

New Ashford Select Board Meeting

May 4, 2015

Meeting opened at 6:32

Selectmen Present: Jason Jayko, Ken McInerney, Mark Phelps

Residents: Dick Demyer, Chuck Morrone, Lori Trottier, Keith LaCasse, John Haig Sr.

1. Town Clerk - The board questioned why the street listing, election and caucus information mailing has not gone out yet. Lori said she sends out the election/caucus information as a courtesy. It was sent to people with dog licenses. Lori was waiting for Wired West info before she sent out the street listing document. Ken had e-mailed her back saying that Wired West information should not be included. Jason requested the street listing be sent out.

The board asked for an update on the town report. Lori stated that it is the Secretary's job. The town bylaws state that it is the Town Clerk's responsibility. Lori said a select board in the past changed who does the report from the Town Clerk to the Secretary and it should be in past minutes. However, she does not know where those minutes are. Lori will locate the minutes and give them to the board.

When asked why she has not been responding to e-mails, Lori said she has a lot going on right now.

2. Tree Warden – The board is still looking for someone to take the position. Chuck Morrone said he had a tree at the edge of his property marked in January as a danger to Mallery Rd. However, what was actually cut down was an unmarked, healthy tree at the end of his driveway. The unsafe tree is still there and there's another down the hill. Chuck offered to step in as interim tree warden for the rest of the fiscal year as he is not here year round. Mark Phelps made a motion, seconded by Ken, that Chuck be appointed as tree warden for the rest of the fiscal year.
The goal is to get the trees to the ground safely and any company hired to do so must have workmen's comp and insurance.
3. Building Inspector – Jason has not heard back from the state. He will call daily until he gets a response. It was difficult to get a response last time. He has also not received a response from Jeff about the hotel. Ken will contact Jeff.
4. Town Budget - Review of budget. Berkshire Regional Purchasing \$600 – level funded. Chuck says they do the heating oil. Ken will look into that this year. Cemetery increase to \$1,000 for mowing, tree work, etc. There is an increase in the road and bridges account as a lot of work needs to be done. Selectmen currently make \$1000 per year, increased to \$3000 to be on par with the other positions in town. Lots of tree removal work is necessary. Veteran's chap 115 – 1 percent increase. Dick Demyer, Veteran Services Officer, confirmed this and said he has been working with the state so he can get his monthly reports filled out and he should be done by the end of the week. The town should receive the first of its veteran reimbursements in July. Wired west bond – total cost \$700,000, state contribution \$280,000, town contribution is \$420,000. Fy 2016 Wired West expenses zero, the first borrowing year is \$105,000 fy 17, \$210,000 fy 18, \$105,000 fy19. The current proposed fy 16 budget is \$616,882.57.

Planning board \$750, will they need more if subdivision rules and regulation need extra attention? Regional Planning commission can help, but if it's more specific, it will start costing more.

5. Broadband - Wired West meeting May 6 at the firehouse at 6:30. Jason will attend the Wired West meeting Saturday, May 9th, in Egremont.
6. Road Commissioner - Keith LaCasse verified with Tri Town that they will do winter road recovery paving on White Rd. of 700 feet. Two culverts need to be lowered and will be paid for out of the winter roads account. It will cost \$1000 to do the culverts. Tri town estimates \$6465 – which comes from pothole recovery money. \$10,000 estimate to partially pave Beach Hill Road. Chapter 90 money will be used to mill down Mallery Road. Millings will be put on Greylock Road. There's logging on Beach Hill so he cannot put the millings there. We have the ok from the state to put a bid out on the Mallery Road milling and repaving. Culvert on Roys Road needs to be strapped back up. Roads will be opened to Mount Greylock on May 16th per DCR.
7. Public Comment and any other subjects for consideration - Mount Greylock Advisory Committee is replacing two gates this year. At Jone's Nose and the campground. Chuck – 8 -9 years ago the town received money from FEMA. \$ 71.68 is still in that account and could be applied to the road accounts. In December, Chuck put in bills for old school house, but noticed that the money did not get taken out of the schoolhouse account. The board will follow up with Michelle Callahan, town accountant. Dick Demyer asked when the cemetery will be opened. Keith said he will open it this week. Mt Greylock Advisory Council – Mark reported that his father attended and enjoyed the last meeting.

Minutes - Mark Phelps moved to approve the minutes as amended and printed 4/20/2015.

Motion seconded by Ken.

Minutes from 4/6/2015 - Ken made a motion to approve minutes as amended. Mark seconded.

Minutes from 4/24/2015 - Motion made by Mark to approve the minutes as amended.

Seconded by Ken.

Next meeting is May 18, 2015 at 6:30. The May 6 Wired West meeting is posted.

Review of the warrant and the mail.

Meeting closed at 8:24, on a motion from Ken second by Jason.