

Present: John A. Pfeffer, Supervisor

James P. Boberg, Council Deputy Supervisor

William J. Heim, Council

Collin J. Proctor, Council (6:10 p.m.)

Absent: VACANCY

Present: Jean I. Kwasnik, Deputy Town Clerk

Keith R. Butcher, Highway Superintendent

Larry Feldman, Code Enforcement Officer

Others present: Max Borsuk (Springville Journal), Bryan Bower (DOE), Paul Bembia (NYSERDA), Susan Feldman (TOA), Hope Melnyk, Garry Melnyk, Mac Melnyk, Amanda Lawrence (TOA Youth Rec), Charles Harrigan Jr., Cindy Heer, Chris Heer, and Andrea Mellon (TOA Planning Board)

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 John A. Pfeffer, Town Supervisor presiding.

RESOLUTION 16-2026

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ADOPTED	Ayes	3	Pfeffer, Boberg, Heim
	Nays	0	

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

RESOLUTION 17-2026

APPROVAL OF CONENSUS ITEMS

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

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Pfeffer, Boberg, Heim, Proctor
	Nays	0	

Resolved hearing no objections, Agenda Item F1 through F6 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. January Assessors Report	6. January Audit of Claims:		
2. January Code Enforcement Report (&December)	General Fund	No. 22 through 45	\$70,947.05
3. January 14, 2026 Minutes	Highway Fund	No. 13 through 26	\$86,706.92
4. January Supervisors Financial Report	Light District	No. 26	\$1,030.98
5. January Town Clerk Report	Trust & Agency Fund	No. 1 through 12	\$18,620.08
	Water District	No. 5 through 10	\$9,679.87

Supervisors Management Report:

1. Rails to Trails would need alternate trail locations in order to continue.

2. DOE Request for Information – Supervisor Pfeffer had inquired about a possible hosting site to host a facility within the Town. Had discussion with Paul Bembia about suggesting a location to New York State.

Highway Superintendent Report:

1. The speed limit on Connoisarauley Road has been approved to be changed to 30 mph.

2. Will begin on potholes when the weather clears.

3. Superintendent Butcher confirmed his last day would be November 6th, 2026.

RESOLUTION 18-2026

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED BUSINESS PLAN

On motion of Council Boberg seconded by Council Proctor, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Pfeffer, Heim, Proctor, Boberg
	Nays	0	

Resolved the proposed business plan public hearing open at 6:30pm as Supervisor Pfeffer read the advertisement as posted

Chris and Cindy Heer spoke to the Board Members, and Andrea Mellon about their future plans for the Green Lantern Hide-A-Way. Andrea Mellon spoke to the Heers about the steps required in order to go further.

RESOLUTION 19-2026

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

On motion of Council Proctor seconded by Council Heim, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Pfeffer, Heim, Proctor, Boberg
	Nays	0	

Resolved the Town Board close the public hearing and resume regular meeting at 6:45 pm.

RESOLUTION 20-2026

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

On motion of Council Boberg seconded by Council Proctor the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Pfeffer, Boberg, Heim, Proctor
	Nays	0	

Resolved the Board appoint John Patti to Deputy Highway Superintendent for 2026

RESOLUTION 21-2026

APPOINTMENT OF CONSTABLES

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

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Pfeffer, Boberg, Heim, Proctor
	Nays	0	

Resolved the Board make the following appointments for Constables

Constable Kasey Cummings 2026-2027

Constable H. Michael Parish 2026-2027

Constable Todd Miller 2026-2027

RESOLUTION 22-2026
APPOINTMENT OF COURT OFFICERS

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

Resolved the Board make the following appointments for Court Officers
Court Officer Derrick Miller 2026
Court Officer Keith Herbst 2026

RESOLUTION 23-2026
APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH RECREATION COMMITTEE YOUTH MEMBER

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

Resolved the Board appoint Madison Lawrence to the youth recreation committee for 2026

RESOLUTION 24-2065
AUDIT OF TOWN OFFICIALS

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

Resolved the records of the Town Clerk for 2025 having been duly examined and found all fees have been turned over to the proper officials; the records of the Town Justice for 2025 having been duly examined and found all fees have been turned over to the proper officials; the records of the Supervisor for 2025 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 2025 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 25-2026
APPROVAL TO RETAIN CURRENT GRANT WRITER 2026-2027

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

Resolved the Town of Ashford retain the current Grant Writer, Karl Kalbacher of Kalbacher Associates, as an hourly employee for the years of 2026-2027, by using \$10,000 of remaining allocated funds.

RESOLUTION 26-2026
URGING IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF ELECTRIC DELIVERY CHARGES, DEMANDING IMPROVED COST CONTROLS AND TRANSPARENCY, AND AUTHORIZING FORMAL COMPLAINTS TO THE NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REGARDING THE ESCALATING COST OF ELECTRICITY.

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

WHEREAS, residents, seniors, and small businesses in the Town of Ashford are experiencing unsustainable, repeated, and compounding increases in electric bills that are placing a growing financial strain on households and the local economy; and
WHEREAS, a substantial portion of these increases is attributable not to increased energy consumption, but to escalating delivery charges, fees, and approved rate adjustments imposed by NATIONAL GRID; and
WHEREAS, electric delivery charges and rate structures are regulated and approved by the New York State Public Service Commission, which is statutorily charged with ensuring that utility rates are just, reasonable, and affordable for ratepayers; and
WHEREAS, the Town Board has received numerous complaints from residents who are struggling to afford basic electric service and who have expressed serious concern regarding the frequency, magnitude, and lack of transparency surrounding recent and ongoing rate increases; and
WHEREAS, rural and low-density communities such as the Town of Ashford are disproportionately impacted by delivery charge increases and cost-recovery mechanisms that fail to adequately account for affordability, equity, and the cumulative burden placed on ratepayers; and
WHEREAS, the Town Board finds that continued approval of rate increases without stronger cost controls, greater transparency, and meaningful affordability protections is unacceptable and contrary to the public interest;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Ashford formally and strongly urges the New York State Public Service Commission to conduct a thorough and immediate review of electric delivery charges, rate increases, and cost-recovery practices applicable to NATIONAL GRID customers; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board calls upon the Public Service Commission to prioritize ratepayer affordability, demand greater transparency from NATIONAL GRID, and require demonstrable cost-containment and operational efficiency measures before approving any future rate increases; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board expressly opposes continued or automatic rate increases that shift rising operational, infrastructure, and administrative costs onto ratepayers without clear justification or adequate protection for rural communities; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed to submit formal complaints, written comments, and supporting documentation to the New York State Public Service Commission on behalf of the Town and its residents, objecting to excessive electric costs and requesting regulatory intervention; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the New York State Public Service Commission, NATIONAL GRID, the Governor of the State of New York, members of the New York State Legislature, and neighboring municipalities served by NATIONAL GRID, and to encourage coordinated action among affected towns; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

RESOLUTION 27-2026
APPROVAL TO UTILIZE THE PHOENIX HUMANE SOCIETY KENNEL 2026

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

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Pfeffer, Boberg, Heim, Proctor
 Nays 0

Resolved the Town of Ashford enter into contract for 2026 with the Phoenix Humane Society Kennel operated by the DCO Samantha Smith.

A motion was made by Boberg seconded by Proctor and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 6:55 pm. (All aye)

Jean I. Kwasnik — Deputy Town Clerk