

Town of Ashford

Established 1714

REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2011 7:00 P.M. ASHFORD TOWN OFFICES MINUTES

1. Call to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Members present: Fletcher, Falletti, Zambo
Guests: Linda Gagne, Joe Gagne, John Regan, Joan Bowley, Kay Warren, Cathryn Silver-Smith, Jennifer Sterling Folker, Cheryl Bowen, Carl Pfalzgraf
3. Hear from the public
 - Joan Bowley asked the status of the 300th Anniversary Committee. Bill and Linda Falletti, co-chairmen of the Committee will meet with the BOS within the next few weeks to determine committee makeup and establish a preparation timeline. Bowley reported that the Historical Society would like to be involved in the planning of the 300th celebration and is considering producing an addendum to the 275th anniversary book. Fletcher reported that there are funds left from the 275th that will be available to the 300th.
 - The Tax Collector reported that title searches on the proposed tax sale properties are underway.
 - The Tax Collector reported that as of this date her collection rate is 97.76%. She stated that she is confident that the Tax Office will achieve the anticipated 98% collection rate.
 - The Tax Collector requested BOS approval to attend a regional collector's conference to be held in Meredith, New Hampshire in August of 2011. The conference fee, \$600, must be paid by 6/30/2011 but will be applied against 2011-2012 budgeted conference funds. Ms. Gagne felt that the plethora of information available through the conference would benefit many of Ashford's departments. The BOS concurred with Ms. Gagne's request.
 - Ms. Gagne, citing CGS 10-222 and 10-248, expressed concern regarding the financial situation at the Ashford School and the addition of a Business Manager to the school staff.
 - The Tax Collector requested that the BOS add an executive session to this agenda to discuss her relationship with the members of the Board of Selectmen.
 - Jennifer Sterling Folker, Chairman of the Ashford Board of Education expressed her displeasure over rumors circulating regarding the financial issues at Ashford School. She advised the BOS that the Board of Education is fully aware that there were problems and, with the hiring of Tracy Clements through Robert Hurd Associates, the problems are being corrected and the BOE expects to reconcile their accounts with the town by the 6/30/2011 deadline. Ms. Sterling Folker reported that the school has

- conformed to recommendations contained in the 2009-2010 audit. Ms. Sterling Folker observed that the financial problems experienced at the Ashford School should not be linked with the proposed Business Manager position being considered.
- Jennifer Sterling Folker stated that the BOE had reviewed the BOS draft document prepared for the Financial Manager/Treasurer position. BOE comments will be distributed to the BOF and the BOS.
 - Kay Warren presented the BOS with a request for use of the senior bus for four trip dates to Foxwoods Casino for bingo. Mrs. Warren was advised to address her request to the Senior Center Director/Coordinator with the ultimate use decision to be made by the BOS at their June 20th meeting.
4. First Selectman's briefing – attached
 - Reminder of Clean Energy Celebration, Friday, June 10, 7:00 p.m., Knowlton Memorial Hall.
 5. Zambo moved acceptance of minutes of Regular Meeting of 5/16/2011. Falletti seconded the motion which passed.
 6. Old Business
 7. New Business
 - a. Committee/Commission appointments
 - i. Economic Development Commission – Upon recommendation received from the EDC Zambo moved the appointment of Michael Gantick to fill a seat as an Alternate Member of the EDC – term to expire 2/2/2015. Falletti seconded the motion which passed. This leaves one regular member vacancy (term to expire 2/2/2015);
 - ii. Board of Assessment Appeals – 1 alternate member (term to expire 1/2011);
 - iii. Recreation Commission – alternate member vacancy that would expire in 2016
 - b. Tax refunds: none
 - c. STEAP grant applications: The Town has prepared three applications for the 2012 STEAP funding round (reconstruction of Hnath Road, construction of a salt shed at DPW and installation of new guardrails and replacement of guardrails damaged over this past winter). Ms. Bowley, President of the Ashford Historical Society, advised the BOS that Community Consulting would again prepare a STEAP submission, in the name of the Town, for renovation of the Tremko House. The BOS will act on prioritizing the grant applications at their meeting of 6/20/2011. Grants must be submitted by 6/23/2011.
 - d. In response to a request from the Treasurer, Falletti moved that the BOS resolve that a banking relationship between the Town of Ashford and First Niagra Bank (formerly New Alliance Bank) be continued. Zambo seconded the motion which passed.
 - e. Falletti moved that a request received from the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for road usage during 3rd annual Camp Challenge Ride event on September 10, 2011 be approved. Zambo seconded the motion which passed.
 - f. Zambo moved award of contract for administration and preparation and administration of the 2011 small cities grant application to Community Consulting. Falletti seconded the motion which passed.
 - g. Discussion concerning Town of Ashford Finance Department with Cheryl Bowen, discussion concerning proposed Finance Officer/ Treasurer position and Ms.

Bowen's resignation from the Deputy Treasurer position effective 6/30/2011, discussion regarding relocation of Ashford School Superintendent, his secretary and the school's financial person to the TOB.

Zambo moved and Falletti seconded the following additions to the agenda:

8. Falletti moved the appointments of Christine Abikoff, Municipal Animal Control Officer, Colleen Sweetland, Assistant Municipal Animal Control Officer, Adam Wilson, Assistant Animal Control Officer effective July 1, 2011. Zambo seconded the motion which passed.
9. Falletti moved completion of a Woodward Cemetery Quit Claim Deed (Surr ridge). Zambo seconded the motion which passed.
10. Falletti moved the BOS into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Zambo seconded the motion which passed. The BOS returned to the order of the agenda at 8:50 p.m. Present during Executive Session were Fletcher, Falletti, Zambo, Linda Gagne, Joe Gagne.
11. Remarks for the good of the board
12. Adjournment