

Town of Ashford

Established 1714

REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014, 7:00 P.M. ASHFORD TOWN OFFICES MINUTES

1. Call to order AT 7:00 P.M.
2. Members present: Zambo, Falletti, Fletcher
Guests: Linda Gagne, Susan Eastwood, Tony Paticchio, Stephan Hartmann (Ross Solar)
3. Hear from the public: No members of the public wishing to be heard at this time
4. First Selectman's Briefing: attached
5. Hear from Boards, Commissions, Committees
6. Falletti moved acceptance of minutes of Special Meeting of 2/18/2014. Fletcher seconded the motion which passed.
7. Old Business
 - 300th Anniversary Committee: No report
8. New Business
 - a. Committee/Commission appointments
 - Eastern Highlands Health District Alternate
 - Economic Development Commission: fill Rechel vacant seat
 - Commission on Aging – fill vacancy created by the resignation of Deanna Clerk (to 6/30/2015)
 - b. PHP gazebo repair estimates
 - c. Presentation by Ross Solar: Stephan Hartmann, representing Ross Solar, apprised the BOS of the ongoing residential solarize program and the status of the 4-town coalition of which Ashford is a member. To date there are 25 homes in the Town of Ashford that have been signed up to install solar systems. In anticipation of the use of energy credits already earned and those anticipated to be earned, the Town is eligible for the installation of a small system on a municipal building. In addition to the system already earned, Ross Solar, on behalf of the Town of Ashford has submitted five (5) applications which, if accepted, would allow the town to participate in the state's Connecticut Solar Lease program. Mr. Hartmann was authorized to submit applications and chose the following municipal buildings: Pompey Hollow Senior Housing, Ashford Volunteer Fire Department, Town Office Building, Public Works Garage and Transfer Station. If any of the proposed projects are awarded, the Town would be eligible for a low interest loan through the Connecticut Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority. Hartmann advised the BOS that through the CEFIA loan program there would be no upfront cost for system installation, and no repair responsibility. At the end of the lease period the town would have the option of renegotiating the generation rate, purchasing the solar array outright, or removing at no cost. He speculated

that following the installation of large enough solar arrays on municipal properties, the Town could save between \$7,000 and \$9,000 per year on electric costs.

- d. Knowlton Hall meeting request: Additional information regarding the nature of the request will be sought.
 - e. Housing Rehabilitation lien request for action: Fletcher moved that the Town deny acceptance of a short sale transaction offer of \$6,000 to release a housing rehabilitation lien in the amount of \$29,350. Falletti seconded the motion which passed.
 - f. Tax refunds: none
 - g. 2014-2015 budget: Zambo thanked Falletti and Fletcher for attending the presentation of the general government budget to the BOF.
9. Remarks for the good.....
10. Adjournment

Briefing 03-03-2014

Item A: Public Works expenditures on winter salt and sand are projected to be \$20000.00 over budget. Overtime still has a balance of \$9430.00.

Item B: Ashford BOE proposed budget taken from the 02/20/14 meeting minutes is \$7,305,665[increase of \$269,959 or 3.88%] Changed at 02/27/14 meeting to \$7,288,036.

Item C: Ovation has negotiated an 11% increase with ConnectiCare for employee health benefits.

Item D: .The proposed new Probate Court location is 508 Pomfret St. Putnam.

Item E: **.The Town has earned a Bright Idea Grant through the Clean Energy Communities program of \$5000.**

Item F: Preliminary 300th parade route request approved by DOT

