

Present:James P. Boberg, Council Deputy Supervisor
William J. Heim, Council
Jean M. Bond, Council
Angela M. Santiago, Council

Patricia R. Dashnaw, Town Clerk
Keith R. Butcher, Highway Superintendent
Larry Feldman, Code Enforcement Officer

Absent: John A. Pfeffer, Supervisor
Others present: Joseph Pillittere (CHBWV), Bryan Bower (DOE), Max Borsuk (Sprvl Journal), Deputy S. Worner, Susan Feldman

A regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the United State Flag at the Ashford Community Center at 6:00pm with James P. Boberg, Deputy Town Supervisor presiding.

RESOLUTION 15-2024
APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Council Heim seconded by Council Bond the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 4 Boberg, Heim, Bond, Santiago
 Nays 0

Resolved the Town Board of the Town of Ashford hereby approve the agenda as presented

RESOLUTION 16-2024
APPROVAL OF CONSENSUS ITEMS

On motion of Council Santiago seconded by Council Heim the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 4 Boberg, Heim, Bond, Santiago
 Nays 0

Resolved hearing no objections, Agenda Item F1 through F8 be and are approved by the Town Board of the Town of Ashford, and shall be listed individually as follows in the minutes of this meeting:

1. February Assessors Report

2. February Code Enforcement Report

3. February 14, 2024

4. February Supervisors Financial Report

5. February Town Clerk Report

6. February Highway Expense & Fuel Report

7. February Dog Control Report

8. February Audit of Claims:

General Fund	No. 65 through 93	\$36,974.47
Highway Fund	No. 24 through 37	\$27,000.68
Water District	No. 17 through 23	\$8,852.99
Trust & Agency	No. 13 through 21	\$13,618.05
Light District	No. 71	\$847.83

Highway Superintendent Report:

- presented bid specs to the board members for a 550 using Sourcewell bidding.
- waiting on the radio switchover to working radios.
- There has also not been a contract received from the union
- Resolution for the food pantry location needs to be addressed
- Trash pickup will be in May

RESOLUTION 17-2024
AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF 550

On motion of Council Heim seconded by Council Santiago the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 4 Boberg, Heim, Bond, Santiago
 Nays 0

Resolved Ashford board authorize the purchase of 550 using Sourcewell bidding once determination has been secured regarding Ashford eligibility to participate.

At 6:15pm Clerk Dashnaw read the notice to bidders for the Town wide Trash pickup as it appeared in the Springville Journal. One bid was submitted as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Bid</u>
1. MRC Disposal, Inc. 71 Nason Blvd, Springville, NY	\$17,445.00

RESOLUTION 18-2024
AWARD OF BID—TOWN TRASH PICK UP

On motion of Council Bond seconded by Council Heim the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 4 Boberg, Heim, Bond, Santiago
 Nays 0

Resolved MRC Disposal, Inc. be awarded the contract for 2024 Town Trash Pickup for \$17,445.00 to be completed one week after advertised due to conflicts.

At 6:18pm Clerk Dashnaw read the notice to bidders for the Cemetery Mowing as it appeared in the Springville Journal. Bids submitted as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1. Kevin Foster 5341 Depot Street, West Valley, NY	\$1,400/month
2. F & C Services, LLC	\$14,125/season
3. J&S Bluecollar Services 6992 Route 39, Springville, NY	\$15,000/season
4. Bourbonwood Farms 9106 Route 240, West Valley, NY	\$13,425/season

RESOLUTION 19-2024
AWARD OF BID—CEMETERY MOWING

On motion of Council Bond seconded by Council Heim the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 4 Boberg, Heim, Bond, Santiago
 Nays 0

Resolved Kevin Foster be awarded the contract for 2024 Cemetery Mowing for \$1,400/month.

RESOLUTION 20-2024
AUDIT OF TOWN OFFICIALS

On motion of Council Santiago, seconded by Council Bond the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Boberg, Heim, Bond, Santiago
 Nays 0

Resolved the records of the Town Clerk for 2023 having been duly examined and found all fees have been turned over to the proper officials; the records of the Town Justice for 2023 having been duly examined and found all fees have been turned over to the proper officials; the records of the Supervisor for 2023 having been duly examined with all monies disbursed properly having been turned over to the proper officials, and the records of the Code Enforcement Officer for 2023 having been duly examined with all monies disbursed properly having been turned over to the proper officials. All said records and disbursements have been properly executed to the best of the boards’ knowledge.

