

New Ashford Select Board Meeting  
New Ashford Town Hall  
January 18, 2018

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

Meeting opened at 6:53

1. Public Comment: Alan Steinhoff said there has been a noticeable improvement in the quality of the roads after storms.

2. Beach Hill Road: Keith Lacasse talked to Rafferty, which did the reclamation of Mallery, Ingraham, and Roys Roads. They estimate that doing a full reclamation of Beach Hill Road, 12 inches down with two applications of calcium, 1½” binder, and 1½” top, would cost around \$160,000. More money would be necessary for fixing the shallow culverts. The estimate for using cold-in-place (grind up road, mix with black top, and put back down) is \$210,000. Milling 3” and putting 1½” on top was expected to cost around \$105,000. The sole bid received was \$179,000. Kathy Stevens from MASS DOT recommended using the cold-in-place, but it was more expensive. There is water running under the road where the culverts need to be replaced. Keith suggests digging some test holes across and adding diagonal drains. It may be necessary to put a culvert in near Jennings’.

Another option is to reclaim sections of the road at a time. There is a base cost of bringing the equipment in, so overall it would be more expensive. Elevating the road and adding in a crown could also be done.

The first step is to investigate and fix the water flow problems. Keith will talk to Kathy Stevens and run numbers for reclaiming the road from the dip by the big culvert to Burbank’s.

A logging plan for the top of Beach Hill Road has been approved by DCR. The board will add a warrant article to the town meeting for a town by-law addressing requiring bonds or placing weight limits on the road.

3. Road Commissioner: There is some ice build-up flowing into the road on Ingraham Road, Beach Hill Road, and White Road. Keith has been salting them and the one on White Road is under control. There was a small wash-out on Greylock Road, above the old gate. Keith unplugged a culvert on Ingraham Road. A culvert on Smith Road is starting to collapse. Keith suggests putting a culvert 100 feet up the road, to reduce the amount of water coming down east side of the road.

4. Veterans: Richard Demyer, Veterans Services Officer, gave the treasurer the reimbursement paperwork for the benefits recipient who is repaying the town. Payments will be mailed to the VSO the first Monday of each month starting in February with the last payment being in June. Payments will be \$432.12 for a total of \$2101.96.

A benefit’s recipient did not report all income and Boston told the VSO to put this account in refund status. The VSO is counselling the benefit’s recipient to report all income.

The VSO will get wording for the town meeting warrant article to set up the veteran's account as a revolving fund.

Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District will vote on its budget at the next meeting. It is expected to stay level funded.

5. Heating: The board will solicit quotes for furnace replacement, focusing on propane. Jason will call the insurance company to see if furnace replacement is covered.

6. Taxes: Mark made a motion to adopt the single tax rate of \$10.71 for FY18, seconded by Ken. It passed unanimously.

The Tax Collector, Treasurer, Jason, and Mark met with a representative from CollectPro on 1/18/2018 for a software demonstration.

Gus Martin, assessor, says that his FY14 information was converted into AssessPro, but he has not added any updates to it. Jason and Ken will meet with Gus on January 31, 2018 at 12:00 to help him export his information off his computer to give to Collectpro. \$1,500 was budgeted for the CollectPro software, but the total cost for the year will be \$5,500.

7. Broadband: The design plan was supposed to be done 1/12/2018. Once as we have it, we can estimate costs. The pole bonds are all set for Verizon and Eversource. Ken has to sign a form for Westfield Gas and Electric. Jason will call them to determine if the internet provider takes care of the pole bonds yearly, going forward, and if the bond and licensing costs get rolled into the internet provider's fees. Insurance will remain the town's responsibility.

8. Any other board subjects for consideration: Keith reminded the board that Emergency Management Director, Max Lacasse identified the need for fire protection water sources. The ponds on Mallery Road/Cemetery Road and at Lacasse's might be viable options.

Lori J. will get the town flag information from Ken and will work on getting a flag made.

9. Approve the minutes from January 2, 2018. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from January 2, 2018 were approved.

10. Warrant. The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting February 5, 2018 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:23