

Present:John A. Pfeffer, Supervisor
James P. Boberg, Council Deputy Supervisor
William J. Heim, Council
Collin J. Proctor, Council
Michael Boberg, Council

Present:Patricia R. Dashnaw Town Clerk
Deputy Shannon Worner, Catt Co Sheriff
Absent:Larry Feldman, Code Enforcement Officer
Keith R. Butcher, Highway Superintendent

Others present: Joseph Pillittere (WVCA), Sarah Morris (WVCA), Bryan Bower (DOE), Paul Bembia (NYSERDA), Crystal Abers (Catt Co EDPT), Kate O’Striker (Catt Co EDPT), Shirah Kasongo Cahill (Design Manager Colliers Engineering & Design), Karen Misell (Ecological Landscape Architect Colliers Engineering & Design), Brian Dold (GoBike)
Ashford residents: David Nottis, Don Knavel, Michael Hebdon, Jean Ford, Carla Heitman, Kathryn Sutton, David Dinderski, Mike Fullington, Peter L. Hunter, Holly Hunter, Becky Werchowski, Gus Werchowski, Judy Ball

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, Supervisor presiding.

RESOLUTION 53-2026
APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Pfeffer, J. Boberg, Heim, Proctor, M. Boberg
 Nays 0

Resolved the Town Board of the Town of Ashford hereby approves the agenda with additions to Supervisors Report and New Business

A lengthy discussion took place between residents on Dutch Hill Road, Catt Co EDPT, Representatives from Colliers Engineering & Design (CED), and GoBike regarding the design process being conducted on Dutch Hill Road for the Southern Tier Trail. The Southern Tier Trial is a proposal for a walking/biking trail to connect to the Rail Trail in Erie County then looping through Cattaraugus County to end eventually in Rochester. A grant has been secured for the design process. During the design process, studies are being done to check municipal boundaries, wetlands, off-road, and on road options. Surveyors from CED started work in the area without communicating to officials a date when the work was to begin. Supervisor Pfeffer would have been able to communicate through Code Red to residents to alert them had the information been provided. Residents were concerned about the lack of communication. Ms. Cahill apologized publicly to the residents for the lack of communication and the disregard for residents’ privacy as surveyors were not on just road right away but also on private property. Ms. O’Striker also apologized publicly for the lack of communication. She also informed those present; this process has been in the works for several years trying to search for a viable route. Mrs. Ford spoke on behalf of all residents present regarding the opposition of the entire proposed project affecting Dutch Hill Road. Residents do not see a positive value for Ashford. A petition is being circulated in opposition of the Southern Tier Trail using Dutch Hill Road. Many residents asked questions and voiced their opinions in more opposition to the project. Ms. O’Striker explained the process a little further as several route options have been explored. The Town Board appreciated the feedback from the residents affected. Clerk Dashnaw informed residents meeting agendas and meeting minutes are available online.

Joe Pillittere provided town board members with updates on projects at WVDP. Safety is still a priority and work is going well. For Community Day workers completed projects for the Ashford Historical Society and the West Valley Food Bank. A donation was also made to the Ashford Historical Society. The Town Board thanks them for the positive involvement in Ashford.

RESOLUTION 54-2026
APPROVAL OF CONENSUS ITEMS

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Pfeffer, J. Boberg, Heim, Proctor, M. Boberg
 Nays 0

Resolved hearing no objections, Agenda Item F1 through F5 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. June Assessors Report	5. Audit of Claims #7:		
2. June Town Clerk Report	General Fund	No. 138, 164-167, 169-187	\$31,162.28
3. June 10, 2026 Minutes	Highway Fund	No. 67,74, 76 through 81	\$34,410.90
4. June Supervisors Financial Report	Light District	No. 7	\$811.43
	Trust & Agency Fund	No. 63 through 75	\$15,438.44
	Water District	No. 41 through 45	\$2,509.74

Supervisor’s Management Report:

