

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
December 18, 2017

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps, Ken McInerney
Others Present: Keith Lacasse, Stephen Jayko, Tammy Steinhoff, Alan Steinhoff, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Public Comment: Alan Steinhoff registered his concerns about the build-up of snow on Beach Hill and Mallery Roads, not being managed. He noted that conditions were better on a similar road in Lanesboro. Keith Lacasse said that he cannot use a bigger truck (as is used in Lanesboro) because there is no place to turn around. He pre-salted the roads and the snow packed in. The storm was heavy and the low temperature was a problem.

Alan asked for an update about blacktopping Beach Hill Road. The project was put out to bid and the only bid received was too high. The project will be put out to bid again in the spring. Alan recommended not taking away the 3" of millings from the road. Keith explained about examining the road with the DOT and making a plan to fix the culverts. Mark suggested having a meeting presenting repair/paving options and their costs. This will be on the agenda for the January 16, 2018 Select Board meeting. There's a new logging plan for the top of Beach Hill Road and there are concerns that logging trucks will damage the road. The Board will look into placing restrictions or getting a bond.

Tammy Steinhoff asked if the tax rate has been set. Jason explained that the board is waiting to hear from Gus Martin, Assessor, in order to set the tax classification hearing.

The Springs Motel has closed its doors. Jason will check with Joan Wilkinson, Tax Collector, about what they owe for taxes.

2. Veterans: Richard Demyer, Veterans' Services Officer, called Jason and reported that the town won the case against the veteran benefits recipient and to expect a letter from the state.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse, gave keys to the gate on Bauer Road to the board, including two to Mark for the snow mobile club. He turned in the invoices for the gates and materials.

He blew the leaves off of Greylock and Roys Roads and put a roof on the salt/sand shed.

Keith suggested that the town get a credit card.

He mentioned recent bus problems due to the big bus being unable to turn around. Lori said that the School Committee is aware of the problem and has made several calls to Dufour. The town's contract with Dufour specifies using the small bus. Dufour explained that they recently lost three drivers and have covered New Ashford's route with a driver from Williamstown. However, the small bus was located in Lanesboro. Dufour moved the small bus to Williamstown and should be using that for New Ashford going forward.

4. Tax Bills: Jason talked to a representative from the Patriot software who said the tax information can be exported in a text file from the assessing software. That text file can be used to create the tax bills. Jason will try again to get a CollectPro representative to attend a meeting. Mark talked to the Town Manager and the Head Assessor in Williamstown. They would like a copy of the property cards and will give us a proposal for assessing services. The board may also consider looking for a certified assessor to work for a stipend.

5. Broadband: Jason has a call with Westfield Gas and Electric on Wednesday, December 20. Ken will also call in. Westfield will not bill until after the first of the year. Jason has been looking at the poles on the CAD file to see which should be included.

There's a 4:30 call With Bill Ennon, of MBI, December 19.

Wired West is contracting with Westfield Gas and Electric.

6. Any other board subjects for consideration: The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission told Mark that the Select Board and the Planning Board sit as a Board together to appoint a replacement to the Planning Board. The Select Board received a letter of resignation from Planning Board Chair, Flavia Mastellone. Jason can post on the website that there is an opening on the Planning Board.

Jason will check with Lori Trottier, Town Clerk, that the paperwork for the electric poles on Greylock Road was submitted.

The Board has not received the report from the state's health inspection of the house on Roys Road.

Ken will draft up a letter for the specifications of the heating system at the town hall in order to get quotes from gas companies.

7. Approve minutes from December 4, 2017 and December 14, 2017. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from December 4, 2017 were approved. Ken abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from December 14, 2017 were approved.

8. Warrant. The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meetings are January 2, 2018 and January 16, 2018 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10