

Town of Ashford

Established 1714

REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2021, 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: Silver-Smith, Falletti, Phillips
Guests: Cheryl Baker, Mike D'Amato, Paul Varga, Joan Bowley, Kay Warren, Janet Bellamy, Helen Sanborn, Jeff Silver-Smith
3. Hear from the public: Janet Bellamy and Helen Sanborn encouraged the BOS to implement repair of the Pompey Hollow Park tennis/pickleball court citing the popularity of the game and the health and wellness advantages of this outdoor activity. Silver-Smith reported that when three repair estimates are received, the BOS will consider the use of ARPA funds to effect the needed repairs which will probably not be able to be done before spring of 2022.
4. First Selectman's Briefing
 - The 2008 Ford F350 pickup purchased in 2007 used for winter plowing has been diagnosed with an unrepairable broken frame. Joe Kalinowski is soliciting pricing for a replacement.
 - Repairs to local roads affected by summer storms has been completed.
 - Syl Pauley, NECCOG Engineer, will prepare a soil erosion control plan for upper Oakes Road.
 - Syl Pawley and Joe Kalinowski are formulating a plan to resolve runoff issues on Campert Lane.
 - The Town acquired two solar powered signs through UConn's T2 program. The signs will record travel data in the iCloud for analysis and follow up with the State Police. The signs will initially be set up on Turnpike Road and North Road.
 - Met with T2 Safety Circuit Rider to review issues on Turnpike and North Roads. She will provide recommendations. We have already installed additional speed limit signs on turnpike Road.
 - Spoke with FedEx regarding their speeding trucks (oversized and tandem).
 - Followed up with Troop C Commander re: speeders and other public safety issues.
 - Solidified 2022 Eversource Vegetation Management plan which will be executed over a 6 to 9-month period and cover virtually every road in town. Eversource asked that their subcontractors be allowed to park their vehicles at the Transfer Station as they have during previous years.
 - Utility bills for town buildings being assessed have been sent to CES for completion of their study.
 - Phase 1 of TextMyGov has been launched using the November issue of the Ashford citizen.
 - Ongoing meetings with SPECTRUM regarding broadband coverage in the Town of Ashford. We expect to receive a proposal for consideration.
5. Hear from Boards, Commissions, Committees: No board or commission representatives were present. The BOS agreed that a report from the Economic Development Commission should be placed on an upcoming agenda.

6. Phillips moved acceptance of minutes of Regular Meeting of 10/4/2021. Silver-Smith seconded the motion which passed. Falletti abstained from the vote as he was not present at the 10/4 meeting.
7. Old Business
 - A. Discuss reopening strategies – Town facilities – update relating to the holding of board and commission meetings: Mike D’Amato gave a brief explanation of how OWL technology works for hybrid meetings. He will attempt to borrow one from the Town of Willington as a test.
 - B. Additional help in the Finance Office: The BOS again discussed this request in relation to the workload the employees in the Finance Office are shouldering including issues with the Tyler Technologies accounting software, keeping the town’s website current, providing IT support services. Various existing job descriptions will be reviewed.
 - C. Discuss formation of an advisory committee charged with review of phasing plan for rehabilitation of the Tremko House prepared by Robert Hurd: A charge to the proposed advisory (advisory to the Board of Selectmen) committee will be drafted for review. It was suggested that the committee be composed of a building official, a structural engineer, a member of the Historical Society, a builder and an Ashford taxpayer.
 - D. Review charge to Transfer Station Committee: Falletti moved that the Transfer Station Committee be charged with assessing current Transfer Station operation, devise a protocol to enforce existing regulations and to develop a plan focused on improving operation of the site for recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
8. New Business
 - A. Street lighting: Silver-Smith reported that she is still waiting for estimates from Eversource for streetlighting at the intersection of Route 74 and Upton Road and the intersection of Route 89 and Old Town Road.
 - B. Reappointment of Tax Collector, Linda Gagne, to serve to November, 2025. Falletti moved the reappointment of Linda Gagne to continue in the position of Ashford Tax Collector. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The BOS thanked Linda for her many years of dedicated service to the Town of Ashford.
 - C. Review of OSHA inspection findings: Members of the BOS were supplied with a spread sheet summarizing OSHA’s findings. Silver-Smith reported that at this time there is no intention of contesting any of the findings.
 - D. Falletti moved approval of Horse Listener’s Orchard request for tax abatement citing enabling Connecticut General Statute 12-81m. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - E. American Rescue Plan: Potentials for project funding
 - ARPA reporting
 - Pickleball court repair quotes are still being solicited
 - Phillips moved that the Board of Selectmen approve a request received from Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA) for \$1,000 donation to offset cost of “upgrading the Commissary and improve service to our most vulnerable residents.” Phillips further moved that this donation be funded under ARPA guidelines. Falletti seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - F. Board/Commission/Committee appointments
 - Inland Wetlands & Watercourses. Fill Alternate vacancy created by the resignation of Ken Garee. (Can be D, R, U)
 - Recreation Commission: Fill one Alternate member seats – term to expire 3/31/2025.
 - 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.
 - G. Falletti moved the following tax refunds citing CGS 12-129: Toyota Lease Trust in the amount of \$275.16, SK Mechanical, LLC in the amount of \$164.51, Union Leasing Trust in the amount of

\$396.21, VW Credit Leasing LTD in the amount of \$259.44, VW Credit Leasing LTS in the amount of \$259.44, VW Credit Leasing LTD in the amount of \$327.99. Phillips seconded the motion which passed.

9. Adjournment

Topic: Ashford BOS 110121
Time: Nov 1, 2021 07:00 PM

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