

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
May 7, 2018

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps, Ken McInerney
Others Present: Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko, Richard George, Chuck Morrone

Meeting opened at 6:30.

1. Approve the minutes from 4/26/2018 and 5/3/2018. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 4/26/2018 meeting were approved. Ken abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 5/3/2018 meeting were approved as amended to correct the spelling of Ennen.

2. Public Comment: Chuck Morrone said the Cemetery Expenses budget was reduced by \$250 and The Historical Commission's Expense account was gone from the FY19 budget. The Historical Commission Expenses were removed based on an e-mail communication and the Cemetery Expense account was level funded from FY18. The Cemetery's budget will be increased to \$1,000 for FY20 and the Historical Commission's expense account will be restored.

Chuck asked the Board if they would like to have any tree work done. Keith noticed a couple of trees that lost their tops on Roys Road, a maple tree at the top of Beach Hill Road and a cherry tree hanging over Ingraham Road. The Board would like to wait a couple of weeks, in case any damaging storms come through. Eversource will trim trees near the lines in June and Keith Lacasse let them know about a tree on Ingraham Road that needs attention.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith has two sealed bids for the salt shed repairs and is expecting one more from Bottesi. The Board will open the bids at a meeting on May 11, so Bottesi has time to submit. The accepted bid will be shown to the insurance company for approval of coverage.

The Berkshire Purchasing Group extended the deadline until May 8 at 4:00 for the list of materials the town will need for FY19. Keith estimated paving material needs for Beach Hill Road, other road patching, five culverts, 2,500 yards of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch stone, and salt. We will likely need 3,500 gallons of propane (including 1,200 gallons for the Fire Station) or 1,100 gallons of heating oil.

There's \$22,836 left in the Winter Roads Account, some of which may be needed to repair Greylock and Bauer Roads from winter storm damage. Keith will wait until the next meeting to order the salt.

Keith will do the blacktop patching when his truck is repaired.

The bridge on the north end of Roys Road needs pavement to keep water off the bridge and repair a persistent hole in the dirt road. Keith estimates it will take around 12 tons of blacktop. He will scale it up and give a price estimate at the next meeting.

Keith will look at Greylock Road where the water is running off. The last time he checked, it was still frozen. There is tree damage to a guard rail on Greylock Road and also on Roys Road, but they do not need to be replaced.

DCR is planning on opening Mount Greylock on May 12. Greylock Road may not be ready by then.

Lori Trottier attended a meeting for Road Superintendents about the STRAP grant. Keith did not get her message.

Chuck recommended getting rid of some old equipment from the Town Hall at the computer recycling event on May 12.

4. Salt Shed: Covered above.

5. Colonial Power: Jason will let the rest of the board know the rate options when he receives them, and they will make a decision on May 11, at 6:30. Colonial Power needs to know by 3:00-5:00 on May 14.

6. COA Tag Sale: The Council on Aging would like to have a town wide tag sale on June 23. They drafted up an announcement to inform the town. The board reviewed the information provided. Ken made a motion to support the COA's town wide tag sale on June 23, seconded by Mark. Jason will let them know.

7. Annual Town Meeting: There is an informational meeting on May 9 at 6:00 by the School Committee to discuss their budget. The board hopes to hear the rationale for the decision, the path forward, and what plan B is if the town rejects the budget.

8. Town Hall Updates: Jason met with Kyle and Brice from H.A. George at the Town Hall on May 7. They recommended putting two smaller Rinnai furnaces upstairs and one in the basement. They will include three in their quote, but said we can try two and add the third after if two is not enough. The Rinnai are recommended to avoid having to do duct work that would require involving the building inspector and duct work upgrades. A Rinnai costs \$1,900 plus installation. It would be \$7,000 - \$9,000 for the oil furnaces. The Community Compact grant will cover \$5,000. H.A. George is looking into if the Rinnai can be connected to an external thermostat for remote management. Chuck will ask Mickle Electric if they are interested in putting in a bid for the Town Hall electrical work. Chuck says there is a crack in the basement wall that caused a leak during heavy rain. The drain is not effective if the water table is high. A sump pump could be installed in the basement and the crack repaired. Pete Rancourt or Winn Frye may know where the septic tank is. Jason will find out when the next round of Community Compact grants is.

9. Broadband: Whip City's recommendation, based on Alford's work, is one rack for the equipment. This will take up less space and reduce costs. Jason is waiting for an update about the pole surveys and Chris LaVertu's recommendation on which bid to accept. There's a phone call with Bill Ennen on May 14. The Broadband grant is applicable for the electric work.

10. Any other unforeseen business: Staples is now requiring a town check or credit card in order to use the tax-exempt number. Lori Jayko will call Staples and try to work out a solution. The broadband equipment could be put on the platform downstairs. A 10 X 12 room allows for the rack, the air conditioner, and another rack if it is ever needed. Jason will determine necessary materials. The equipment will not be housed in the old furnace space, due to the bathroom plumbing overhead. The oil tank is about half full. Ken will call West Oil and stop delivery. The Town Hall Custodian gets an hourly rate and does not fully use his yearly stipend of \$750. The Board would like to pay him that stipend monthly by dividing the \$750 by 12. Ken got a phone call and an email, for the Conservation Commission, from Thomas Rankin from Intertek PSI asking if we have aquifer protection districts mapped out for the town. We have well-head protection areas that are documented. Ken will pull up the map and send the NOI for the conservation restrictions on the project.

11. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03

Next meeting May 24, 2018 at 5:00