

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

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

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve the minutes from 7/23: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 7/23/2018 Select Board meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Denise Bronson, resident of Roys Road, is not satisfied with the companies that are available for internet and is looking for resources. The Board explained the town's broadband project of running fiber to the houses. The make-ready work is being done by Verizon and Eversource for the poles. The state provided grant funding of \$280,000. Work will be started soon to create housing in the Town Hall for the necessary equipment. Updates can be found in the meeting minutes.

Chuck Morrone, Tree Warden, received tree cutting information from Eversource. Chuck inspected the trees and does not see any problems, but he recommended that the Board review the tree list and post it on the town website. Some trees are on private property, and owners will be contacted by Eversource. The board reviewed the list. Mark made a motion to approve the list that was submitted.

There were many old books in a cabinet in the Town Hall near the Assessor's office, that need to be moved or gotten rid of.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse expects the sign for Roys Road to be ready from JMS in a day or two. He will remove the signs that were hung on the trees and telephone poles and will move a sign from Smith Road to Roys Road. The street sign for Smith Road is gone. Keith will ask the state if they have it.

Keith has inquired with Dalton as to when the mower for the sides of the roads will be available. He suggested that the Sheriff's Department's Public Service Program could be utilized to clean out the ditches. Ken will e-mail for availability.

Keith will take the skid steer up Greylock Road and use cold patch to fix the potholes.

The beam for the salt shed was delivered last Friday.

The snow plow turnaround on Ingraham Road needs to be modified. Keith will talk to the property owner.

Ken is completing the STRAP grant application.

4. Ingraham Road: Jason was contacted about logging trucks coming down Ingraham Road. There is worry that the trucks are damaging the roads. Mark will call the person who bought the lot for information. Keith will look at the road and give a recommendation.

5. Mohawk Woodlands Partnership: Mark reported that the legislation passed and there was an article in the Berkshire Eagle about it. The Regional Planning Commission will do a presentation for towns about the legislation and the steps for towns to get involved. There are no financial obligations and woodland property owners would have access to resources, grants, technical assistance, etc. It's an opt-in program. Mark recommends that our town participate. No money has been committed from the state yet. Monies will be raised from state, federal, and private donations and the Franklin Land Trust offered office space. It is advisable to take the decision to town meeting.

6. Building Inspector: Covered under Town Hall Updates.

7. Town Hall Updates: Custom Renovations Inc. will combine the Assessor's office and the old bathroom to create housing for the Broadband equipment. The walls will be insulated and a 32-inch door added. Jason will contact the electrician. The Community Compact grant money has not been received yet. Ken is filling out the building permit application.

We are on the schedule with H.A. George for September 10th – 14th. The area for the propane tanks has been marked off and a decision will be made about placement of the generator.

8. Door Locks: The front door of the Town Hall is increasingly being left unlocked. The Board thinks it is time to replace the door. They will ask Custom Renovations to do it while they are doing the room work.

9. Broadband: There is a Wired West meeting 8/8/18. The fee for service with Whip City will likely be \$79 for gigabit and \$12 for phone.

10. Any Unforeseen Business: 1Berkshire would like the town to send a letter supporting their organization. Mark made a motion to send the letter of support, seconded by Jason. Lori J. will modify the letter, get the chair's signature, and send it back.

Mark mentioned that there was no list of the personal property tax in the town report this year. Jason asked Assessor, Gus Martin, about when he expects the tax classification hearing. Values should be certified by the DOR this week and the tax rate should be set in September. There will be an official handoff of the assessing job to Williamstown. Then we will get Patriot Property's internet options set up so residents can view their information.

11. Warrant. The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting August 20 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52