

**ASHFORD BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Knowlton Memorial Hall,  
25 Pompey Hollow Road, Ashford, CT 06278  
April 5, 2016**

**Present:** Cathryn Silver-Smith (Chairperson), Susan Eastwood (Clerk), Judi Austin, Chuck Funk, Gail Zaicek, Angie DeSanto (alt.), Carl Pfalzgraf (alt.), Mike Zambo (Selectman and Ex-Officio), Francine Hodovan (Recording Secretary)

**Guests:** Ashford School: Don Neel (Business Office Manager), Jim Longo (Superintendent)  
Selectmen's Office: Chris Abikoff (Administrative Assistant)  
BOE: Kim Rourke, John Lippert  
Town Clerk's Office: Karen Zulick  
Taxpayers: Eric Parent, Bob Zaicek, Jeff Silver-Smith

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Cathryn Silver-Smith called the Special Meeting of the Ashford Board of Finance to order at 7:40 p.m.
2. **Seating of Alternates:** Mr. Pfalzgraf was seated for Mr. Simpson.
3. **Communications:**  
Selectman Zambo spoke with the Mayor of Mansfield who would like to meet with both Ashford and Willington regarding the future of E. O. Smith High School.

He said that Capital Improvements Committee will be coming to the BOF regarding the new Senior Center roof.

Selectman Zambo met with the Architect/Engineer from CROG regarding the projects coming up for Ashford School. The BOE intends to use funds from their FY 2015-2016 budget allocation to pay for the architect (\$80K). Mr. Pfalzgraf said that he is unsure that this was a good idea since it will also increase MBR for next year by that same amount and that perhaps it should come from the Unexpended Education Fund as was first proposed.

**MR. PFALZGRAF MOVED AND MS. ZAICEK SECONDED A MOTION TO CALL A SPECIAL MEETING ON APRIL 6, 2016 IN ASHFORD TOWN OFFICES AT 6:30 P.M. TO FINALIZE THE FY 2016-2017 TOWN BUDGET. THE MOTION PASSED WITH EVERYONE VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY.**

Ms. Eastwood was able to contact a member of the Region 19 Board by phone, who confirmed that the Region19 budget was reduced this evening by \$84,400 overall and that \$196,000 of unanticipated Columbia student tuition revenue was transferred to the school's debt service fund. The resulting Region 19 budget is \$18,135,260. Ashford's share is \$139,290 (3.92%) less than last year. Based on his information, Mr. Pfalzgraf rescinded his motion above.

4. **Further Action on FY 2016-2017 Town Budget:**  
Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) calculations were reviewed. It was noted that that is the first time since MBR was instituted by the state that Ashford BOE and Region 19 budgets were less than those from the previous year. Based on recent minutes recroed by the Region 19 Board of Education Finance Subcommittee meeting, their recommendation to the Region 19 Board of Education will be to decrease its overall budget by \$84,400 and transfer \$196,000 in revenue to the school's debt service fund.

Discussion followed regarding what may have to be done to the town budget to meet MBR based on Region 19 action.

**MR. PFALZGRAF MOVED AND MS. ZAICEK SECONDED A MOTION TO CALL A SPECIAL MEETING FOR APRIL 6, 2016 IN ASHFORD TOWN OFFICES AT 6:30 P.M. TO FINALIZE THE BUDGET. THE MOTION PASSED WITH EVERYONE VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY.**

Ms. Eastwood was able to contact a member of the Region 19 Board, who confirmed that the Region 19 Board of Education approved an \$84,400 reduction to their budget and the transfer of \$196,000 in unanticipated Columbia student tuition revenue to the school's debt service fund. The resulting FY 2016-2017 Region 19 budget is \$18,135,260. Ashford's share will be \$139,290 (3.92%) less than last year. Based on his information, Mr. Pfalzgraf rescinded his motion above.

**The following budgets are to be sent to the Board of Selectman with a request for an Annual Town Budget Meeting:**

**MR. PFALZGRAF MOVED AND MS. AUSTIN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$3,170,403 FOR THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.**

**THE MOTION PASSED WITH EVERYONE VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY.**

**MR. PFALZGRAF MOVED AND MS. EASTWOOD SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$7,406,140 FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.**

**THE MOTION PASSED WITH EVERYONE VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY EXCEPT FOR MR. FUNK WHO VOTED NO.**

**MR. PFALZGRAF MOVED AND MR. FUNK SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$3,410,845 FOR ASHFORD'S SHARE OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 19 PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.**

**THE MOTION PASSED WITH EVERYONE VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY.**

**MR. FUNK MOVED AND MS. EASTWOOD SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$686,132 FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.**

**THE MOTION PASSED WITH EVERYONE VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY.**

**5. Remarks for the Good of the Board:**

Mr. Pfalzgraf stated that he has never seen a BOE budget that has gone down from one year to another, so no one considered challenging the MBR requirement. They have always just paid whatever the state-mandated amount was without question.

**6. Adjournment:**

**MR. PFALZGRAF MOVED AND MR. FUNK SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 5, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ASHFORD BOARD OF FINANCE. THE MOTION PASSED WITH EVERYONE VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY.**

The Ashford Board of Finance Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathryn Silver-Smith (for BOF Clerk)