

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
September 8, 2015

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

Others Present: Everett Martin (Gus), Mike Birch, Eileen Gabriel, Chuck Morrone, Pete Rancourt, Carlanne Rancourt, Keith LaCasse, Max LaCasse, Jack Haig, Dave Hadley, J.J. Filliault, Jeffrey Welch

Meeting opened at 6:51

1. Approve the minutes from the August 17, 2015 meeting: On a motion made by Mark, seconded by Ken, minutes were approved.

2. Sign Warrant. Warrant was reviewed and signed. Moved to approve by Mark, seconded by Ken.

3. Trees – Chuck Morrone, tree warden, presented two sealed bids for tree work. Both bids were based on the same specifications made by the tree warden. The first bid from Troy's Tree Service was for \$5,000, plus \$400 for the specified hemlock on Greylock Road, work to be done 2-4 weeks after approval. (This hemlock is in question whether it is the town's or Eversource's responsibility, along with two other trees in town. One is on Beach Hill Road and one on White Road.)

The second bid from KLC was \$5,200, including the hemlock, work estimated to start in mid- November.

Ken – KLC has a lower bid but is a little later in time. Ken made a motion to accept the bid from KLC, seconded by Jason. Mark made a motion to allow the tree warden to add other trees that may have been missed, keeping within the FY 16 budget, to the awarded bid. Seconded by Ken.

The board thanked Chuck for his work.

4. Road Commissioner, Keith LaCasse – he put millings on Greylock Road up to Bauer Road and regraded it, added millings to half of the hill on Ingraham Road and part of Smith Road, when he ran out of material. Keith bought two loads of millings from Condrin in order to finish the job and then he regraded the road. Graded Roys Road. He used 12 loads from the salt shed for Ingraham road. He did not put material on Roys Road due to the narrow road and the amount of usage that section of road gets.

Needs to replace a 12 inch culvert on Ingraham Road. It will wash out the road if it is not repaired.

White road still needs a bit of work.

Route 7 bridge work update, to leave the north bridge as concrete.

There should be enough money to fix the culvert on Greylock Road. It will cost an estimated \$10,000 to repair the culvert. Putting a liner in the culvert may be useful. The question of who owns that .6 miles of Greylock road has not been answered.

Ken does not have time to cut the tree on Greylock Road. Keith will do it.

The town received a bridge inspection letter from DOT. There is a problem with the bridge on Roys Road. Keith will call and get more information. The deck and guardrails need work. It will be inspected again in two years. Is there additional Chapter 90 money available to address the bridge? Keith will call Kathy Stevens. Keith will have an estimate for repair work at the next meeting.

Mallery Road paving project invitation to bid will be in the central register on Sept. 16 and in the Berkshire Eagle the following week. Bids are to be opened October 5, 2015 at the Select Board meeting. There are two stumps on the top of the hill on Mallery Road that will be in the way of the paving project – Keith will take them out.

Sand currently costs \$15.50 a ton from Daly's, J. Donovan is \$18.50 delivered. The countywide bid is lower for sand, however the material isn't as quality. The prices are the same as last year. Keith will get it ordered.

The board thanked Keith for his work.

The boom mower will be available this week.

The millings from Route 7 are gone. The millings from Mallery Road will go on Greylock Road. If there are any extra, they will go on Ingraham Road.

5. Mountain Pond Lane – The residents at Mountain Pond Lane, represented by Dave Hadley, requested millings from the town to help repair the road. The winter and excessive rain has caused erosion. There are 400 – 500 yards of millings left in salt shed. It would be 8 – 10 loads. What is left is emergency dirt in case a road washes out.

If there are any millings left from the Route 7 bridge project, Ken says they could be donated to Mountain Pond Lane. The board will keep the residents of Mountain Pond Lane informed.

Snow plowing contract – the invitation to bid has been in the paper. Bids will be opened on September 21st.

6. Public comment – Ken publically thanked Pete Rancourt for his work as fire chief.

Max LaCasse is attending a meeting about changes in grant writing for emergency management in Agawam with Wayne Buckley, fire chief.

Mark Phelps – town of Lee would like to raise the local gas tax. New Ashford will not benefit from this. Mark would like the town to take the position with state representatives that the gas tax should be spread equitably across towns across the state. He would like the Board to draft a letter to the representatives on that issue, that the money should be used for roads and bridges. Also, inspections for electric cars – they should receive a tax, that they don't currently get as they don't purchase gas, to be used towards road maintenance. Mark will draft a letter and bring it to the next meeting.

Max – Bruce Agosti called. They don't have the mutual aid agreement copy signed with the state. Jason will contact him tomorrow.

JJ Filliault – How does Lanesboro's potentially merging with Adams/Cheshire affect New Ashford? Is our contract with Lanesboro for tuition still good? We have an agreement for two more years. Jeffrey Welch explained that there could be an issue at Mount Greylock Regional High School should it lose the population of Lanesborough students. The New Ashford School Committee is keeping an eye on current events. The School Committee meets September 28th at 6:00.

Ken – did the board receive a certified mailing for snowy owl work? No. The old diesel tank on the property needs remediation by November because the well is showing contamination.

BRTA –the town received a letter due to the inquiry of Marge Gigliotti about bus services for New Ashford. The BRTA can assemble a package of information of benefits and costs for the town. Jason will ask for further information.

Ken inquired about the status of the planning board, due to a pile of unopened mail on the table. The planning board has not been active. The outgoing member was the chair. Mark will contact the other four members and get their board organized.

Wired west is meeting tomorrow night. Jason will try to attend. There will be another meeting in early October.

Jack Haig– do we have a building inspector? Jeff Clemons is still our building inspector. Jack hasn't heard about the plumbing permit for the new house yet.

Next meeting is September 21, 2015, 6:30. Meeting closed at 7:55.