

New Ashford Select Board Meeting

May 18, 2015

Board Members Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Ken McInerney, Mark Phelps

Others Present: Chuck Morrone, Dick Demyer, Max LaCasse, Keith LaCasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Town Clerk – The town clerk did not complete the town report. Jason put it together, Lori J printed it off.

The town clerk has not produced the minutes that show the town report is the secretary's job. It is in the town bylaws that the town clerk is responsible for doing the town report.

The town report does not get approved before the town, however, warrant items can be amended during the town meeting. The town clerk used to report births, deaths, marriages. It would be helpful to list board members and when terms expire.

The town clerk and other town officials need an itemized list of responsibilities. All the records are the responsibility of the town clerk.

The town should have a book that defines the town clerk position. Dick Demyer will research what the state says the town clerk is responsible for and he will present it to the board at the next meeting.

2. Annual Town Report –Copies are available, done by Jason and Lori J. The town report is required to be filed with the state by the town clerk. School committee report in the future could provide a list of the number of students in each grade. There should be copies of old town reports in the town clerk's office. Are they there?

3. Wired West: The town achieved the 40% pledge rate. Next, the bond approval vote at town meeting needs a 2/3's majority to pass and a majority vote on the ballot for the proposition 2 ½ override. Wired West needs a copy of the town warrant sent to them.

4. Building Inspector: There is no news from Jeff Clemons, however, he will continue with the position on a month to month basis. Ken will call him about the Springs hotel.

5. Road Commissioner: Keith – Greylock Rd needs some attention but it is passable, the state has not opened the gate. White Road – The culverts will be lowered this week to get paving done in June. Roys Road is open. The cemetery is open. The new grave needs some maintenance and the cemetery needs work. Winter Road Recovery paperwork needs to be completed by July 1 and paid by September. That money will be reimbursed.

6. Public Comment and any other subjects for consideration:

Chuck Morrone, Tree Warden: Received three sealed bids for tree removal, opened by the Select Board. All bids were based on the same written specifications from the tree warden. Bid one: Troy's Tree Service and Property Maintenance – \$3,800. Bid two: Greater Heights Tree and Land Management – \$8,975. Bid three: KLC - \$5,000. Discussion of the bids: There was some concern about Troy's bid being low. However, the recommendation for Troy's came from a friend of Chuck's who was pleased with their work. Mark made a motion to accept the lowest bidder, seconded by Jason, to complete the tree work as specified by the tree warden with the allowance to spend up to \$1665 more on trees not included in the original bid. The board thanked Chuck for his work on this.

Ken made a motion, seconded by Mark to authorize Keith LaCasse up to, and not to exceed, \$840 for tree removal from the cemetery.

Dick Demyer attended the Northern Berkshire Waste Management Meeting and has information on what can be recycled, paint recycling, and household hazardous waste. Jason will post the information on the town website and Stephen Demyer will hand it out during recycling hours. At the meeting the representatives from each town voted to use grant money, \$500 from each town, collectively put together to buy a roll off container. The process for our town: the town gives a check to Northern Berkshire Solid Waste. They purchase the roll off and we will get a receipt. We send out the form and get reimbursed – a 90 day turn around. It will be after July 1. Mark made a motion to provide the \$500 to Northern Berkshire Solid Waste towards the purchase of a roll-off container, Ken seconded. Dick reported that there is a new closed landfill regulation, 310 cmr 19.018, that closed landfills require an inspection, every two years at the cost of the community. The estimated cost of inspection is a low of \$3000 per landfill and has to be done by a licensed inspector. It's unclear if it will be FY16 or FY17. The town has a donation from Snowy Owl for landfill closure of \$8,574 that could be used if necessary.

Letter from Lanesboro, Paul Seiloff – would like a \$500 donation towards their American Legion Food Pantry. Dick – we know of no town residents that use the pantry. The board will take no action.

Chuck noted that the hotel is trying to sell their out buildings separately. The Select Board is aware and has already contacted town council and the building inspector.

Chuck – the fire department water coming out of the town hall pipe was rusty, dirty water. A toilet running over night may have caused the problem. Keith recommended having the water tested since the town hall is the designated emergency center. The board thanked the fire department for helping with the Clarksburg forest fire.

Update on Veteran's Account – Dick fixed his problem with being able to file his reports with the state. The town should see the first reimbursement on June 30th.

Max - Hazard Mitigation Grant. Called Berkshire Regional Planning, but has to call back. We do not have a current plan and Max is looking into what it will take to make a plan. There would be a cost incurred from Berkshire Regional Planning. He will report back.

The town accountant has credited the correct account for the school house repairs.

West Oil estimate for furnace maintenance: cleaning and bearings replacement, \$450. Ken will call West to schedule. Ken will also call Berkshire Purchasing Group and will lock in an oil agreement with whichever has the lower price.

Budget discussion – The reason for the budget increase this year is due to increases in the tree removal account, road and bridges account, and select board salary.

Review of the warrant.

7. Approve Select Board Minutes for May 4th, 2015 – Motion to approve the minutes from May 4, 2015 made by Mark, seconded by Ken.

8. Next Meeting Date: June 1st, 2015 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:05