RESOLUTION 21-2024
OPPOSING PART O OF THE GOVERNOR’S 2024 ARTICLE VII REVENUE BILL REGARDING THE SITING OF MAJOR ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES, ALSO KNOWN AS THE “RAPID” ACT

On motion of Council Heim seconded by Council Santiago the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Boberg, Heim, Bond, Santiago
 Nays 0

WHEREAS, New York Governor Hochul has released the Executive Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2025, which includes Part O of the Transportation, Economic Development, and Environmental Conservation budget bill entitled the Renewable Action through Project Interconnect and Deployment (“RAPID”) Act; and

WHEREAS, the RAPID Act seeks to move the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (“ORES”) from the Department of State to the Department of Public Service, and seeks to consolidate and expedite permitting procedures for major renewable energy and electric transmission facilities under a new Article VIII of the Public Service Law; and

WHEREAS, if passed, the RAPID Act will undermine sound environmental review of major electric transmission facilities by requiring ORES to render a permit decision within a single year, otherwise the facility shall be automatically approved, regardless of project size or impact on private property or conservation lands; and

WHEREAS, if passed, the RAPID Act will constitute a significant deprivation of Private Property Rights by extended the power of Eminent Domain to the construction of major electric transmission facilities by large-scale solar and wind developers, said power being currently limited to regulated utilities granted a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need; and

WHEREAS, if passed, the RAPID Act will undermine the protection of natural resources by allowing conservation easements to be extinguished anywhere in the state, including the Adirondack Park and Catskill Parks, for the construction of major electric transmission facilities by large-scale solar and wind developers, said authority being currently limited to regulated utilities granted a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need; and

WHEREAS, if passed, the RAPID Act will further erode home rule and local decision-making enshrined in the New York State Constitution, Local Government Bill of Rights, Statute of Local Governments, and Municipal Home Rule law, usurping the rights of local governments to determine how communities and property within their jurisdictions develop, and contravening the purpose of comprehensive planning outlined in Section 272-A of Town Law; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, Town of Ashford Board strongly opposes the passage of Part O contained in the Governor’s Article VII Revenue Bill relating to the expedited siting of major electric transmission facilities, the use of Eminent Domain, and the extinguishing of conservation easements, and be it further

RESOLVED, Town of Ashford Board calls on the Governor of New York, members of the State Senate, and members of the State Assembly to ensure that Part O, and particularly the offending provisions identified herein, be excluded from the New York State budget or any other legislation, and be it further

RESOLVED, Town of Ashford Board opposes state or federal action that would weaken or eliminate New York’s long-standing tradition of home rule and local government authority; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of Town of Ashford is hereby directed to provide a copy of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado, Senator George Borello, members of the State Senate, members of the State Assembly, the New York State Association of Counties, the New York State Association of Towns, the Inter-County Association of Western New York, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

RESOLUTION 22-2024
AUTHORIZATION AND LETTER OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CATTARAUGUS COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE PROJECT

On motion of Council Bond seconded by Council Santiago the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Boberg, Heim, Bond, Santiago
 Nays 0

Resolved the Ashford Town Board authorize letter of intent to participate in the Cattaraugus County Hazard Mitigation plan update project.

RESOLUTION 23-2024
SET SPECIAL MEETING

On motion of Council Santiago seconded by Council Heim the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Boberg, Heim, Bond, Santiago
 Nays 0

Resolved the Town of Ashford Board hold a special meeting on Tuesday March 26, 2024 6PM at the Ashford Community Center for presentation of the results of the ECA grant and discuss water meters.

RESOLUTION 24-2024
APPOINT PLANNING BOARD MEMBER

On motion of Council Bond seconded by Council Heim the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Boberg, Heim, Bond, Santiago
 Nays 0

Resolved the Ashford Town Board appoint Nicholas Nelson to the Planning Board for a 5 year term ending December 31, 2028.

A motion was made by Heim seconded by Bond and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 6:34pm. (All aye)