

Town of Ashford

Established 1714

MEETING NOTICE

REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

To be held virtually

To join the meeting, please use the information provided on page 2 of this agenda

MINUTES

1. Call to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. Members present: Falletti, Phillips, Silver-Smith
Guests: Dennis Poitras, Jessica Miller, Loretta Wrobel, Susan Eastwood
3. Hear from the public: No members of the public wishing to be heard at this time
4. First Selectman's Briefing
 - Paquette Electric has completed the upgrade to the TOB generator
5. Silver-Smith moved acceptance of the minutes of regular meeting of 5/16/2022. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Silver-Smith moved acceptance of the minutes of the Special Meeting of 5/21/2022. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Silver-Smith moved acceptance of the minutes of the Special Meeting of 5/25/2022. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
6. Hear from Boards, Commissions, Committees, Departments
7. Old Business
 - A. Discuss reopening strategies – Town facilities – the holding of board and commission meetings remains virtually accessed. Falletti hopes to have hybrid meeting options in place by the end of the month. Complaints have been received regarding unavailable access to the electronically operated handicap entrance on the lower level of the building. There was brief discussion regarding unlocking of the TOB lower level parking lot door. Falletti plans to discuss the unlocking of the lower level door at tomorrow's employee meeting.
 - B. Ashford Advisory School Building Committee – no report
 - C. COVID update: Eastern Highlands Health District updates are circulated on a weekly basis.
 - D. Street lighting: will get back to working on it
 - E. American Rescue Plan: Potentials for project funding: review spread sheet of potential projects, discussion regarding procedures to follow in relation to earmarking of funds, holding of public hearings, town meetings. The BOS discussed the possibility of holding a public hearing/special town meeting to provide information and ultimately approve financing of several ARPA qualifying projects (e.g., restoration of the pickleball court, installation of cooling/heating split units in Knowlton Hall).
 - F. Discuss and/or act on health insurance incentive. No discussion or action.
 - G. Discussion re: leasing of municipally owned property for farming. No action was taken on this item.
 - H. Route 89 encroachment permit status: We plan to set up a site walk with the DOT traffic engineer who will be sending comments regarding our application
8. New Business

- A. Otis Elevator repair and contract status - Knowlton Hall
- B. We have received a proposed service agreement from Independent Elevator located in Coventry, CT. Independent Elevator holds the contract for servicing the elevator in the Senior Housing. They report that they are pleased with his service. Silver-Smith moved acceptance of a proposal received from Independent Elevator of Coventry, Connecticut for provision of maintenance and service of the Knowlton Hall Montgomery Kone elevator. Falletti suggested a friendly amendment which would authorize the First Selectman to sign the proposed contract. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- C. Discussion regarding Ashford Citizen article regarding current status of the Cadlerock property will be prepared for the July edition of the Ashford Citizen.
- D. Ashford Housing Authority request for waiver of 2021-2022 PILOT. Dennis Poitras and Jessica Miller, representing the Ashford Housing Authority appeared to explain their request for a reduction in the budgeted PILOT payment included in the 2021-2022 budget. Silver-Smith moved approval of the reduction of the 2021-2022 budget Ashford Housing Authority PILOT payment from \$10,000 to \$7,500. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Poitras and Miller were applauded for their efforts to continue to provide safe, affordable housing to their tenants.
- E. Silver-Smith moved ratification of 2022-2023 AFSCME contract. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- F. Phillips moved approval of inclusion, in next Special Town Meeting, of the deeding of a parcel of land located on Grant Road to Paul Belanger. This parcel was created when the Town of Ashford Planning and Zoning Commission approved the realignment of Grant Road creating an equal land swap with the Belanger family. The swap was not presented to town meeting for approval, Grant Road was realigned, and no deed was ever forthcoming. To rectify the problem Town Counsel recommends that the approval be taken to Town Meeting and, if approved, the parcel in question be deeded to the Belanger family. Legal notice language will be supplied by Town Attorney
- G. Act on acceptance of Savage Systems proposal to provide IT services in a combined contract between the Town of Ashford and Ashford School. Falletti reported that Town Counsel is reviewing this proposal.
- H. Approval of Woodward Cemetery deed: Phillips moved approval of the deeding of a group of Woodward Cemetery plots based upon an opinion received from Town Counsel. Silver-Smith seconded the motion. The BOS discussed review of any existing policies relating to the town's active cemetery and formulation of rules and regulations relating to future cemetery use. Voting yes on the motion were Falletti, Phillips and Silver-Smith. Phillips moved approval of the sale of two Woodward Cemetery plots. Silver-Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- I. Act on approval of 2022 Clean Energy Task Force Municipal Action Plan: Susan Eastwood gave a brief synopsis of the Ashford Clen Energy Task Force 2022 Municipal Action Plan and the ACETF relationship with Sustainable Connecticut. Silver-Smith moved approval of the 2022 Municipal Action Plan as presented. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- J. Consider submission of application for 2022 Small Town Economic Assistance grant. The BOS will discuss this STEAP grant round at a future meeting.
- K. Silver-Smith moved approval of use of town roads for the "Ride for Gage." This is an annual event with the organizers supplying all necessary documentation. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- L. Board/Commission/Committee appointments
 - Recreation Commission: Fill one Alternate member seat – term to expire 4/1/2025.
 - Commission on Aging: Fill vacant seat created by the resignation of Elaine Wilmes-Pandolfo. The term associated with Ms. Wilmes-Pandolfo's seat expires 6/30/2023.
- M. Tax Refunds

N. Remarks for the good of the Board – Have a great time in Alaska, Roger!

O. Items for next BOS meeting:

- Preliminary discussion regarding formulation of town cemetery rules and regulations
- Discuss revision and updating of Ashford Personnel Policies
- Preliminary discussion regarding production of the Ashford Citizen

9. Adjournment at 8:28 p.m.

Christine K. Abikoff

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Ashford Board of Selectmen Meeting
Monday, June 6, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84422384164>

Meeting ID: 844 2238 4164

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

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