

Town of Ashford

Established 1714

REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016, 7:00 P.M. ASHFORD TOWN OFFICES MINUTES

1. Call to order at 7:00 pm
2. Members present: Zambo, Falletti, Fletcher
Guests: Cheryl Baker, Maureen Barber
3. Hear from the public
4. First Selectman's Briefing
 - The Knowlton Hall ramp-side doors have been replaced
 - Meeting at Ashford School on Wednesday, June 22, 2016 to discuss possible school building projects
 - Shimming and chip-sealing has begun on Bebbington, Perry Hill and Zaicek Roads.
5. Hear from Boards, Commissions, Committees:
6. Falletti moved acceptance of minutes of Regular Meeting of 6/6/2016. Zambo seconded the motion which passed.
7. Old Business
 - a. 300th Anniversary Committee report: Falletti reported that the anniversary book is still being worked on. Bob Zaicek has offered to build the 300th anniversary time capsule.
 - b. Policies and Procedures Manual: Maureen Barber reported that she is making progress on the manual and a draft should be ready for review by the Board of Selectmen within the next two weeks.

Falletti moved addition to the agenda of discussion regarding preparation of financial statements for the 2015-2016 audit and modification of the Fire Department Tax Abatement Ordinance. Fletcher seconded the motion which passed.

Ms. Barber explained the differences between preparation of financial statements as contained in her proposal and preparation of statements by Mahoney Sobel (Ashford's current auditors), availability of work product, difference in hourly rate proposed by Barber and rate for additional work hours incurred by the auditors. Zambo will contact Mahoney Sobel prior to the July 5th regular BOS meeting to obtain clarification on points raised in this discussion. The BOF will be invited to attend the July 5th meeting.

Ms. Baker reported that there continue to be issues concerning the collection some Fire Department Tax Abatement federal taxes. She suggested that Ashford's ordinance be amended to include a formal method of abatement tax collection.

- c. OTOF – No representative of OTOF was in attendance. The BOS discussed the OTOF proposed mission statement and OTOF’s inclusion in the Plan of Conservation and Development. The consensus of the BOS was to revise the proposed mission statement to task OTOF in the role of advisory committee answerable to the Board of Selectmen. The BOS recognize that in the formulation of the POCD, the Planning and Zoning Commission vested certain action implementation responsibilities on OTOF (in conjunction with other Boards and Commissions). While these POCD-related tasks are recognized by the BOS, again the consensus of the Selectmen was to consider OTOF in an advisory capacity to them with no budget. Terms of Core Committee members would run concurrently with sitting members of the Board of Selectmen. A revised mission statement will be formulated and forwarded to OTOF for consideration prior to further discussion at the regular Selectmen’s meeting of Tuesday, 7/5/2016.
 - d. Extension of Ashford Memorial Park mowing contract: Falletti moved approval of a two-year extension of the current Ashford Memorial Park mowing contract (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2018) at an annual rate of \$5,400 per year. Not included in the contract price is one additional mowing of the AMP ball fields at \$120. Fletcher seconded the motion which passed.
8. New Business
- a. Report of Financial System Committee: Ms. Baker reported that the committee visited two districts using different financial systems. The consensus of the Committee was that the system used by the town of Woodstock would meet the needs of both the Town and School finance offices. Ms. Baker and the BOS discussed the reinstated Uniform Chart of Accounts grant. After reviewing the UCOA system, Don Neel recommended that the Board of Education not accept the grant. Neel cited the complexity of the system and agreed with Ms. Baker assessment that Ashford’s data has already been integrated into the UCOA by Blum Shapiro and that adoption of the UCOA would be of no benefit to the town. Baker and Barber concurred that adoption of the UCOA has been mandated by the State.
 - b. Committee/Commission appointments
 - o Board of Assessment Appeals – fill alternate vacancy
 - o Eastern Highlands Health District – appointment of alternate rep
 - o Tree Warden (1-year appointment)
 - c. Fletcher moved the following tax refund citing CGS 12-129: Salvatore Secondo in the amount of \$21.99. Falletti seconded the motion which passed.
 - d. Municipal Agent for the Elderly: The BOS discussed the addition of one additional day (6 work hours) to the Senior Center Director work week to provide sufficient time for Ms. Grady to fulfil the responsibilities of the Municipal Agent for the Elderly. It was noted that this additional time has not been included in the 2016-2017 budget. The combined position would be that of a “Regular Employee – Part Time” (at 30 hours as defined in the Town of Ashford Personnel Policies, revised and accepted by the BOS on 6/29/2009) which, at the discretion of the board of Selectmen, entitle the holder of the position to the benefits of sick time, vacation time and life/ADD insurance.

- e. The consensus of the BOS was to accept Building Department's recommendation re: partial waiver of permit fees for crumbling foundation repairs. A policy statement will be formulated and will be forwarded to the Building Department.
 - f. Consideration of Historic Restoration Fund Grant application - tabled
 - g. Consideration of proposed ordinance concerning prohibiting the storage, disposal or use of waste oil from oil and gas exploration or extraction activities, or any derivative thereof, in the town of Ashford, CT - tabled
9. Remarks for the good.....
- Zambo reported that CONNPIRG is soliciting support denying expansion of I-95.
 - Zambo related that Jim Reviczky intends to resign his position as Sexton, effective June 30, 2016. Zambo will add perform the duties of Sexton as an appendage of his First Selectman position.
 - The Selectmen discussed residential junk issues and will research possible enactment of a blight ordinance
10. Adjournment