

New Ashford Select Board Meeting

November 7, 2016

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

Others Present: Rachel Branch, Keith LaCasse, Lori Jayko, Chuck Morrone, Dick Dassatti, Michelle Singer, Kurt Singer, Wayne Buckley, Alex Benko

Meeting opened at 7:00

1. North County Cares Coalition: Dick Dassatti, co-chair of North County Cares Coalition, a group of citizens advocating for a full service hospital in North Adams. The Coalition is currently focusing on the opioid crisis and the need for more beds for rehab in the area, specifically at the old North Adams hospital. North Adams, Adams, Clarksburg, Williamstown, and Florida have all passed resolutions asking Berkshire Health Systems and elected officials to meet the needs of Northern Berkshire County, starting with detox facilities. The next step, should the board choose, is to adopt a resolution and forward it to officials at BHS and to elected government officials. The board would like to see the resolutions from the other towns.

2. Road Commissioner: Keith LaCasse. Keith will contact the state about the potential for flooding at the bottom of the climbing lane on Route 7 due to beaver activity.

Keith purchased twenty-five bags of calcium from LP Adams. When the town pays the bill, make the check out without the taxes and include a copy of the tax exempt number.

Keith received the bill for the crack sealing. He got three loads of salt from Cargill.

Keith will put a culvert in between Greylock and Roys roads. Millings will be placed.

Greylock Road looks good. Ditch work will be done next week. Road patching will be done Thursday.

Mike Holden can build gates for \$3000-\$3500. The board would like to hold off on this.

Work on Smith Road will be determined based on state aid in the spring and the cost of the Beach Hill paving.

Keith is going to ask the school bus driver to turn around at the top of Beach Hill Road as the current spot used for turning around is difficult to plow.

3. Greylock/Bauer Road-Mass Works: Ken. An invoice has not been received for the millings application on Greylock Road. Ken had a teleconference with Jacqueline Furtado, to update her. Ken will call the botanist to get the final report.

4. Building Inspector Fees: Don Torrico, Building Inspector, responded to the board's feedback/concerns on the fee schedule including how the estimated values are done (compared with square footage) and what is required for building plans to obtain a permit. Plumbing and electric inspection fees will be removed from the fee schedule. Ken made a motion to accept the building permit fee schedule from the town of Adams, seconded by Mark.

Permit fees will be paid to Adams.

5. Community Choice Aggregation: Will be put on the next meeting, waiting to hear back from legal counsel.

6. Town Hall Access: A Girl Scout troop has asked to use the town hall for their meetings. A resident would like to use the town hall for a homeschooling group.

Ken will talk to the town insurance company about liability. A schedule of building use will be on the town website. Mark made a motion to make a policy that the town hall is available for nonprofit group use, seconded by Ken, contingent on the town insurance company's input. It is expected that anyone using the town hall will leave it the way they find it.

7. Solar: Ken will follow up.

8. Council on Aging: Has to be put out to vote at a town meeting.

9. MBI/WW Update: Jason left a voicemail for the Charter representative. Jason will ask if fiber lines can be run instead of copper.

The next Wired West meeting is 11/12/16 in Goshen, followed by a 12/10 meeting, likely in Ashfield.

The town's options moving forward: Go with MBI, go on our own and make a project plan for MBI to approve, or stay with Wired West. Concerns with the Wired West model are the amount of time it will take to get services and the cost to the tax base. The board also has concerns over the manpower involved with the town's owning its own network through the MBI model.

Jason talked to Todd, from MBI. They reviewed the sustainability worksheet and submitted it.

Town resident, Alex Benko, would like to help with technology issues.

Public Comment and any other subjects for consideration:

Michelle Singer, town accountant, has uploaded everything she can to Gateway for the tax rate and needs some information from the town clerk. The tax rate needs to be approved before the tax classification hearing. The new Tax Classification Hearing will be Tuesday, November 15 at 6:00.

Chuck Morrone, historical commission, gave the board paperwork about the Old Schoolhouse.

Wayne Buckley, fire chief, is getting a donated fire truck for the department from the Town of Riverdale, NJ. It's from 1981 with 27,000 miles on it. Wayne travelled to NJ and checked it out. He will hire a low-boy to pick it up and has contacted the insurance company to get the truck added to the policy.

Riverdale requested a letter of thank you to their mayor and town council. The board will write a thank you.

The Fire Department will submit the grant paperwork to AFG by the 18th.

Jason has paperwork to fill out for the CommBuys registration.

The FEMA grant has been extended. Max LaCasse found used jersey barriers in Boston, and is following up with them.

The cemetery will be closed for the season in the next two days.

The roads that get closed for the winter will be done by Thanksgiving.

Ken will ask the state again to blow the leaves off Greylock Road.

There is a tree down on Bauer Road that poses a safety hazard. Keith estimates it would take around \$300 to drop the tree.

The town never received the shared mower for the sides of the road. Ken will send a letter to Dalton requesting a refund.

The board is sending a thank you letter to Mary Jane Zimmerman for her donation towards refinishing the desks from the Old Schoolhouse.

The Board thanked Chuck for his work with the Old Schoolhouse and the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Approve minutes from October 24, 2016. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes were approved as amended.

Next meeting November 21, 2016 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01