

New Ashford Select Board Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall

May 24, 2018

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps, Ken McInerney

Others Present: Chuck Morrone, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 5:00

1. Approve the minutes from 5/7/2018 and 5/11/2018. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 5/7/2018 Select Board Meeting were approved. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 5/11/2018 Select Board Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Chuck received a donation to the Historical Commission for The Old School House Fund of \$500 from Jon and Mary Zimmerman, in honor of Mary Jane Zimmerman. The Historical Commission sent a thank you note and the Select Board will also. Chuck recommended that the Board contact Eversource about two cherry trees across from 164 Mallery Road that are close to the power lines. Ken will call Eversource.

The Board would like Chuck to spend the rest of the FY18 tree budget. He will talk to Keith Lacasse to see if he is putting a bill in for recent tree clean-up. There is a branch across the dirt portion of Roys Road that is blocking the road.

Lori Jayko called Staples about recent changes to tax-exempt purchase requirements. They will accept the tax-exempt number for cash purchases up to \$5.00. Otherwise, purchases made with the town tax-exempt number must be paid for with a town check or credit card. An option may be to open a credit account with Staples. Lori will follow up on this.

3. Road Commissioner: No report.

4. Town Hall Updates: Jason met with West Oil at the Town Hall on 5/24 to look at the furnaces for an updated quote. West sent a quote via e-mail of \$9,875 for two furnaces, accessories, labor and installation, and removal of old furnaces and materials. If the town is eligible for MASS Save, as a public entity, West recommends upgrading to energy efficient Riello furnaces for an additional cost of \$850. There is a \$750 rebate for each furnace through MASS Save. Ken will call MASS Save to see if this is applicable.

H.A George gave a quote for two furnaces installed, removal of the old furnaces (but not the oil tank), and using the existing duct work of \$13,100. Jason will contact Ostermann for a quote. There is 18 gallons of oil left to our credit with West and the tank was filled last week. Ken called to stop delivery. Jason will ask if a liner is required for the chimney if the Town Hall is converted to propane heat. Annual maintenance is less for propane and the prices do not fluctuate as much as with oil. Current prices are \$3.05 a gallon for propane, and \$2.79 for oil (cash price) or \$2.89 not cash. West Oil says the oil tank, from 1999, is in good shape and recommends cleaning it with Rustoleum. If we stay with oil, we will need a propane tank for the generator for the broadband equipment and the electric panel will need to be moved. The Board will make a decision at the next meeting.

Jason talked to Building Inspector, Don Torrico, about building a room downstairs for the broadband equipment. He advised that just a building permit is necessary. The Board will compare the price for materials against doing a pre-built hut. Whip City will let us know when the hut from Princeton will be available to look at.

5. Broadband: Chris LaVertu from Whip City reached out to the bidder about builders' risk insurance, as we do not have insurance for the MLP or equipment. The bidder provided a cost for using their own insurance. Jason will contact PURMA, the Public Utilities Risk Management Association, to find out the cost which is a yearly fee plus the cost of what is being insured. Chris will send the award recommendation by May 25. Verizon and Eversource have been focused on Otis. After the Board has the final contract number, they will set the Drop Policy. The Town Hall electric updates and the equipment housing/ hut can be started.

6. Any other unforeseen business: Jason talked to Don Torrico about the Carriage House. There are zoning and code violations at the Carriage House that Don will pursue.

Don asked that the Town of Adams get compensation for building permits that were provided prior to Adams taking over, and zoning enforcement. They would like \$75/hour plus mileage. Ken said that New Ashford changed its policy so that permits were issued incrementally, as confirmed by an e-mail from former Building Inspector, Jeff Clemons. The first payment is 50% of the permit fee, the second and subsequent payments are \$50 or the balance of fee paid, and the final payment is the remainder of the permit fee paid, with 100% paid to the inspector at the time of issuance. Old permits may have expired. Jason will ask Don what permit work is outstanding, and get more detail on the enforcements.

Mark spoke to Williamstown about the assessing contract. The Select Board there cannot sign a contract until they meet on June 24.

Colonial Power reported that Verde would not lower their rate. Verde's was a tiny bit higher than Eversource's rate. Colonial said that using Eversource's rate would require going through the local and state regulatory process again. By the next meeting, the rate should be set.

Mark spoke with Brian McWilliams from the State Ethics Commission about an incident at the Town Meeting between two School Committee members. The Ethics Commission said there was no violation. Ken asked the School Superintendent and the Chair of the School Committee to address this, but one of the School Committee Members involved asked them to wait and let them work it out. Mark would like the Board to ask the Ethics Commission to open an investigation into if there is a conflict of interest for a School Committee Member with a spouse that is a school employee for voting on the school budget, and also for voting in the interest of her own child over the interest of the town as a whole.

Insurance said they will not cover the repairs to the Salt Shed. At a minimum, the drainage issues need to be addressed. The Board will meet with Keith to get his opinion and a price to do the drainage.

Road signs were screwed into trees on Roys Road without permission. It is illegal to put up signs without approval. The Board will ask the Road Commissioner to look into this and Jason will follow up with the resident who e-mailed about signs a couple of weeks ago.

7. Warrant. The warrant was reviewed and signed. The rule of necessity was invoked for signatures on the warrant.

Next meeting June 4, 2018 @ 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32