

Town of Ashford

Established 1714

REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021, 7:00 P.M.

To be held virtually

To join the meeting, please use the information provided at the bottom of this agenda

MINUTES

1. Call to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. Members present: Silver-Smith, Falletti, Phillips
Guests: Linda Gagne, Kay Warren, Joan Bowley, Keith Lipker, Melissa McDonough, Jesse Burnham, Gina Burnham, Jeffrey Silver-Smith, Joan Bowley
3. Hear from the public
 - Joan Bowley asked whether she could speak to item 7.B. on the agenda at this time. Her comments will be received under agenda item 7.B.
4. First Selectman's Briefing
 - Silver-Smith presented a COVID-19 update supported by information received from Eastern Highlands Health District
 - As the TOB offices are now accessible to the public and those accessing the building are asked to wear face masks, masks are available at the front entrance for those members of the public who have forgotten theirs. Our mask inventory will be checked and restocking will be done on an as needed basis.
 - As reported by the Public Works Supervisor, roads that are still in need of extensive work are Perry Hill, Waterfall, Bicknell and Cushman
 - Silver-Smith reported that the DPW building was hit by lightning during the 7/17-7/18 storm disabling the DPW computer. Computer replacement options are being investigated,
 - Several pieces of DPW equipment are out of service: 0-turn mower, 2014 dump truck, 1972 roller, 1992 Mack dump, mini-excavator, grader, backhoe. Much of the repair work will be done in-house with scheduling reliant on availability of parts and the mechanic's time
 - Falletti moved addition to the agenda of increasing from 30 to 35, the hours currently worked by the Land Use Clerk. Phillips seconded the motion which passed.
 - Addition of personnel in the Finance Office will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - Falletti moved addition to the agenda of salary increases for non-union town employees commensurate with increases provided to union employees in the recently negotiated AFSCME contract. Phillips seconded the motion which passed
5. Hear from Boards, Commissions, Committees
6. Acceptance of minutes of Regular Meeting of 7/19/2021: Falletti moved acceptance of the minutes of 7/19/2021 with the following clarifications. Phillips seconded the motion which passed.
 - Actions and comments concerning items appearing on the 7/19/2021 agenda that occurred after the fact, will be reported under the relevant 8/2/2021 agenda items.
 - The BOS briefly discussed ownership of the Pompey Hollow Senior Housing building.
7. Old Business
 - A. Discuss reopening strategies – Town facilities – establish policies relating to the holding of board and commission meeting: Silver-Smith reported that the front doors have been opened to allow members of the public access to town offices. Signage states that anyone entering the TOB must be masked. Masks located in the TOB lobby are available to the public.

- Consider electronics relating to the holding of hybrid meetings: Phillips moved that an estimate of \$2,000 to \$2,500 received from Savage Systems for the acquisition of hardware appropriate for the holding of hybrid meetings be accepted and earmarked as an expense from the American Rescue Fund allocation. Silver-Smith seconded the motion which passed. Falletti questioned whether an expense using ARF dollars is denied, will the town be stuck paying out of pocket? Silver-Smith reported that eventually someone (towns?) will have to clarify this and similar questions.
- B. Discuss proposed Tremko House project: Silver-Smith reported that on July 27, 2021 a “Preparation of Phasing Plan for Rehabilitation of the Tremko House” was received from Robert Hurd, dba The Architects. The total compensation for provision of phasing plan is \$6,000. The amount allocated in the 5-year Capital Plan is \$5,000. Falletti suggested that Silver-Smith contact the Chairman of the Board of Finance to discuss putting a request for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,000 on a BOF meeting agenda (increasing the Town’s contribution to this capital project item to \$3,500). Discussion between members of the BOS and guests included proximity of the Tremko House to 100-year floor plain, ada compliance, ownership of existing plans commissioned by the Ashford Historical Society. Mrs. Warren requested that someone associated with the Historical Society be notified when an item concerning them appears on the agenda.