- The Town of Ashford has attained designation of a Pro Housing Community by NYS. Some of the criteria do not pertain to Ashford however to be eligible for grants, the designation is required.
- Rails to Trails did have a public hearing for Ashford residents regarding the trail going through Ashford. Residents spoke this evening.
- Resident Beverly Vogl extended thanks on behalf of the residents on Folts and Bolton Roads regarding the posted signs for reduced speed signage and Neighborhood watch.
- Cattaraugus County Office of Emergency Services is responding to recently enacted NYS legislation requiring counties in collaboration with municipalities and emergency medical services (EMS) agencies to develop a comprehensive EMS Plan to evaluate and strengthen EMS delivery throughout the county. Council Heim and Council J. Boberg will represent Ashford and attend the County meeting regarding this issue.
- The Teamsters Union has started negotiations for the Ashford Highway Department.

Highway Superintendent Report:

- Road striping on Felton Hill and Connoisarauley Road can be expected this month.
- White Street will have a temporary bridge installed by Cattaraugus County DPW this summer.
- Forks Road will have a new culvert when it arrives.
- CHIP projects are scheduled for August.
- The Highway Superintendent has advertised for a highway worker.

Amanda Lawrence, Summer Youth Recreation Director has reported 30 children have signed up for the summer program. Some of the highlights this year are swimming with Machias Youth recreation, trip to Burdick Blueberry Patch, and Bike Rodeo.

Andy Glick, EJ Prescott has been contacted for guidance with options regarding water meters.

RESOLUTION 55-2026
AUTHORIZE PLANNING BOARD TO ADDRESS ISSUES FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND SHORT-TERM RENTAL LOCAL LAW

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Pfeffer, J. Boberg, Heim, Proctor, M. Boberg
 Nays 0

Resolved the Ashford Town Board authorize the Ashford Planning Board to work on a short-term rental and now be it further
Resolved the Ashford Town Board authorize the Ashford Planning Board to incorporate crypto mining and data centers into zoning.

RESOLUTION 56-2026
AUTHORIZE A SPEED STUDY FOR THE PAVED SOUTH END OF BURNS HILL ROAD

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Pfeffer, J. Boberg, Heim, Proctor, M. Boberg
 Nays 0

Resolved the Ashford Town Board authorize a Te-9 be submitted to Cattaraugus County for a speed study to be conducted on the paved South end of Burns Hill Road.

RESOLUTION 57-2026
SUPPORT THE CATTARAUGUS COUNTY REAL PROPERTY SERVICE UPDATING THE 2027 ASSESSMENT ROLL

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Pfeffer, J. Boberg, Heim, Proctor, M. Boberg
 Nays 0

WHEREAS, the Ashford Town Board supports the efforts of Cattaraugus County’s Real Property Tax Services in updating the 2027 assessment roll to full-market value, and
WHEREAS, the Town feels that it is necessary to conduct a reassessment project of all properties to maintain a uniform standard of assessment for the Town; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Ashford, New York, the Town of Ashford hereby requests State assistance, specifically from the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services, to do a reassessment project to maintain a uniform standard of assessment in accordance with Section 305 of the Real Property Tax Law.

RESOLUTION 58-2026
APPROVAL OF GRANT WRITER

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Pfeffer, J. Boberg, Heim, Proctor, M. Boberg
 Nays 0

Resolved Ashford Town Board approved the grant writer to pay at a maximum of \$5,000 for the year 2026.

NYSPSC has sent white paper regarding a Clean Energy Zone where a proactive coordination between the State, developers, utilities, and community could facilitate the transmission projects. Ashford board members will follow this as it pertains to Ashford.

NYClass investments continue to prove beneficial to Ashford in all accounts.

New York State has made changes to the 458-a Alternative Veteran Exemption resulting in 100% exemption from property tax should the municipality pass local law allowing the exemption. The only veterans eligible are those who are 100% permanently and totally disabled which is different than a 100% disability rating.

A motion was made by M. Boberg seconded by J. Boberg and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 7:13pm. (All aye)

Patricia R. Dashnaw—Town Clerk