

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
March 21, 2016

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

Others Present: Dick Demyer, Joe Nawazelski, Keith LaCasse, Mike Capadona, Dylan Keating, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:31

1. Fire Department - The board would like an update on the status of 911 service discussions with Williamstown. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

2. Building Inspector - Legal counsel reviewed and made suggestions to the draft document from the town of Adams for New Ashford's contracting a building inspector from them. Jason will return the document to Adams for their review. The board would like to change the starting date of the contract to April 1, 2016 from May 1, 2016, due to a new house being built in town. Mark made a motion to accept the contract as amended by town counsel with the start date changed to April 1, 2016, seconded by Ken.

3. Colonial Power - Mark Capadona from Colonial Power Group explained what a municipal aggregation is and what it can offer the town. Colonial Power would purchase energy on behalf of everyone in the town. This is an opt-out program, meaning everyone in town is included in the aggregation unless they choose not to be. Customers can also choose to opt back in if they change their minds. Benefits: no longer stuck with Eversource's rates, gives the townspeople control and stability, no penalties for consumers, leverage, pro-consumer, professional expertise of the aggregation, and green power options.

Steps of the program: pass at Town Meeting that the town is going to pursue aggregation as a concept, the board selects an aggregation plan, consultation with DOER, public hearing, get an order that the plan is ready, and then it goes out to bid. If the town does not like pricing, does not have to agree to it. This is for commercial and residential customers. \$.001 is the fee for the company added onto the price of energy to the customer, for example if the rate is \$.10 for electricity, the customer pays \$.101.

Mark Capadona can come to a meeting and explain this to the town residents.

4. Road Commissioner - Keith LaCasse - nothing new to report. Keith will take measurements on Greylock Road for the grant project, including guardrail cost.

Someone went around the block on Roys Road, cut a town tree, and damaged the road.

Vehicles went up Ingraham road, moved blocks, drove on personal property, and damaged the road.

There's a tree down on Bauer Road.

5. Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership - Mark Phelps attended a meeting last week where a first draft of the proposed legislation was reviewed and revised. Mark made a motion that the board support the legislation, seconded by Ken. The board will send the legislation support letter to the representatives. There was a study to determine the viability of a wood pellet plant in the area.

6. Budget – The budget was reviewed. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will be \$168.88 for FY17, Berkshire Regional Purchasing \$600, \$631.56 Northern Berkshire Solid Waste, Custodial Salary level funded.

7. Public Comment - Dick Demyer, Veteran's Service Officer, the town is caught up on the veteran's reports.

Jason reported there is a Wired West meeting March 22 in Washington and another meeting March 26.

Jason was contacted by Sertex LLC with information about getting communities set up with the last mile of broadband. A representative from Sertex will attend a meeting and present information to the board.

Mark read a story about Raynham getting cyber attacked with ransomware and is concerned about the cyber safety of our town.

Mark would like the board to contact state and federal legislators with a letter supporting an end to the practice of day light savings time.

Warrant was reviewed and signed.

Minutes from the March 7, 2016 meeting were approved as amended on a motion by Mark Phelps, seconded by Ken McInerney.

Next meeting April 4, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 8:53