital projects budgets. (The Region 19 budget cannot be approved or lowered during this meeting to be held **May 2, 2023**. If the budget is not adopted at referendum by July 1, the last budget adopted by referendum shall remain in effect for the new fiscal year until a new budget is approved at referendum.

4. **BOS set date for public referendum.** The Annual Budget Meeting will be Tuesday April 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Referendum will take place May 2, 2023 with voting from 6:00am to 8:00pm.
  
8. **Old Business.** None
9. **Agenda items for next meeting.** Mr. Burnham requested that a discussion of the Annual Report be added to the next meeting.
10. **Remarks for the Good of the Board.** The Chair thanked everyone for their work during the budget process,
11. **Adjournment.** **ANGIE DESANTO MOVED AND JESSE BURNHAM SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**