

New Ashford Select Board Meeting  
New Ashford Town Hall  
April 17, 2018

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Ken McNerney, Mark Phelps  
Others Present: Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko, Karen Benko, Richard George, Jen Welch, Jeff Welch

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve the Minutes from 4/2/2018 Select Board Meeting. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 4/2/2018 Select Board meeting were approved as amended to correct the spelling of cemetery.

2. Public Comment: Richard George, Chair of the Board of Health, reported that the Woolivers are living in their house on Greylock Road, however, the septic system has not been capped. Don Torrico, Building Inspector, did not issue a temporary certificate of occupancy because the Board of Health hasn't signed off on the septic. The Board of Health has concerns because of the recent rain and the potential for run-off in the stream. Richard will give the residents three days to get the septic system capped or he will call the Regional Board of Health. The board thanked Richard for his work on this.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse, talked to electrician, Joe Altier, about service at the Town Hall. The panel is 60-amp service, for a 100-amp box, and the other 30-amp is dead. He estimated it would cost \$1,700 to replace the panel with 200-amp service and \$200 more if there is not a four wire pull to the other box. The estimate includes the permit, amp box, meter socket, and the line to the weather head. He would also need a 4X4 sheet of plywood to put the panel on. Jason got the specs for the generator and has checked with another electrician who is going to also visit the Town Hall and give an estimate.

Keith will get the state to look at Beach Hill Road for recommendations and will dig some test holes. He will do the road patching when the weather is warmer.

Ken emailed MIAA asking if the salt shed's damage, from the wall that was breached by the frost, is covered under the insurance policy. Susan Nadile responded that it should be covered, with a \$1,000 deductible for the town, and she sent a form to submit a claim. Keith will get estimates for repairs.

Once the coverage and cost are known for certain, Keith will buy salt.

Ken suggested that Keith grade Greylock Road as the stream from the a-frame is going over the road and missing the culvert.

4. Town Hall Updates: The electric service needs a new panel and wiring. Jason has the requirements for the generator and the battery from Westfield Gas and Electric. Four times the minimum of the generator is needed for the UPS battery. He is looking at 16-20 kilowatt generators, with a transfer switch and pre-built pad.

The broadband equipment will be housed at the Town Hall. The first option was to use the Town Clerk's office. However, there could be a 10 X 10 room built in the basement on a platform. Mark asked if a floor drain should be added. The oil tank may need to be removed or a separator put in.

The electrician and H.A. George recommended getting two propane tanks. In the winter, if the generator was running constantly, there would not be enough time for one tank's liquid to gas conversion. If the tanks are buried, they have a constant temperature and that conversion time may not be an issue. Jason will call H.A. George about the quote for the furnace.

The Board will get advice from the electrician as to whether two electric meters can be run from one generator, in the event that a meter is added solely for the internet equipment.

5. Electric: Covered above.

6. Annual Town Warrant: Jason gave a draft copy of the Annual Town Warrant to the Board and also sent a copy to legal counsel. The Board needs to figure out how to set up the Veteran's Account so that the reimbursement money goes back into the Chapter 115 account, and then carries over from year to year. The wording for Article 18 was copied from 2005. The proposition 2 ½ is based on Assessor, Gus Martin's, math and the LA – 4 form. Ken will work with Jason to confirm the override number. Jason has been working on a spreadsheet and will call the state on 4-18-2018.

7. Budget: The Board reviewed the budget. The Veteran's budget will stay at \$20,000. The Veteran's expense account will be reduced to \$500, on the advice of the Veterans' Services Officer. Wired West fees will stay in the budget at \$1,100. Two new students are moving into town and the School Committee is meeting next week. The Board will have a meeting next week to finalize the budget. The Council on Aging is not included in the budget as it is grant funded.

8. Broadband: Jason, Ken, and Lori attended the pre-bidder's conference at Westfield Gas and Electric to review pre-bid questions including: having a conex box in town, if/where trucks can park in town, access to rest rooms. The bid opening was delayed because the bid needed to be reposted, as it did not show up the first time. The bid opening is 4-25-2018 at 11:00. Verizon is starting the pole surveys. Jason will follow up with Whip City to see where Eversource is in the process. Jason got the specs back for the room for the broadband equipment. He will work with the electrician to make sure we are not under powered. The grant money can be used to make the room. Jason will take measurements. The door to the basement from outside needs repairs. Underground service in the winter will need to be considered and the drop-policy formed. Mark mentioned there has been a tree on the line on Route 7 for three years now. The line is either the state's or Verizon's.

9. Any Other Unforeseen Business: Mark acknowledged and thanked Senator Hind for his quick response to the Board's letter and for passing on their concern about funding for EPO's. The proposed FY19 budget would likely raise the tax rate to around \$13.00. CollectPro will do an upload on 4/19 or 4/20 and then the tax bills can be printed. They need to be reformatted so the address can show in the envelope window. Ken asked Keith to ride up Greylock and Bauer Roads to determine if they can be opened.

10. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next Meeting April 26, 2018 at 4:00

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 on a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken.