

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
August 15, 2016

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

Others Present: Kathy Bowler, Kerry Lahey, Peter Traub, Anna Farnams, Brian O'Grady, Wayne Buckley, Lorna Gayle, Chuck Morrone, Keith LaCasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Council on Aging: Kathy Bowler, from the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging (MCOA), provided the Board with a packet of information detailing the steps involved with forming a Council on Aging and the reasons to do so. To form a council: 1. Adopt the law chapter 40 Sec 8B, which states that the board has formed a council on aging. 2. Notify Emmett Schmarsow at the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs that the board voted to accept the provisions of the law and when it did so. 3. Apply for the \$5,000 formula grant from Elder Affairs. The money is appropriated from the state through a line item. Packet info includes acceptable uses for spending the money (Grant money may be used towards a membership with MCOA for \$150). The grant was due last month, however Elder Affairs will extend the grant deadline. Membership with MCOA will provide access to training opportunities, annual conferences, meetings, website with resources, and other grant opportunities. MCOA is also an advocacy organization. Services from the Council on Aging are available for anyone older than 60. The grant money does not carry over from year to year.

Outreach Worker, Kerry Lahey from the Council on Aging is available for outreach to town elders.

The Board thanked MCOA and COA members for attending the meeting.

The Board will inform Kathy when the statute is enacted and who the contact person is. Ken made a motion to adopt Massachusetts General Law chapter 40 sec 8b to establish a council on aging for the purpose of coordinating or carrying out programs designed to meet the problems of the aging in coordination with programs of the Department of Elder Affairs, seconded by Mark. Ken will start the grant application.

2. Appointments – Board of Registrars: Waiting to hear back from town counsel if it is legal that both appointees are registered as independents.

3. Trees – Chuck Morrone, tree warden. Chuck made a list of necessary tree work. An ash tree on Smith Road that will require extra care due to proximity to power lines was on the list. Chuck asked bidders to bid the entire tree list and also give a quote with the Smith Road tree deducted. Chuck collected three bids. Bids were opened by the Select Board and read aloud. Troy's Tree Service and Property Management bid \$6,000 for the entire list, or \$3950 if the tree on Smith Road is not removed. KLC Construction Corp bid \$8850, or \$7850 if the tree on Smith Road is not removed. Lakewood Tree LLC bid \$6225, or \$4225 if the tree from Smith Road is not removed. Mark made a motion to accept Troy's Tree Service bid of \$6,000 for all the trees on the list, seconded by Ken. Chuck will contact Troy's Tree Service to see when work can start. If Troy's cannot start the work within thirty days, the Board will award the bid to next lowest bidder. The Board thanked Chuck for his work on this.

4. Road Commissioner: Keith LaCasse. Keith removed a tree on Mallery Road that was downed in a storm. Two others were down on Ingraham Road along with some branches. Keith removed the unclaimed lock from the Greylock Road gate. He will buy two more locks with keys for the botanist, DCR, and the town. Greylock Road is holding up well to Bauer Road. From Bauer Road up, the conditions worsen and there are some big branches down. Bauer Road looks good, no washouts, and a few branches in the road. Keith talked to Kathy Stevens from MASS DOT. She informed Keith that the state will not fund putting gravel on top of black top. Instead, she recommended putting two inches of millings through a paver to fix Greylock Road. Up to \$35,000 will be reimbursable by the state. Keith collected three bids: Tri-Town Paving Inc. for \$25,460, Lane for \$29,250 if the material is picked-up and \$36,565 delivered, D. Condron Construction Inc. for \$27,000. Ken will research if the MASSWORKS grant can cover this, instead of using the Chapter 90 money and let Keith know ASAP. Ken made a motion to accept the bid from Tri-Town for \$25,460.00, seconded by Mark.

There are concerns that recent logging on Beach Hill Road is causing damage to the road. The town could consider posting a weight limit on Beach Hill Road, or have the loggers post a bond. Keith cleaned up the sides of Mallery Road and will finish that work soon.

Recreational vehicles continue to be a problem in the cemetery, damaging the lawn. Dropping a tree to block access behind the cemetery may be a solution. Placing large blocks may also work. Daley has blocks made from leftover concrete for \$50 apiece plus delivery. Century has blocks with stone face \$50 apiece. Six blocks would be needed.

The shared brush hog for mowing the road sides is in Savoy.

The company that does seal coating will call Keith when they are in the area to assess what needs repairs and will then give a cost estimate. Roads included are Roys, Mallery, and some of Beach Hill Road. Keith will do blacktop patching in the next couple of weeks.

The culvert on Beach Hill Road could be moved 6-8 feet when that culvert work is done, if the resident signs an easement/waiver.

Jason will look up the maximum allowed to spend on a project before it is necessary to be put out to bid and let Keith know for ditch work.

5. Early Voting: This is optional to offer for the town. With the town being so small, there is not a need to spend money on this. Absentee ballots are offered.

6. MBI/Wired West: Jason and Lori Jayko, treasurer, met with Unibank's Clark Rowell and Kristy Genga about financial advising for the MBI Project. Fees are assessed per note or per time for meeting attendance, etc. Lori will follow up with Clark.

Ken reported on the pole attachment survey. The cost for Verizon will be \$12.60 per pole for a total of \$2381.40, plus \$255.15 per day for travel at 2.5 days is \$765.45, for a total of \$3146.85. Eversource costs \$1890 for the survey, with no travel cost. Application cost is \$5036.85 for Verizon and Eversource combined. Pole rental fee per year is \$950.67 with Verizon and \$850.50 with Eversource. The town will also need liability coverage and a security bond of \$75,000 for the poles. These costs will need to go to a special town meeting along with other potential costs associated with the MBI.

Ken will ask if this application fee will be credited back from the state.

7. Building Inspector Fee Schedule: Don Torrico is away. Jason spoke with Jeff Clemons who explained about the square footage vs. construction cost for permit fees. Jason will invite Don to a meeting to explain it to the Board.

Public Comment : Wayne Buckley inquired about property on Greylock Road. Ken informed him that it is not for sale.

Chuck reported that the old school house restoration is complete. He is looking for volunteers to help refinish the desks.

Jason will send a copy of the attested vote to the Colonial Power Aggregation.

Sign Warrant. Warrant was reviewed and signed.

Approve minutes from August 1, 2016. On a motion by Ken, seconded by Mark, the minutes were approved.

Next meeting September 6, 2016 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned 8:50