

Present:James P. Boberg, Council Deputy Supervisor

William J. Heim, Council

Collin J. Proctor, Council

VACANCY

Absent: John A. Pfeffer, Supervisor

Present:Patricia R. Dashnaw Town Clerk

Keith R. Butcher, Highway Superintendent

Larry Feldman, Code Enforcement Officer

Others present: Bryan Bower (DOE), Susan Feldman (TOA)

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 Supervisor presiding.

RESOLUTION 28-2026

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ADOPTED	Ayes	3	Boberg, Heim, Proctor
	Nays	0	

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

Bryan Bower reported current geotechnical sampling to determine proper materials and procedures moving forward with next phase.

RESOLUTION 29-2026

APPROVAL OF CONENSUS ITEMS

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

ADOPTED	Ayes	3	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. February Assessors Report | 6. February Audit of Claims: | | |
| 2. February Town Clerk Report | General Fund | No. 46 through 51 | \$125,603.84 |
| 3. February 11, 2026 Minutes | Highway Fund | No. 27 through 22 | \$115,465.49 |
| 4. February Supervisors Financial Report | Light District | No. 3 | \$956.34 |
| 5. February Code Enforcement Report | Trust & Agency Fund | No. 13 through 10 | \$17,660.57 |
| | Water District | No. 11 through 13 | \$14,961.84 |

Highway Superintendent Butcher reported signs are being built to post approved speed reductions on North Connoisarauley, Folts, and Bolton Roads. Butcher also reported this has been a costly winter regarding snow removal. Some equipment replacements should be researched.

Code Enforcement Feldman reported two building permits for February and the number of permits is increasing already in March.

Boberg reported the mandatory court audit to NYS Court Administration has been completed.

Muehler water meter representatives continue to be difficult to reach to rectify the problems of faulty meters. The warranty is ending soon and resolution is desired. Internet is still not working at the Pump House at Fire Hall.

RESOLUTION 30-2026

AUTHORIZE APRIL MEETING CHANGE

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

ADOPTED	Ayes	3	Boberg, Heim, Proctor
	Nays	0	

Resolved the Resolution 15-2026 previously changed April meeting of the Town Board be reverted back to the original meeting date of Wednesday, April 8th same time and location due to the Farmer Neighbor Dinner being a week later than anticipated.

RESOLUTION 31-2026

AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF PREAUDIT

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

ADOPTED	Ayes	3	Boberg, Heim, Proctor
	Nays	0	

Resolved Ashford Town Board authorize the addition of Popli Design Group to be paid as an approved bill for preaudit

RESOLUTION 32-2026

RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED \$25 UPSTATE VEHICLE REGISTRATION SURCHARGE

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

ADOPTED	Ayes	3	Boberg, Heim, Proctor
	Nays	0	

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the New York State Legislature by Assembly Transportation Committee Chair Bill Magnarelli proposing an additional \$25 vehicle registration surcharge on drivers residing outside the Metropolitan Transportation Authority region; and

WHEREAS, the proposal is modeled after the existing downstate vehicle registration surcharge dedicated to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority; and

WHEREAS, the proposed surcharge is projected to generate approximately \$125 million annually for upstate transit systems; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Town of Ashford and Cattaraugus County rely overwhelmingly on personal vehicles for employment, medical care, education, commerce, agriculture, and essential services due to the limited availability of fixed-route public transportation in rural communities; and

WHEREAS, vehicle ownership in rural Western New York is a necessity and not a discretionary expense, and many households maintain multiple vehicles in order to sustain employment and family responsibilities; and

(Resolution 32-2026 continued)

