

New Ashford Select Board Meeting  
New Ashford Town Hall  
February 5, 2018

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps

Absent: Ken McInerney

Others Present: Stephen Jayko, Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko, Karen Benko, Alex Benko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Public Comment: None.

2. Taxes: Jason reported that the town Assessor, Gus Martin, went to Patriot Property on February 2, and Patriot got a copy of his database. If they have the information they need, they can print the tax bills. The Board received a contract for the Collect Pro software. The entire cost would be \$8,500, but we will not do the excise tax conversion which costs \$3,000. The budget has \$1,500 in it for the software. There will be a Special Town Meeting to request \$4,000 for the conversion of the files from AssessPro and \$500 for the Assess Pro web access. The board reviewed the wording for the warrant articles. The Special Town Meeting will be February 26 at 6:00, pending Ken's availability and the review of the articles by town counsel. Mark made a motion that the board approve signing of the contract with Collect Pro for \$1,500, seconded by Jason. The contract was signed. If the \$4,000 request is approved, it will be billed after April 1.

Mark has had discussions with the Town Manager in Williamstown about shared assessing services. He gave them the requested property cards. Their assessor is retiring in January 2019. They will be converting to the Patriot Property software. They anticipate providing assessing services for the town, at the same price we are paying now. The assessor will be accessible at the Town Hall in Williamstown.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse reported that the frost is heaving the roads, especially at the culvert crossings on Ingraham and Beach Hill Roads. There are a few small pot holes that Keith will cold patch.

Plowing during the last storm was difficult and he used a lot of salt.

Mark got a call from a forester, Dave Dence, that bought a wood lot on the town line of New Ashford and Lanesborough. He wants to log, but does not have access as the road is closed for the winter. Keith will give Mark a key for Dave, for the gate on Ingraham Road, with the caveat that Dave is responsible for plowing on the other side of the gate. He is also required to stay off the road when it is muddy, and if he or his logger causes any damage to the road, he will be responsible for fixing it. The gate is to remain closed. Mark will convey the requirements for using the road. A cutting plan will be filed for approval by the Conservation Commission in Lanesboro.

Mark will ask Tom Matuszko, from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, for wording for the Annual Town Warrant for the plowing of Mountain Pond Lane. Keith will measure the length and width of Mountain Pond Lane to figure out how much more sand we would need.

4. Broadband: The project is in phase two. It will cost \$52,000 to run the fiber. We do not know the numbers for the internal equipment yet. They are working on batching the pole applications, and asked how the town will pay. The Treasurer said she will pay by check, rather than electronically, and she will be included on the next update call, on February 14. The project is still on track for fall time internet service. Westfield Gas and Electric asked if we have picked our Internet Service Provider yet. Our options are Whip City or Wired West. Wired West is formulating a contract with Whip City and will need towns' commitments. Wired West is modifying their profit-sharing model.

5. Any other Board subjects for consideration: Jason got an e-mail from Robin Pezzone, Assistant to the Deputy Secretary from the Executive Office of Housing and Development, requesting a meeting. The meeting will be Thursday, February 8, at 10:00 at the Town Hall to discuss the Community Compact Program and the broadband project. The Mount Greylock Transition Committee Meeting is February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the library at Mount Greylock to discuss tuition.

Ken drafted an informational e-mail for the town residents. The board reviewed Ken's e-mail which covers taxes, school tuition, and broadband. Jason will send their suggestions back to Ken.

Karen Benko said she started a Facebook group to share information about the school tuition for New Ashford residents and to let her know if you'd like to be added.

Keith said that Max Lacasse, Emergency Management Director, got approval for his purchase for the Emergency Management grant.

A tree on Ingraham has a woodpecker damage. It is near the electric lines and Eversource should be notified.

7. Approve the minutes from January 18, 2018. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from January 18, 2018 were approved.

6. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting February 20, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40