

**/ASHFORD BOARD OF FINANCE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 16, 2023  
Hybrid Meeting / In-Person and Zoom  
Ashford, CT 06278**

- 1. Call to Order** was at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Judith Austin. Members present were Christina Davis, Angie DeSanto, John Kopec

Guests

**Meeting Facilitator**, John Guskowski

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

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

- 3. Communications:**

The Chairman submitted the BOF budget to the town; the School budget was sent to BOF members to begin studying prior to the official presentation, and a document about classroom size was also sent to members.

- 4. Public Comments:** none

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

**MS DESANTO MOVED AND MS DAVIS SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BOF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 26, 2023. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- 6. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting, Thursday, February 9, 2023**

**MS. AUSTIN MOVED AND MS DESANTO SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOF REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2023 AS CORRECTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

correction, add first name, Amanda, to last name Robinson in motion under agenda item 6.b on p.1.

- 7. New Business: Selectman's Update**

Mr. Falletti reported on two major town meetings. The first at the School on Feb. 11th to vote on planning, design and construction of a new school roof. The 5 million-dollar project was approved. The second was a PZC Zoom meeting on Monday Feb. 13, 2023 where there was a public hearing on a proposed language change to the existing zoning regulations to, if approved, allow for more opportunities for establishing a business there. Over 120 people were noted as in attendance. The meeting did not end until just after 11:30 p.m. Three representatives for Campanelli, the planning and construction firm, made their presentations followed by questions of the Commissioners and then the public attendees were able to make their comments. Access to the power point presentation can be accessed on the Our Town Our Future's web site per Mr. Falletti.

Although the student population is now less than 400, tuition costs continue to go up as do other education costs. The proposal to be able to bring in a new business, if successful, could help lower the percent paid by property owners to support the town.

He has met with the School Building Comm. Chair, and that committee will set out plans for various materials that will be used on the roofing project. Construction is expected to begin by June of 2024. Revenue left over from last fiscal year and placed in the Capital Non-Recurring Fund; will help to minimize the mil rate. Decisions on this will be made soon. The tank replacement is going well and expected to be ready by June before school begins. ARPA funds were used to install an automatic door at the town hall.

- 8. Old Business**

- a. FY 2023-24 budget discussion** - no data received yet from the town Treasurer. The Chairman will visit with the Treasurer tomorrow. The Chairman expressed concern about the BOE budget that has been received. She noted that The Superintendent had done an amazing job, and good negotiations were had with the unions. She was disappointed to learn that what she thought was a 2.03% increase turned out to be a 4.18% increase in their budget. The question is why? The Board of Education presents their budget on March 3, 2023 to this Board. She asked her members to send her their questions and

concerns so that the process can run smoothly. She will also forward the BOF questions to the Superintendent, so that she can be prepared with answers.

- b. Election of BOF Clerk** - no one volunteered  
Ms. Austin read the responsibilities.

**9. Agenda items for next meeting**

Budget presentation by the BOS for the General Government Budget  
Budget presentation by the BOS for the Capital Improvement Budget  
FY 2023-24 Budget Discussion  
Election of a BOF Clerk

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

Please study the Board of Education budget proposal and send questions or concerns to Ms. Austin. This will help all involved be better prepared and secure a smooth process for the presentation and questioning.

**11. Adjournment**

**MS. DESANTO MOVED AND MR. KOPEC SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AT ABOUT 7:55 P.M.**

*Respectfully submitted, by  
Valerie B. Oliver, Recording Secretary  
2/16/2023*