

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

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps, Ken McInerney
Others Present: Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko, Chris Wooliver, Richard George, Stephen Jayko, Karen Benko, Alex Benko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes from 2/20/2018 Select Board/Planning Board and 2/20/2018 Select Board Meetings. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 2/20/2018 Select Board/Planning Board Meeting were approved. Ken abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 2/20/2018 Select Board Meeting were approved as amended. Ken abstained.

2. Public Comment: Richard George has been reviewing the files from the Board of Health and turned in septic and Title V checks.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith LaCasse removed 23 branches from the road in a recent storm. The board requested that he submit a bill for tree removal. He responded to three calls from Roys Road; two about trees in the road, and one car out of gas. Ingraham Road is holding up better than Greylock Road. A bulldozer was driven up Greylock Road, causing noticeable marks in the road. Greylock Road needs work past the gate. Keith spoke to the owner of a four-wheeler that had been doing donuts on Ingraham and Greylock Roads about not tearing up the roads.

Keith mentioned the wall being pushed in on the salt shed and needing to take fill out around it. Keith thinks that relieving the pressure could solve the problem. The shed was built by Dailey in 1998. The board will investigate if it's an insurance claim.

4. Taxes: Jason and Joan Wilkinson, Tax Collector, met at the Town Hall on the 3/4/18 and printed out the tax bills for real estate and personal property. Joan mail them this week. Joan will arrange a time for training for CollectPro. The board commended CollectPro on their help with this. Once the old information is uploaded, Jason would like to get a new computer system as the laptop has keys that do not work and outdated software. The database is backed up to year 2000 on the town google drive. There is the capability to print excise tax bills through CollectPro, but we do not have three years' worth of data in the system and did not purchase the conversion of the information.

Karen asked what our levy limit is. The levy limit for FY 18 is \$478,695.

5. Budget: Budget requests are coming in and numbers are being updated. The Fire Department requested \$8,845, representing a \$700 increase. The Forest Warden budget request is \$100.

6. Broadband: The project is in phase three, procurement. Westfield Gas and Electric will provide a link with the bids, and any questions that come up. There will be a meeting on the 28th of March with the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development at Westfield Gas

and Electric for a Drop Policy Forum from 5:00-6:30. The standing phone calls are done. We have used just over \$30,000 for phases one and two. The Treasurer has been working with the Financial Advisor on the preliminaries that need to be done for borrowing.

Wired West is meeting 3/7/18. Jason thinks there is no benefit for the town to remain with Wired West. We will not be included in their profit sharing, due to our size. Westfield Gas and Electric is offering \$69.00 a month for a gig, and Wired West is offering it for \$79.00. Wired West is putting together their contract with Westfield Gas and Electric and Westfield Gas and Electric is making a contract for service with our town. Ken will call Jim Draw to let him know that we are done with Wired West. Mark thanked Jason and Ken for the time they have put in attending Wired West meetings. Mark made a motion that we withdraw from future relationship with Wired West and that the town use Whip City for our internet service provider, seconded by Ken.

7. Zoning Board of Appeals: There is a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals due to Ben Glick's no longer being in town. Jason will post vacant town positions on the website.

8. Any Other Unforeseen Business: Mark has been in discussions with the Town Manager in Williamstown about providing assessing services. They talked about how to handle appeals. Currently, appeals go to the Assessor. Williamstown has an assessing board and is willing to provide the entire process for the coming year. Mark suggested posting on the town website to see if there are three residents willing to take the required one week class. The board will look in to the cost of the class. Any appeals made before July first will go to Gus Martin, Assessor.

Ken will work on the application for the culvert grant program. An open bottom culvert will likely cost over \$300,000. There is an environmental case for it, as wildlife transition through it. There is also a need on Ingraham where there are two culverts that need to be one – this might require engineering. Keith will take some culvert measurements and talk to Kathy Stevens to get an estimated cost.

9. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting date March 19, 2018 at 6:30.

Community Compact Signing with the Lt. Governor on March 15 at 12:00.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47