

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
February 20, 2018

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps

Absent: Ken McInerney

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Stephen Jayko, Dick George, Tammy Steinhoff, Alan Steinhoff, Keith LaCasse

Meeting opened at 6:20

1. Approve the minutes from 1/18 Tax Classification Hearing, 1/30 Joint School Committee Meeting, 2/5 and 2/8. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 1/18/2018 Tax Classification Hearing were approved. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 1/30/2018 joint meeting with the School Committee were approved. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 2/5/2018 Select Board Meeting were approved. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 2/8/2018 Select Board Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Alan Steinhoff asked for an update on the plan for Beach Hill Road. Keith Lacasse, Road Commissioner, said he will look at the drainage in the spring, as fixing the drainage is necessary for reclaiming the road. Keith received notice that the Mass DOT overpaid the town for Chapter 90 funding for 2017. The town will get around \$35,000 this year.

Is there a program by Fish and Wildlife to help with funding for bridges and culverts?

Alan had some engineers look at a map of Beach Hill Road. They suggested putting in drainage 4-5 feet deep on the west side from Frye's driveway to the brook below Jennings' (about ½ mile), addressing the surface and subsurface water. Ledge may be a problem. Kelly's driveway needs a culvert as water runs into the road frequently. Also, a culvert should be replaced at Jennings' and put north of the driveway, rather than south. Alan recommends doing a deep reclaim of the road. There is a swale across from Jennings' that may be outside of the limit of the road.

Keith will call the Mass DOT to see when they can look at the road/drainage.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith will patch the potholes on Smith, Beach Hill, and Mallery Roads, for a temporary fix.

Keith got a load of sand delivered and gave the Board the invoice.

Keith gave the board a copy of the e-mail from the Mass DOT about the error in Chapter 90 funding last year. They will make up the difference in this year's funding.

Keith reported that a wall is moving at the Salt Shed, likely due to the frost. When the weather is better, he will move the fill out (likely 12-14 loads) and divert the water to avoid further problems. If he rents a dozer, he can do it in a day. If he trucks it out, it will take a little longer. There may be ledge on the upper side of the cemetery where the water needs to be detoured.

Jason asked about gates. The snowmobile club bought a gate for Bauer Road. It was thrown over the bank and is still frozen in.

Greylock Road will need some work, from the last driveway up to Woolivers', as there's no base material there.

Money has not been received for the pole hearing notification ads.

4. Community Compact Program: Carolyn Kirk from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development met with the Board to explain the Community Compact Program. Through the program, the Board applied for assistance for two best practices. The first was for energy efficiency, to either replace the furnace or make the windows more weather proof at the Town Hall. The second was to get a generator to power the Town Hall, as our designated emergency site, and also as back-up power for the

broadband equipment. The LT. Governor will be at the Town Hall on March 15, to sign the compact with the Select Board. Jason met with H.A. George last week to get a quote for a replacement propane furnace. They recommended putting in a small heater downstairs to maintain heat and placing the propane furnace upstairs, to avoid problems with duct work.

5. Taxes: Jason has been working with CollectPro to get the tax bills created. They sent a sample bill for review. Ken met with Gus Martin, Assessor, and got data off the town laptop and a copy of Gus' database that needs to be converted. Once the data is set with CollectPro, Jason will do a remote session with them and get the bills ready for printing. Jason will get the laptop set up so the tax collector can access it. Three keys are not working on the laptop, and it is no longer under warranty. Jason is working with Dell on this.

Jason received an email from Alan Steinhoff with concerns about inconsistencies in the assessed property values. The Board is working on an inter-municipal agreement for assessing services with Williamstown and has given them copies of the property cards. Williamstown anticipates providing assessing services for what we are paying the current assessor, starting July 1. They are converting to the Patriot System. Jason will reach out to the state board of assessors about filing a complaint about the inconsistency with the assessed values and/or finding out how to get the properties reassessed.

The Special Town Meeting on February 20, is to get the software, for the tax collector, that ties to the assessing software, and funding the Assess Pro Web access so residents can look up their property cards online.

Should we set up an appeal board? Can we use Williamstown's? Mark will talk to the Town Manager in Williamstown about that. The board may need to be certified.

6. Budget: Jason has started working on the budget, with most items being level funded until more is known about the school budget. The School Committee Chair and the Superintendent are meeting February 26. In April or May, we will consider purchasing sand and salt with the money that is left in the Winter Roads' budget. Jason will ask Ken to send budget requests to the department heads.

7. Broadband: Westfield Gas and Electric rescheduled a phone call with the treasurer from February 15 to February 22 to make sure all the poles were batched. They will go through the submission and payment process for Verizon.

Design and engineering is finished. The poles have been reviewed for what should and should not be included. The estimated time of completion of the whole project is November. They discussed the generator. Jason and Ken have a call on February 26 with MBI.

8. Any Unforeseen Business: Art Johnson passed away. He held a number of positions in town. The Board gave Dick George the Board of Health files. There is a 24-town Public Health Alliance through the Berkshire Regional Planning Office for Health Issues, or we could ask the Williamstown Board of Health for assistance. Board of Health inspections should be done for restaurants twice a year. Mark made a motion to nominate Kurt Singer to fill the vacant position on the Board of Health, and to be the town's Animal Inspector, and Animal Control Officer, seconded by Jason. Kurt needs to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

9. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting March 5, 2018 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35