8. New Business

Falletti moved that item 8.C. (American Rescue Plan: Potentials for Project Funding) be moved up for consideration at this time. Phillips seconded the motion which passed.

C. American Rescue Plan: Potentials for project funding: The BOS and Melissa McDonough, Ashford’s Social Service Director, discussed the need for allocating a portion of the ARF to families affected by COVID-19 and the formulation of qualifying assistance guidelines. Falletti moved the earmarking of an amount up to \$20,000, to be administered by Ms. McDonough, to aid families (after vetting) who are/were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Phillips seconded the motion which passed.

- A. Dissolution of Transfer Station Committee formed by the BOS on November 16, 2009 and formation of a Transfer Station Use Policy Committee comprised of Charles Atkins, Terry Wakeman, Charlie Busse and Christine Abikoff. Additional information and further historical research will be gathered and presented at a future BOS meeting.
- B. Communication strategies: Consider implementation of “TextMyGov” in conjunction with an emergency notification system. Falletti moved approval of a two-year contract with “TextMyGov” and the appropriation of \$4,200 in the first contract year and \$3,000 in the second year from the ARF to support two years of emergency notification service provided by “TextMyGov.” Phillips seconded the motion which passed. To aid in getting residents signed up for the notification services, Falletti suggested prominently running sign-up instructions for both “TextMyGov” and Everbridge (a free service supplied by Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service) in upcoming editions of the Ashford Citizen
- C. American Rescue Plan: Potentials for project funding – see above
- D. Board/Commission/Committee appointments
 - Inland Wetlands & Watercourses. Fill Alternate vacancy created by the resignation of Ken Garee. (Can be D, R, U)
 - Ashford School Building Committee: Based upon the recommendation of Committee Chairman Jim Rupert, Falletti moved the appointment of Ronald Standley to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Michael Kovarovics. By statute, this vacancy must be filled by a person with experience in the construction industry. Phillips seconded the motion which passed.

- Board of Assessment Appeals: Based upon a recommendation received from the Democratic Town Committee, Phillips moved the appointment of Nyaunu Stevens to fill vacant Democrat seat on the BAA to 11/9/2021. Falletti seconded the motion which passed.
- Recreation Commission: Fill two Alternate member seats – terms to expire 3/31/2024 and 3/31/2025. Based on a recommendation received from the Republican town Committee, Falletti moved the appointment of Alaina Phillippi to an alternate member seat on the Recreation Commission to serve to 3/31/2024. Phillips seconded the motion which passed.
- 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.

E. Tax Refunds – none

F. Land Use Clerk increase in hours: Falletti moved that the hours currently allotted to the Land Use Clerk be increased from 30 to 35 hours per week to allow for provision of assistance in other town offices when needed. Phillips seconded the motion which passed.

G. Non-union employee salary increases: Falletti moved that all non-union Town of Ashford employees be afforded a 2.75% salary increase effective July 1, 2021. Phillips seconded the motion which passed.

H. Falletti moved addition to the agenda of consideration for approval of the AVFD tax abatement list on the October 2021 grand list. Phillips seconded the motion which passed. Falletti moved approval of the 10/1/2021 tax abatement list as presented by the AVFD. Phillips seconded the motion which passed.

I. Falletti moved addition to the agenda of a request for approval of use of town roads in conjunction with the Nipmuck Marathon. Phillips seconded the motion which passed. Falletti moved approval of the use of Town of Ashford roads in conjunction with the 2021 Nipmuck Marathon. Phillips seconded the motion which passed. Marathon officials will be requested to supply an insurance certificate naming the Town of Ashford as an additional insured and will be contacted to notify the AVFD of their upcoming event.

9. Adjournment

Christine Abikoff

Board of Selectmen Meeting Agenda – August 2, 2021

Ashford BOS Meeting 080221
Mon, Aug 2, 2021 7:00 PM (EDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/812402029>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(408\) 650-3123](tel:+14086503123)

Access Code: 812-402-029

