

Ashford, Connecticut
ASHFORD BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday September 7, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting / In-Person - Ashford Town Hall, and Zoom

1. Call to Order was at 7:00 p.m. by John Kopec; other members present were Judith Austin, Garth Bean, Christina Davis, Paul Varga. and William Falletti, Ex-Officio Member
Guests: Sheryl York, Dir. Ashford Parks & Recreation, Cheryl Soucy, Treasurer

2. Roll Call and Seating of Alternates: The roll call was taken. Ms. Davis was seated for Ms. DeSanto.

3. Communications: none

4. Public Comments: none

**5. Approve Minutes of
Regular Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 24, 2023:**

Ms. Austin moved and Mr. Kopec seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular BOF meeting Aug. 24, 2023. Motion passed with one abstention from Mr. Bean.

6. New Business:

a. Selectman's Update:

A hybrid Town Meeting held Sept. 6, 2023 approved proposed ARPA projects. Both agricultural terminology and veteran's benefits are under discussion. Options for veterans can be seen on the town Assessor's section of the web site. On Oct. 1st the new Transfer Station system will go into effect with new stickers provided for those entering. The After School program has been a disappointment as of 20 students expected, 19 initially attended with 2 disqualified; of the 17 only 4 actually continued. Costs seem to be the issue, and therefore grants are being explored: [e.g. use of ARPA funding designated for such programs and the Conn. State Dept. of Education e-grants system].

The surplus in funds, resulting from the school fuel tank expense, will need a decision by the BOF as to final disposition. The new generator will arrive on Nov. 15th. Three proposals have been received for the school roof project and are under consideration; work is expected to begin in the summer of 2025. With 34% of school rooms without air conditioning early dismissals were in effect recently.

Union negotiation agreements are to be ratified Dec. 11th. *The Ashford Citizen* monthly deadline is now on the 15th of each month.

In answer to a question, the \$3000 targeted to fund the beginning of the After School Program will be reimbursed to the town by the grant being pursued. It is expected that late announcement and a lack of knowledge among parents has affected the low After School participation.

b. Annual Report: Mr. Burnham not present

c. Discussion about having town employees come in to speak about their job functions and duties:

The town Assessor is expected to visit in two weeks.

d. Presentation by Sheryl York, Dir. Ashford Parks & Recreation:

Ms. York presented a movie on screen that she took of the various summer programs. It covered the day camp for 20, 5-12 year olds, held for one week, 8:30-4:30, the Gymnastics Camp, Bike Camp and Painting Classes for 3-5 year olds. Another program noted was the Youth Band that ended with a concert with the Babcock Band. Yoga classes and Pickleball were successful too. Swimming lessons will be an issue next summer as the Evangelical Pool has gone out of operation and will not be repaired. She will be investigating other options.

Ms. York explained that she keeps program data sheets for each program annually. The data includes: program cost, fees to attend if not a free event, total income, expenses and any profit, program attendance and analysis with ideas to improve for the future. Program profits are used to support the free programs and projects such as: summer concerts, caroling and ice skating. Summer concert costs will be going up so that will be a future issue. Her goal has been to generate \$35,000 annually from the programs.

Ms. York was thanked for her many successful efforts for the town, and Mr. Falletti specifically noted how lucky Ashford was to have her as Director of Parks and Recreation.

e. Discussion on Filling the Clerk's Position:

Since several BOF members will not pursue another term of office, a new Board is expected in Nov. 2023. Also, as the current Chairman, John Kopec (and the Secretary) will not be present at the Sept. 21st meeting, it was decided to cancel that meeting leaving only October before the new election takes place.

Mr. Varga moved and Ms. Austin seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Bean as the BOF Clerk to serve for October 2023 until the new BOF is in place. Motion passed with one abstention from Mr. Bean.

7. Agenda Items for Next meeting, Oct. 12, 2023

Reschedule visit to the BOF by the Assessor

Annual Report, update

Update calendar for the next year

Yearend transfers for the audit, needed per Ms. Soucy, Treasurer

8. Remarks for the Good of the Board

Many thanks were expressed to Garth Bean for his willingness to serve as clerk.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Austin moved and Mr. Varga seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 8:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Valerie B. Olliver, Recording Secretary
9/7/2023.*