

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
October 16, 2017

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps, Ken McInerney
Others Present: Joan Wilkinson, Everett Martin, Richard Demyer, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at: 6:30

1. Public Comment: Richard Demyer, Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District Delegate, brought paperwork for the town's \$500 grant. Thirteen towns are receiving the grant and NBSWD will use the money to buy a comingle dumpster. The District's contract with Tam is up next year. The Board signed the grant contract paperwork and gave it to Lori J. to mail. The District Coordinator is getting certified and will instruct the recycling attendants, at a one day course, so they will also be certified. The attendants will be paid for their time. The overall inspection of sites is happening in the next 60 days. Richard is working towards getting New Ashford to the next step of getting a \$750 grant yearly, instead of the \$500.
2. Trick or Treat Hours: The board set the trick or treat hours as 5:00 p.m – 7:00 p.m. on Halloween.
3. Assessor: Everett Martin, Assessor, gave an update on the tax classification hearing. Ryan Johnson, from the DOR, spent the day with Everett but has not done his field work yet. This will be worked on over the next two weeks. Everett has been the assessor for over 28 years and would like to stay on for one more year. Jason talked to CollectPro and learned about the upfront cost of \$8,500. Everett suggested that the conversion of the motor vehicle excise, tax titles, real estate, and personal property bills, which costs \$6,000, might be able to be done by the town. The board would like Everett to print out the real estate bills this year. The CollectPro representative will be invited to the November 20th meeting. Jason will post on the town website that tax bills will be delayed. Everett has been checking the records on the Patriot Property System and making corrections. Jason will ask Patriot about printing the real estate tax bills.
4. Tax Collector: Joan Wilkinson, Tax Collector, gave the Board an update on the outstanding real estate taxes. Ken will contact the people on the list that have likely paid and then the board would like Joan to send demand notices. The Board thanked Joan for her work. There was a discussion of how CollectPro might affect the deputy tax collector, as he prints the motor vehicle excise bills.
5. Veterans: Richard Demyer, Veterans Services Officer, provided an update. A veterans' benefits recipient moved out of town on the 22nd of September. She is in refund status to the town, as she did not pay her rent and also did not report earning income. Her refund amount will be around \$2,146. She can either make arrangements with Richard to make monthly payments back to the town or she can make arrangements with her new town (North Adams) to pay us in full and then have that amount deducted from her benefits. She has 21 days to file an appeal to the refund status.

Richard will be sending a letter to the veterans' benefits recipients that they need to report all income to the VSO.

Richard reported that Travis Demyer is the new General Manager of The Springs Motel.

6. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse was not present. The Board received an e-mail from Lynn Steinhoff concerning the cleaning of the culverts and road patching on Beach Hill Road. The gate on Greylock Road needs to be moved. Jason will call Keith.

7. Village Ambulance: Jason will invite them to attend the next meeting.

8. Town Flag: No report.

9. Broadband: There is a Wired West meeting Wednesday night. Jason and Ken cannot attend. Pole surveys are being done. Verizon received the pole agreement forms.

9. Any other Board subjects for consideration: Mark talked to Nate Karns, from Berkshire Regional Planning, about the town's plowing Mountain Pond Lane. He said it has to be put on the ballot at town election, but it sets a precedent for plowing all shared driveways. The road is not figured into the Chapter 90 formula.

Jason will add winter road closures to the agenda for the next meeting.

Mark called Margaret Carnevale about the fire tower road and suggested using the sheriff departments' work crew to fix the road/water bars.

10. Approve the minutes from October 2, 2017. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from October 2, 2017 were approved.

11. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next Meeting November 6, 2017 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25