

New Ashford Select Board Meeting

April 18, 2017

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps

Absent: Ken McInerney

Others Present: Keith LaCasse, Lori Trottier, Everett Martin, Richard Demyer, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Public comment and any other subjects for consideration: None

2. Recycling: Richard Demyer, Delegate to Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District, reported that a survey done in 2010 found that 37% of the town uses the recycling bins. Stephen Demyer, Recycling Attendant, says about 18 different people use the recycling on Saturdays. It is also used during the week. According to Linda Cernik at NBSWD, 3.4 tons of scrap metal were collected last year for a profit of \$171.50. 10.02 tons of mixed recycling were picked up. The amount seems like more than a town this size should be producing. Recycling gets picked up about every three months. NBSWD holds the contract with TAM, which has one more year. Richard will buy locks for the recycling bins and will give the board the spare key, to prevent people from out of town using the facilities. There will be a paint drive. NBSWD will give informational flyers. If the town places a clothing collection bin, it will receive a \$500 yearly credit. The board would like Richard to arrange this.

3. Road Commissioner: The board would like Keith LaCasse, Road Commissioner, to replace the railings on the bridge at the north end of Roys Road. Keith filled in the potholes at the bridge and made a quick drainage fix. He will put cold patch there. Keith has used road millings in the past and they lasted about a year. A black top apron would solve the problem. Keith will look at the gate on Greylock Road to determine how much it will cost to move it. The gate will need to be replaced when it is moved. The money from the MEMA grant, secured by Emergency Management Director, Max LaCasse, will provide 30 cement blocks, delivered. The blocks are 2 feet wide, 3 feet high, 6 feet long, and are tongue in groove. They will be placed on the sides of the gate to keep people from driving around it. Keith, Max, and Mark Phelps went to an equipment show in NY, where they learned about equipment for crack sealing. It costs \$3000 for a trailer, pump system, and applicator. The crack sealant costs around \$300 for a 50 gallon drum. Keith will talk to the other road superintendents to see if another town would like to join us in purchasing this equipment. The town will not need to crack seal this year, but probably next year. We currently pay \$10,000 for each crack sealing job. (The company will not come out for less, so we have to save up the crack sealing work until we have that much to do.) Keith will get three sealed bids to fix Smith Road before the end of FY17. When we pave Beach Hill Road, we will specify that we want a reverse milling machine. There are only a couple machines in the north east.

Keith called Cargill about the salt. It costs \$88.93/ton delivered. Keith will order \$13,000 worth of salt and will open the roads on the same day that the salt is delivered (as he will have the rented loader in town). There have been some inquiries about opening the roads, however the roads are still soft and the board would like Keith to wait.

The Berkshire Purchasing Group wants to know how much heating oil we need for next year. Jason will call West Oil and let Keith know. The fire station can also use this for their propane. Keith will talk to Wayne Buckley, Fire Chief.

The resident on White Road, who previously asked the town to place a culvert he has, now wants the town to provide the culvert. Keith will put in a smaller depression instead, when he goes to complete the brush and berm work.

Keith reviewed the RFP bid package for the Greylock/Bauer road project and suggested specifying the amount of base material for project 3 as 6". On project 1, Keith advises to be more specific about where to drop the trees.

4. Budget: Richard Demyer, Veteran's Services Officer, recommends a Veteran's budget for \$7771.23 for FY18.

The board questioned why \$3000 is necessary for the election account during a non-election year. Lori Trottier, Town Clerk, explained that in some years, unforeseen special elections are necessary.

Everett Martin, Town Assessor, said there is no need for a budget override. There are two new houses for new growth. Everett will start his field work next week, because it's a recertification year, and asked that it be published on the town website that he will be looking at properties.

Gus reported that last year the town had \$96,000 excess levy capacity.

Everett charges \$750 for billing. This will be moved from the assessor's expense to help cover the CollectPro \$1500 fee. Assessor's expense for FY18 will be \$1250.

The FY18 proposed budget is \$726,218.

5. Town Warrant: The board would like to keep the article transferring \$35,000 from free cash to stabilization. The Assessor will be authorized to use \$30,000 from free cash to reduce the tax rate. Jason will forward the town warrant to Town Council. Once approved, three signed copies will be given to the town clerk.

6. Approve minutes: Minutes from April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 2017, were approved on a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason.

7. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting tentatively May 1, 2017 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:18