

**/ASHFORD BOARD OF FINANCE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 9, 2023  
Hybrid Meeting / In-Person and Zoom  
Ashford, CT 06278**

**1. Call to Order** was at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Judith Austin. Members present were Jesse Burnham, Christina Davis, Angie DeSanto, John Kopec, and Paul Varga.

Guests

**Meeting Facilitator**, John Guskowski

**Selectman**, William Falletti, Ex-Officio Member

**Ashford School Superintendent**, Cynthia Ford

**2. Roll Call and Seating of Alternates:** roll call was taken; Ms. Davis was seated for Mr. Bean at 7:25 p.m.

**3. Communications:** meetings on Feb. 11th and 13th, discussed below.

**4. Public Comments:** none

**5. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting Thursday January 26, 2023**

Tabled until the next meeting.

**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. Mr. Falletti noted that 63% of the 5-million dollar cost will be covered by the state. Construction is expected to start in summer of 2024. [More information in *Ashford Citizen* Feb. 1, 2023, p.3]

The tank replacement project, also 63% reimbursed by the state, should be installed in June of 2023.

Because the town selected a contractor who allowed us to purchase the tank directly, we saved about \$11,000-12,000.

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

Will involve application from those seeking a use for the Ashford Motel area property (at I84, exit 72 and Rte 89). The hearing will be to consider proposed text changes to the Ashford Zoning Regulations. BOF members and citizens are encouraged to attend and keep an open mind. He reported that it is a 200-million dollar project.

He thanked the Fire Dept., Emergency Management team, DPW, St. Phillips and the Senior Ctr. for their efforts and cooperation during the recent ice storm. He noted broad band work beginning in town; 20 homes are being connected by using \$30,000 in ARPA funds, while town wide fiber optic cable coverage, for internet access, is expected to be completed by summer of 2024. Savings are being realized via more use of gasoline rather than diesel fuel in town. Ms. Soucy is now the Treasurer working all day Friday and an extra 18 hours from home if needed. Karen Zulick has taken on the job of web master.

**6. New Business:**

**b. Approval of Payment for Annual Report**

**MS. AUSTIN MOVED AND MS. DESANTO SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF \$350 TO MS. ROBINSON FOR FORMATTING AND EDITING THE TOWN ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. Old Business:**

**a. FY 2023-2024 Budget Discussion** - no materials received

The hard copy town audit report can be picked up at the Town Hall.

Mr. Falletti noted that the Capital Non-Recurring Fund Committee will be meeting with town department to make recommendations. Ms. Austin will be the BOF representative on the Committee.

**b. Election of Board of Finance Clerk** - no one volunteered

Contact Mr. Varga for details of what is involved; he reports the job is not difficult.

**8. Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

Approve Minutes of Jan. 26, 2023 meeting

FY 2023-24 budget discussion

Election of BOF Clerk

Other concerns - notify Ms. Austin

**9. Remarks for the Good of the Board**

Thanks were given to all and all asked to consider signing up to be clerk.

**10. Adjournment**

**MS. DESANTO MOVED AND MR. BURNHAM SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AT 7:38 P.M.**

*Respectfully submitted, by  
Valerie B. Oliver, Recording Secretary  
2/9/2023*