

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
August 23, 2017

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

Others Present: Lisa Blackmer, Bill Blackmer, Richard Demyer, Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko
Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Paving Bids: One bid was received for the Beach Hill Road paving project. The sealed bid from The Lane Construction Corporation was opened and read aloud. The total bid amount was \$173,470. Keith Lacasse, Road Commissioner, recommended putting the project back out to bid in the spring. Mark made a motion to reject the bid, based on its being more than anticipated and more than we have to spend, seconded by Ken.

2. Public Comment: Lisa Blackmer, candidate for state representative, introduced herself, talked about why she is running for state representative, and answered some questions from the board. Her website is www.lisablackmer.com. She discussed the importance of broadband, increased state trooper coverage, higher payments by the state to towns for state owned land, regionalization of education, and Veteran's Chapter 115 issues. The Democratic primary is October 10th.

3. Veterans: Richard Demyer, Veterans Services Officer, has gotten the forms signed for case three and the security deposit was authorized. The security deposit will be issued to Richard to dispense at his discretion. If it is disbursed, he will get a written receipt. He has been trying to talk to the owner of The Springs to get an inspection. Payment was authorized for 11 days in July for \$262.69. August's payment is \$768.61. The treasurer is to mail all veteran's checks to Richard and he will hand deliver them and get a signature of receipt from the recipients. Richard needs to be certified as a Veterans Services Officer by the state, by taking an exam. If he does not get certified, the town will only receive 50% reimbursement from the state. On October 23rd, there is a three-day mandatory training program in eastern Massachusetts that will require a hotel stay. An increase to The Veterans Services Officer's expense account will be added to the Special Town Meeting Warrant. The Building Inspector will follow up with the owner of The Springs motel about the lack of building permit for subdividing the end apartment. The Springs motel may owe back taxes which will also be pursued.

4. Road Commissioner: Keith LaCasse, reported that the mowing of the sides of the roads was done on Ingraham and Cemetery Roads. Mowing will be completed on August 24th. He cannot mow on Greylock Road because of the trucks that are working there. Condron expects to be finished with the gravel by the end of the week. The culverts below the gate need to be done. The botanist needs to be present for the guardrail installation. Keith priced out gates. A four-inch tube stock gate installed by Condron is \$3800. A 3 X 6 tube stock gate built by Mike Holden is \$3000 plus installation. Ken has not heard back from the Sherriff's Department about culvert cleaning on Beach Hill Road. He will check again. Keith will clean the culverts that the Sherriff's Department cannot take care of. There was no news about trees in the last few storms. Keith will patch the potholes.

5. Special Town Meeting: The Board reviewed drafts of the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on September 12, 2017 at 7:00. The warrant will include an article requesting a \$1,200 stipend for the Veterans Services Officer. A fifth article will be added for training expenses for the Veteran's Services Officer of \$1,000. The warrant will be posted by Friday.

6. Candidate Forum: Mark Phelps is organizing a State Representative Candidate Forum. The forum is tentatively planned for Saturday, September 16, from 9 – 12 at the Town Hall. Mark will contact the candidates.

7. Broadband: There is a kick-off meeting with Westfield Gas and Electric on August 29, 2017.

8. Any other subjects for consideration: The Tax Collector sent the board a list of outstanding taxes. Jason will contact her about verifying the list.

Ken will contact Amy Kohlenberger, previous Tax Collector, about the laptop that needs to be turned over to the current Tax Collector.

Keith gave an update from Max Lacasse, Emergency Management Director. The items available for purchase through the emergency management grant have to be portable, therefore, the grant cannot be used towards a stationary generator.

Ken received an email from Clean Earth Inc, requesting information about the landfill. Ken will send them Linda Cernik's, from Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District, contact information.

Ken completed the requested deer population survey on 8/8.

Richard mentioned that logging is still happening on Beach Hill Road.

A septic project in town was filed with The Board of Health and will be filed with the Conservation Commission.

Keith got an e-mail from Berkshire County Purchasing about the lock-in price for heating oil of \$2.01. Ken will check the lock-in price with West Oil and will also schedule a cleaning.

The board questioned the billing of mowing of the town hall and schoolhouse lawns. The treasurer will look up the records.

9. Approve Minutes from August 7, 2017: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from August 7, 2017 were approved.

10. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting date September 5, 2017 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:45