

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
October 24, 2016

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps, Ken McInerney
Others Present: Keith LaCasse, Lori Jayko, Everett Martin, Chuck Morrone

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Taxes: Everett Martin, assessor, has been updating the information in the Patriot Property System. It took a lot of time and required support from Patriot Property. There have been updates to the DOR's tax rate setting with more being completed online. The tax rate would be \$8.94 for a single rate. The tentative split tax rate is \$8.32 residential, \$11.59 commercial. It's a 40 cent increase for commercial, 42 cent residential. It will take about a week to approve the rate, followed by printing the bills, and sending them to the tax collector. The whole process could take about three weeks. Next year is a recertification year for the town. The board will sign off on the LA 5 in the gateway system. Gus will update the board on his progress via e-mail at the end of the week.
2. Trick or Treat Hours: Trick or treat hours will be 5 PM -7 PM on October 31st.
3. Road Commissioner: Keith LaCasse. The millings were put down on Greylock Road. Keith would like to put flake calcium on the road, through the sander. It costs \$26 a bag from All State Asphalt, requiring about 20 bags to do the whole area. Crack seal coating was done on Roys, Mallery, and part of Beach Hill roads. Keith will order salt and sand this week. He will do some patching by the end of the week. Jim Kelly will bill for two hours for blowing leaves off of Greylock Road to prepare it for the road work. DCR may be able to take care of the leaves on Greylock and Bauer Roads. There is a potential buyer for a lot on Greylock Road that is above the gate. The gate and blocks may need to be moved. No problems with trees down.
4. Greylock/Bauer Road – Mass Works: Ken's meeting with Jacqueline Furtado was postponed. Ken received a bill from the botanist for \$3500 for four visits instead of the three that had been anticipated. The report should be in within a week and half. It will be \$4300 total for the botanist's work.
5. Building Inspector Fees: An updated building fee schedule was received by the board from Don Torrico. The Electric/Plumbing fee of \$60 listed on the new schedule is not necessary as the town has its own fees and inspectors for that. The board discussed the estimated construction cost fees. Jason will e-mail board feedback to Don and will follow up with Jack Haig, plumbing inspector, and Mike Lescarbeau, electrician about the plumbing and electrical fees.

6. Community Choice Aggregation: The next step is to vote on the final plan. The town's contracting with a private company for solar would not affect the aggregation plan. Jason has not received a response from legal counsel about the aggregation plan. He will resend it and will put it on the agenda for the next meeting. He will ask Colonial Power how solar credits would work.

7. Solar: Ken will follow up.

8. Council on Aging: Ken got a phone call and voice mail from Emmett Schmarsow, Elder Affairs. The board needs to take another step in the process before a Council on Aging is formed.

9. MBI/WW Update: Jason got updated documents from Todd for MBI and has a conference call with Todd tomorrow morning to go over estimates. Jason talked with Charter. They are reviewing and considering service to New Ashford. Jason expects to hear back from them by the end of the month.

Ken attended the Wired West meeting. They changed their termination by-law; if a town doesn't make three consecutive meetings, they may be terminated. They also amended their suspension by-law. In Wired West's new model, services will be completely outsourced with Wired West bundling the services for towns.

Pole surveys need to be submitted, if a private entity puts in the pole survey, it belongs to the private entity. Ken will follow up with MIAA about the pole bond. Eversource will sign the application without the bond, Verizon won't start without it. Some towns are trying a common bond between Eversource and Verizon. Traveler's has worked successfully for another town for \$100.

Wired West is not invoicing towns for membership fees because some towns didn't budget for it. However, they will be asking for donations from select boards.

The Municipal Financial Advisory Agreement from Clark Rowell at Unibank was reviewed and signed by the board.

Public Comment and any other subjects for consideration.

Chuck Morrone – Saturday, October 29, there will be a ribbon cutting at the Old Schoolhouse.

Chuck will fix the rotted frames on the Town Hall's outdoor bulletin boards.

The Fire Department is getting a truck from NJ that will need insurance. Ken will call Wayne.

The Fire Station did not have water pressure last week, but the town hall's was fine.

The potential bus from Mt. Greylock to Pittsfield, for a student in a program in Pittsfield, did not work out. It is going the wrong way.

Approve Minutes from October 6, 2016. On a motion by Mark Phelps, seconded by Ken, the minutes were approved.

The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next Meeting November 7, 2016 at 7:00.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22