

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
April 28, 2017

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps, Ken McInerney
Others Present: Lori Trotter, John Leary, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 1:02

1. Budget Approval: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the FY 18 budget was approved for \$725,221.83.

2. Annual Town Warrant: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the annual town meeting warrant was approved as printed. The board signed the warrant and gave it to the Town Clerk, who will take it to the Constable for posting.

3. Westfield Gas and Electric Broadband Discussion: John Leary, IT Supervisor at Westfield Gas and Electric/Whip City Fiber, discussed the RFP that Whip City submitted to MBI. Westfield Gas and Electric is run by a municipal light board, which is a department of the city of Westfield. They have successfully completed a number of pilot projects in Westfield to provide internet. They currently have a 15 million dollar bond to bring internet to the rest of the city, with the goal of getting 75% of the city wired by the end of 2018. There are around 20,000 houses in Westfield. Their internet cost is \$69.95 for a gigabit a month. Whip City is also in the construction phase of providing internet to the town of Otis.

Whip City can work as New Ashford's agent and can do any/all of the following steps: pole survey, design phase, procurement, construction, and ISP. All decisions are made by the town. Once the project goes to bid, the price can be ascertained. The town can stop at any point in the process if not satisfied. If Whip City does all the steps of the process, they anticipate lighting up the first house in 18 months. If the board chooses to use Whip City, the first step is to get an Intergovernmental Agreement together. It needs to be signed by the MLPs of New Ashford and Westfield.

The state will pay for pole surveys and design per the town's grant money of \$280,000. There will be money left over from the grant to apply to construction, but the town will need to raise some money. Jason will e-mail John for the Intergovernmental Agreement.

Next meeting May 1, 2017 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30