

Town of Ashford

Established 1714

REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM, TOB **To be held via ZOOM** MINUTES

1. Call to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. Members present: Falletti, Phillips, Silver-Smith
Guests: Bond Counsel, Judith Blank, Mark Chapman, Sean O'Grady (King and King, Auditors), Jeffrey Silver-Smith, Paul Varga, David Thibault, Joe Kalinowski, Ron Recchia, Brian Damble, Sherri Souci, Janet Bellamy
3. Hear from the public
4. First Selectman's briefing
 - Senior Center staffing update
 - Brief recap of Transfer Station Committee meeting held on Saturday, December 17, 2022
 - Installation of the new front gate at the Transfer Station will be completed this week
 - Falletti gave a brief recap of events surrounding loss of power to the dog pound and the filing of a property damage claim with CIRMA
 - Asplundh anticipates continuing with tree trimming to the end of the year and has assured the First Selectman that every effort is being made to correct frequent power failures in different areas of the town.
 - Street lighting additions at the intersections of Upton Road and Route 74 and Old Town Road and Ference Road haven approved and are being designed
 - DOT will be improving signage at the intersection of Routes 44 and 74. DOT's consideration of a stop light at that intersection will be pursued
 - Expansion of broadband coverage through our contract with Spectrum is progressing. Expansion of Frontier fiberoptic upgrades and broadband coverage will be clarified at an upcoming meeting with their representative
 - Silver-Smith questioned the role played by Ashford's Tree Warden.
5. Silver-Smith moved acceptance of the minutes of 11/21/2022) with a correction to 2023 meeting calendar – first January meeting should be Tuesday, January 3, 2023 (attached). Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Silver-Smith moved acceptance of the minutes of 12/5/2022. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
6. Hear from Boards, Commissions, Committees
7. Old Business
 - A. Sean O'Grady, representing Ashford's auditors, King and King, explained the process by which the BOF can borrow from the General Fund to cover unbudgeted 2022 STEAP (Southworth Drive and Pompey Road reconstruction) costs anticipating reimbursement from the state in the amount expended. Per O'Grady, this funding method will not effect the undesignated fund balance or the Town's credit rating.
 - B. Review of Ashford School Roof Project bonding procedures: Attorney Blank advised that the next step in the bonding process will be the setting of a special town meeting to determine the method of approval of the issuance of bonds for the Ashford School roof project. Members of the BOS discussed seeking approval by special town meeting or by special town meeting adjourning to referendum. The BOS will consider finalization of the bonding approval process at a January BOS

meeting. Attorney Blank and Mr. Chapman reviewed the importance of utilizing the services of a financial advisor as a guide through the bonding process. The BOS expressed their thanks for the information provided by Ms. Blank and Mr. Chapman.

- C. Ashford Advisory School Building Committee: No report
 - D. Ashford School oil tank replacement project bids: Falletti reported that three bids have been received and are being reviewed.
 - E. Status of after school childcare program as proposed by the Recreation Commission: Falletti reported that Interim Superintendent, Cindy Ford met with Ashford School Para Professionals in an effort to determine their interest in staffing this proposed program. It was agreed that whoever filled the staffing positions would be considered part-time town employees. The BOS are putting an effort into ensuring that this is a stable, self-sustaining program.
 - F. Eversource tree trimming – public safety and power outage concerns. Covered under First Selectman’s briefing
 - G. Campert Lane road maintenance: Public Works reports that items determined to be the Town’s responsibility that are addressed in the NECCOG engineer’s report will be remediated this coming spring.
 - H. Street lighting: Covered under First Selectman’s briefing.
8. New Business
- A. Silver-Smith moved that the BOS approve the opt-out option contained in Public Act 21-29 as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their meeting of 12/12/2022. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - B. Silver-Smith moved approval of the purchase of a 2022 Ford F-350 to replace DPW’s 2019 F-350 at a cost of \$6,000 Discuss and act upon DPW request for replacement of 2019 F350 with 2022 F350 using F350 as trade-in. Manufacturer’s price = \$53,400. Fleet discount = \$12,427. Sales lot price = \$40,973. Trade = \$35,000. Balance payable would be \$5,973.00 which can be absorbed within the DPW budget. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - C. Board/Committee/Commission appointments
 - Recreation Commission – 1 Regular Member seat which expires 4/01/2026
 - Agriculture Commission – 1 Regular member seat which expires 3/15/2025
 - Conservation Commission – Alternate vacancy term of which expires 11/21/2023
 - Economic Development Commission – two vacancies which expire 2/02/2025
 - Commission on Aging – vacancy term of which expires 6/30/2023
 - Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission: 1 vacant Regular Member seat Lipstreu) which expires 6/01/2025; 2 vacant Alternate Member seats which expire 6/01/2023
 - Zoning Board of Appeals – 1 Alternate Member seat which expires 11/05/2025
 - D. Tax Refunds: None
 - E. Remarks for the good:
 - Silver-Smith noted non-award of the 2022 Brownfield remediation grant
 - Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday.
 - F. Items for next BOS meeting
9. Adjournment at 8:00 p.m.

Ashford Board of Selectmen – Regular Meeting Monday, December 19, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87383700810>
Meeting ID: 873 8370 0810

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