

Received 8-22-12

**ASHFORD BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
August 9, 2012
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Cathryn Silver-Smith (Chairperson), Susan Eastwood (Clerk), Jane Cercena, Charles Funk, Merrill Simpson, Paul Canavan, Eugenie Bagley (alt.), Glen Nemeroff (alt.), Carl Pfalzgraf (alt.), Ralph Fletcher (First Selectman, Ex-Officio) and Francine Hodovan (Recording Secretary).

Guests:

Ashford Tax Collector: Linda Gagne.

1. **Call to Order:** Ms. Silver-Smith called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. **Seating of Alternates:** None.

3. **Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 14, 2012:**

MS. CERCENA MOVED AND MR. FUNK SECONDED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2012 AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION PASSED WITH EVERYONE VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY EXCEPT FOR MS. EASTWOOD AND MR. CANAVAN WHO ABSTAINED.

4. **Hearing from Public.** None.

5. **Communications:**

Mr. Pfalzgraf gave out a copy of the 07/20/2006 BOE meeting minutes where the subject of Magnet Schools for Ashford was mentioned. At this time the Magnet school is open although details and issues such as how it will affect the Ashford School District are still open for discussion. It is unclear how the issue of regionalization of students will affect the BOE budget.

Ms. Silver-Smith distributed information obtained from the auditors concerning the management of the Non-Lapsing Board of Education fund.

6. **Old Business:** None.

7. **New Business:**

- a. **Selectman's Update:**

Selectman Fletcher provided the latest 2011-2012 FY revenue and expenditure reports, stating that results were much better than expected. Revenues met expectations and expenditures are anticipated to be \$276K under budget. Figures will be finalized in September.

The auditors performed preliminary testing last week and will be back after Labor Day to continue the audit. Maureen Barber, CPA, has been hired by the Town to create the financial statement for required for the audit.

Road work on Turnpike Road and Hnath Road is near completion and that the work done between Wormwood Hill Road and Karosi Road is on schedule.

Ashford participated in a statewide exercise at the end of July to test emergency efficiency during severe weather conditions. The test simulated the Hurricane of 1938. Results indicated that Ashford School's generator need changes. Selectman Fletcher sent a letter to the BOE advising them of the generator issue.

8. **Agenda Items for Next Regular BOF Meeting:**

Mr. Simpson expressed concern about state statute C.G.S. Section 9-210 which prohibits a Town employee from serving on the BOF and requested that the BOF look into the issue. Selectman Fletcher has received an opinion from the Town Attorney on this matter that reinforces the prohibition. Ms. Silver-Smith suggested that this is not a BOF issue to resolve and that the Town Meeting planned for September 17 to change Town ordinances related to this statute may be a better forum, as the Town Attorney will be present to answer questions. Ms. Silver-Smith will

send a copy of the statute to board members. Selectman Fletcher will provide a copy of the Town Attorney's opinion to Mr. Simpson and Ms. Bagley, the two people directly affected.

9. **Remarks for the Good of the Board**

Ms. Silver-Smith stated that it would be very unfortunate if the board were to lose Mr. Simpson or Ms. Bagley. Mr. Pfalzgraf stated State Representative Brian Hurlbert and Senator Tony Guglielmo should assist if the Town were to pursue having the statute changed.

10. **Adjournment:**

MS. EASTWOOD MOVED AND MS. CERCENA SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 9, 2012 REGULAR MEETING OF THE ASHFORD BOARD OF FINANCE. THE MOTION PASSED WITH EVERYONE VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY.

The regular meeting of the Ashford Board of Finance of August 9, 2012 was formally adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Cathryn Silver-Smith (Chair) for BOF Clerk