

## New Ashford Select Board Meeting

October 6, 2016

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

Others Present: Keith LaCasse, Lori Jayko, Max LaCasse, Paul Seiloff, Kurt Singer

Meeting opened at 6:31

1. Road Commissioner: Keith LaCasse. The proposed work on Smith Road was put out to bid. One bid was received from Virgilio for \$38,500. Mark made a motion to refuse to accept the bid, seconded by Jason. The project will go out to bid again in the spring. Keith will patch Smith Road to get through the winter.

Keith purchased road signs from JMS and submitted the bill.

Keith filed the paperwork for the Chapter 90 reimbursement. \$5,997 was overpaid to Tri-town due to a fuel adjustment as computed by Kathy Stevens from DOT. Tri-town will return this to the town.

The Sheriff's Department's community service program weed-whacked and cleaned the culverts on Beach Hill Road. The Board will send a thank you and a donation. This program may also do painting and repairs to town buildings and might be an option for painting the town hall.

The shared mower, for the sides of the roads, is in Hancock.

The board should consider chipping the brush from the trees down on Beach Hill. It costs approximately \$1200-\$1400 for a day of chipping.

2. Greylock/Bauer Road – Mass Works: Ken reported that the town received the contract from the state that will allow the first phase of the work to be done, including the first ¾ mile of grading. Ken will meet with State worker Jacqueline Furtado every fourth Monday to give her an update. Tri-town will start work the 17<sup>th</sup>. When we get an invoice, we need to invoice the state.

Emily Stockman, botanist, owes a report about the priority plant habitat.

3. Building Inspector Fees: Don Torrico attended the previous meeting. Don has not sent the amended fee schedule. Jason will request it. The Board discussed the permit fees being based on construction costs vs. square footage. There is concern that construction cost is more subjective than square footage. The Board would like to table this issue until the next meeting requesting more information from Don, including his suggested rate for square footage.

a. MGL 148A adoption: Discussion of the law. The law allows the building inspector to deal with issues of noncompliance by issuing fines. Ken made a motion to adopt MGL 148A into the town bylaws. Jason supported. Mark abstained.

4. School Budget: Ken, the school committee met 9/26. There is a student who moved into town after the school committee went through the budgeting process, who requires special programming. There are no openings at Mount Greylock in the necessary program, so the student is attending in Pittsfield. The total cost of \$47,050, is for \$18,000 transportation, \$25,909.50 special tuition, \$3,140.50 regular tuition. Transportation is provided by taxi. Paul Seiloff called Kim Grady. There is a vehicle going to Pittsfield already and there is a possibility that our student could use that transportation also. A special warrant article may be necessary in May for overage in the school budget.

5. Community Choice Aggregation: There was a period of time of two weeks to receive public comments. None were received. The next step is for the board to vote on an aggregation plan. Jason will contact Mark from Colonial Power about the recent solar proposal that the town received.

6. Solar: Ken will follow up on this.

7. Council on Aging: We have not heard back about the grant application. Jason will check its status. A high-schooler in town has volunteered to do the needs assessment survey.

8. MBI/WW Update: There is a meeting the 13<sup>th</sup> in Charlemont at 3:00 given by a private company that wants to talk to the unserved towns. Jason will contact Charter again. Ken has not heard back from MIIA about the pole bond. Jason received an email from Todd requiring more input for MBI.

Public comment and any other subjects for consideration.

Kurt Singer – a fire arms safety class will be held November 6 at the town hall. They'd like a minimum of 10 people. Minimum age is 18. Cost is \$100 per person. Contact Kurt if interested. There is not a grace period anymore for Fire Arms ID card renewals.

Paul Seiloff, town administrator from Lanesboro, stated that Lanesboro is interested in partnering whenever we can. For example on ambulance service, or the COA – for \$7000 Lanesboro will open up all their COA services to us. Paul is a member of the Berkshire Municipal Managers Association. He recommended that the board consider having a town manager. It would cost approximately \$10,000 - \$12,000 a year for a one day a week position. Paul will send a job description to the board. A town manager would do things such as create the budget, scheduling, compliance – such as public records law.

Max LaCasse attended a meeting about the emergency management grant. It cannot be used to purchase gates, however it can be used to buy jersey barriers. Max has the grant applications from last year and this year and has this month to comply. He will get reimbursed from one before he can do the other. He is going to get a list from fire department for the 2016 grant and will use the other one on jersey barriers. He will talk to Mike Holden for price on steel to make our own gates. Max got the board chair's signature. If the town cannot get both grants, jersey barriers are the priority.

The board wrote a thank you letter for Richard Clermont, in honor of his many years of service to the town as police chief.

Warrant was reviewed and signed.

Approval of minutes from September 19, 2016. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason the minutes from the Tax Classification Hearing and the Select Board Meeting on September 19, 2016 were approved.

Next meeting October 24, 2016 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:25