

Town of Ashford

Established 1714

REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016, 7:00 P.M. ASHFORD TOWN OFFICES MINUTES

1. Call to order at 7:00 pm
2. Members present: Zambo, Falletti, Fletcher
Guests: Barbara Zulick, Karen Zulick, Robert Zulick, Deborah Zulick, John Zulick, Linda Gagne, Cheryl Baker, Felix Giordano, Kara Fishman, Greg Turansky.
3. Hear from the public
4. First Selectman's Briefing
 - We will be checking transfer station stickers this weekend
 - The Pension Committee has met and has decided to switch our fund from Wells Fargo to Fiduciary Investment Advisors
 - The latest award from the Connecticut Green Bank (and the remainder of our previous award) will be used to upgrade lighting in the Ashford School gymnasium and by the clean Energy Task Force to purchase additional bulbs for their bulb exchange
5. Hear from Boards, Commissions, Committees:
6. Falletti moved acceptance of minutes of Regular Meeting of 11/21/2016. Fletcher seconded the motion which passed.
7. Old Business
8. New Business
 - a. Report of Financial System Committee: RFP is being reviewed prior to being advertised.
 - b. Based upon a recommendation received from Charles Sweetland, Ashford's Deputy Fire Marshal, Fletcher moved the appointment of Carlo Piacentini to serve as temporary Deputy Fire Marshal until June 30, 2017. Falletti seconded the motion which passed.
 - c. Assessor report on revaluation: The Assessor discussed why the values of PA 490 farm, forest and open space were changed for the 2016 revaluation. Every 5 years the state publishes a list of farm and forest values based upon surveys and research they do. Assessors must use this schedule unless they develop a similarly rigorous methodology to support their PA 490 values. By statute, open space values can be no lower than the farm and forest values. Ashford's open space values have not changed since 2002. In 1985 the open space value was \$100 per acre, in 1995 the open space value was \$125 per acre, and in 2002 the open space value was \$400 per acre. The Assessor also presented an informal survey of open space values in other Connecticut towns and broke down the number of parcels and acres in Ashford that are tax exempt and those that are assessed as farm, forest and open space. Under PA 490, 25% of the parcels and 64% of the acreage in Ashford have a reduced assessment.

- d. Approval of Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) – Proper Access Use and Dissemination Procedures. Falletti moved that consideration of this procedure appear on the 12/19/2016 BOS agenda. Fletcher seconded the motion which passed.
 - e. Fletcher moved the reappointment of Christine Abikoff to the position of Municipal Animal Control effective January 1, 2017 and the reappointment of Tina Binheimer to the position of Assistant Municipal Animal control Officer effective January 1, 2017. Falletti seconded the motion which passed.
 - f. Falletti moved that the proposed petty cash policy as submitted for consideration by the Treasurer, be adopted by the Town of Ashford. Fletcher seconded the motion which passed.
 - g. Status of 2009 retired Dial-A-Ride service bus: Greg Turansky, representing the Living Proof Church, reviewed with the BOS the church’s request for donation of the 2009 Ford E-350 Dial-A-Ride bus to the church to provide transportation to participants in their Youth Program and as a means of transporting food for the Ashford Food Bank. The Selectmen’s Office is still awaiting a determination from DOT as to whether this service bus can be used by the Ashford School as additional handicapped transportation.
 - h. Committee/Commission appointments
 - o Board of Assessment Appeals – fill alternate vacancy
 - o Eastern Highlands Health District – appointment of alternate rep
 - o Commission on Aging – appointment to fill vacancy to 6/30/2017
 - o Ashford Housing Authority – Falletti moved the reappointment of Dennis R. Poitras to the Ashford Housing Authority (5-year term to expire 12/31/2021). Fletcher seconded the motion which passed.
 - i. Falletti moved a tax refund in the amount of \$46.91 to William Darcy citing CGS 12-129. Fletcher seconded the motion which passed.
 - j. Falletti moved addition to the agenda and passage of a motion authorizing the First Selectman to enter into a MOA with the Connecticut Green Bank. Fletcher seconded the motion which passed.
9. Remarks for the good.....
- A draft credit card policy will appear on the agenda of the 12/19/2016 BOS meeting.
 - Zambo announced the resignation of Don Neel, Ashford School’s Business Manager. The Selectmen expressed regret at this resignation and sense that he will be difficult to replace.
10. Adjournment at 7:42 p.m.