WHEREAS, reasonable estimates indicate that residents of Cattaraugus County could collectively contribute in excess of \$1.5 million annually under the proposed surcharge, without any statutory guarantee that an equivalent or proportional amount would be returned to the County; and
WHEREAS, Cattaraugus County’s 2026 budget reflects approximately \$21 million in Medicaid expenditures, and mandated spending accounts for more than 80 percent of the County tax levy, leaving limited fiscal flexibility for local priorities; and
WHEREAS, residents of rural communities have already experienced significant cost pressures including inflation, rising energy costs, and state-imposed mandates; and
WHEREAS, the Town Board believes that imposing an additional flat registration surcharge constitutes a regressive funding mechanism that disproportionately impacts rural and working families who have no viable alternative to personal vehicle use;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Ashford hereby formally opposes the proposed \$25 upstate vehicle registration surcharge; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board urges the Governor and the New York State Legislature to reject this proposal and instead pursue transportation funding solutions that are equitable, transparent, and reflective of regional differences in infrastructure and service availability; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board calls upon the State to examine alternative funding mechanisms that do not disproportionately burden rural residents who lack meaningful access to public transit; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of New York, members of the New York State Senate and Assembly representing Cattaraugus County, and the Cattaraugus County Legislature.

RESOLUTION 33-2026
RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PRO-HOUSING COMMUNITIES PLEDGE AMENDING RESOLUTION

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

ADOPTED Ayes 3 Boberg, Heim, Proctor
 Nays 0

WHEREAS, the Town of Ashford (hereinafter “local government”) believes that the lack of housing for New York residents of all ages and income levels negatively impacts the future of New York State’s economic growth and community well-being;
WHEREAS, the housing crisis has negative effects at regional and local levels, we believe that every community must do their part to contribute to housing growth and benefit from the positive impacts a healthy housing market brings to communities;
WHEREAS, we believe that supporting housing production of all kinds in our community will bring multiple benefits, including increasing housing access and choices for current and future residents, providing integrated accessible housing options that meet the needs of people with sensory and mobility disabilities, bringing economic opportunities and vitality to our communities, and allowing workers at all levels to improve their quality of life through living closer to their employment opportunities;
WHEREAS, we believe that evidence showing that infill development that reduces sprawl and supports walkable communities has significant environmental and public health benefits; and
WHEREAS, we believe that affirmatively furthering fair housing and reducing segregation is not only required by law, but is essential for keeping our community strong and vibrant;
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED Town of Ashford, in order to take positive steps to alleviate the housing crisis, adopts the Pro-Housing Communities pledge, which will have us endeavor to take the following important steps:
1. Streamlining permitting for multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.
2. Adopting policies that affirmatively further fair housing.
3. Incorporating regional housing needs into planning decisions.
4. Increasing development capacity for residential uses.
5. Enacting policies that encourage a broad range of housing development, including multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing

At 6:15pm Deputy Supervisor Boberg instructed Town Clerk to open bids for the Town wide Trash pickup. One bid was submitted as follows:

	<u>Company</u>	<u>Bid</u>
1.	MRC Disposal, Inc. 71 Nason Blvd, Springville, NY	\$19,979.00

RESOLUTION 34-2026
AWARD OF BID—TOWN TRASH PICK UP

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

ADOPTED Ayes 3 Boberg, Heim, Proctor
 Nays 0

Resolved MRC Disposal, Inc., be awarded the contract for 2026 Town Trash Pickup for \$19,979 to be scheduled in May after discussion with MRC.

Deputy Supervisor Boberg instructed the Town Clerk to open bids for the Cemetery Mowing. Two bids submitted as follows:

	<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1.	EB Landscaping 5637 Heinz Road, West Valley	\$7,800 Season
2.	Delio Landscaping 153 S. Main Street, Cattaraugus	\$7,720 Season

RESOLUTION 35-2026
AWARD OF BID—MOWING

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

ADOPTED Ayes 3 Boberg, Heim, Proctor
 Nays 0

Resolved Ashford Board award the contract to Delio Landscaping pending confirmation bid meets specifications.

A motion was made by Proctor seconded by Heim and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 6:20pm. (All aye)