

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
August 7, 2017

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

Others Present: Richard Demyer, Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko, Chuck Morrone, Max Lacasse, Frank Youngkin, Sherry Youngkin

Meeting opened at 6:31

1. Public Comment: Chuck Morrone, Historical Commission, reviewed the town flag design that Cindy Grosso made and explained the discrepancy in town founding dates between the town seal, state website, and town road signs. The board would like the flag to say settled in 1762. Ken is going to check with someone who used to make flags to see if he could make the town flag.

The Council on Aging gave the board the paperwork for the annual grant. Ken will read and sign it, and get it back to Sherry Youngkin.

2. Veterans: Richard Demyer, Veterans Services Officer, reported that case three won the appeal. Retro pay was denied. Richard will restart the paperwork and get it approved by the state. He estimates a worst case scenario of needing \$21,000 more than the approved FY 18 Veterans' budget. The current approved amount for FY 18 is \$7771.23. A special town meeting is going to be held for the Veterans' account, BRTA request for the COA, and the additional \$700 for the Fire Department budget. The board will start working on the warrants for a special town meeting, tentatively for September 12th at 7:00. The board will consider creating a revolving fund for the Veteran's account for FY 19.

Richard asked if the Springs Inn is in good standing with the town. The Springs has requested a security deposit. According to an e-mail from the Tax Collector, The Springs may not be up to date on its tax payments. The Town Clerk and the Planning Board have no documentation allowing the dividing of the end apartment. The building inspector will request this documentation from the motel owner.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse replaced the guard rails on Roys Road. He turned in a bill from Fastenal for the bolts and from LP Adams for the wood.

He has the shared mower for the sides of the roads. Beech Hill Road and south is done.

The Beech Hill Road Chapter 90 project was advertised in the Berkshire Eagle on August 6th and will appear in the Central Register on August 9th. Jason will post it on CommBuys. Bids will be opened on August 23rd.

Keith took down the trees on Greylock and Bauer Roads. The botanist says to remove any wood that falls down. Condron has started work.

Keith talked to the logger at the top of Beach Hill Road. He said he'll be doing about a load a week for years. Keith recommends posting the road with a weight limit in the spring time. Jason will contact legal counsel and will look at Sturbridge's by-laws.

Keith will get a new sign for Ingraham Road.

The board received an e-mail from Lynn Steinhoff on August 4th about the culverts on Beach Hill Road. She has concerns about West Nile Virus. The culverts will be cleaned out when mowing is finished. Ken will look into getting the sheriff department's program to clean out the culverts. A culvert may need to be added near the Jennings' driveway.

4. Snow Plow Contract: Jason provided the revised contract to board. Lori Jayko will post it in the Berkshire Eagle for bid opening on September 5th.

5. Broadband: There will be a kick-off meeting with Westfield Gas and Electric on August 29th from 10:00 – 1:00. The MBI grant letter was re-signed (after the first one was lost in transit) and sent back in. Lori Jayko will contact Clark Rowell, financial advisor. The \$280,000 grant money will be used first. Jason is going to ask Westfield for a potential monthly cost to compare figures to Wired West's computations.

Wired West has an MLP and delegate conference in Heath, on September 22. They will discuss information pertaining to building and operating networks and their new MOU and legal notes.

6. Any other subjects for consideration: Building Inspector, Don Torrico, is going to be on vacation 8/12 to 8/28 asked the board to appoint John Carchedi as an alternate building inspector for that time. Mark made a motion to appoint John Carchedi as an alternate building inspector while Don Torrico is on vacation, seconded by Ken. Don will send John's information to Lori Trottier.

Jason is working with Don on the Springs Inn. The town has no paperwork on file to subdivide the end apartment.

Jason filled out the first two forms for the 2020 census and gave it to the Town Clerk to fill out.

The town received the \$2,200 emergency management grant money

The Tax Collector has not received the laptop from Amy Kohlenberger. The Tax Collector sent a list of unpaid taxes to the board.

Max Lacasse, Emergency Management Director, will start the paperwork for the emergency management grant. It is due September 15th. He suggested using the grant money to purchase a generator. The town would need to pay for connectivity. The generator can be used for the internet hut that will be in town. Jason will mention this at the meeting with Westfield Gas and Electric. The free, used generator that the Fire Chief found is a 12 cylinder diesel. This is not the best option for the town.

Jason received an e-mail from the Fire Chief that the department did not receive the grant for the tanker truck.

The shed for the sand pile could be built with the new blocks received from the MEMA grant.

7. Approve minutes from July 24, 2017. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes were approved. Ken abstained.

8. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting August 23, 2017 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:21