

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

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps

Absent: Ken McInerney

Others Present: Keith Lacasse, Richard George, Brian Buzby, Richard Demyer, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve Minutes from 9/5: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 9-5-2018 Select Board Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Brian Buzby, representative for Ampion, a company that provides services for renewable energy developers, told the Board about two solar farms in Southwick totaling 55 acres, generating 2.9 megawatts each. Lodestar Energy owns the project and Ampion manages it. The site is constructed and when it is 75% full, they will turn it on. Eversource customers can join for free, for a one year contract, as a way to save on electricity costs by receiving credits on their electric bills. The credits are purchased for ninety cents on the dollar, providing a 10% savings. This can be done in addition to the current arrangement with Colonial Power. Brian will e-mail the board with more information.

Richard Demyer, Veterans' Services Officer, explained that a veteran's payment was reduced, as that recipient was working. There was an overpayment in June which also reduced this month's check. This collector is no longer working. Next month, Richard will conduct reviews with the benefits recipients for insurance and expenses. Richard is a certified VSO and will be attending training in October and November.

Richard gave the Board an update on his work as the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District Delegate for the town. On September 25, Stephen Demyer, Recycling Attendant, will be attending a training at TAM. The Board is welcome to attend. Richard gave Jason flyers to post on the website listing what can and cannot be recycled and upcoming NBSWD events. The DEP will be inspecting the transfer stations. Richard is working to get a higher grant amount than the \$500 the town currently gets. He would like to get a shed to keep florescent light bulbs, and hazardous material in. He recommended that the town adopt bylaws for dump trucks and garbage trucks coming into town. He gave a copy of sample wording to the Board. Richard will also hold one more collection in order to qualify for a grant – likely hazardous waste in the spring. Latex paint no longer has to be collected as hazardous waste. Residents should let it dry, break it up, and throw it away. The Recycling Attendant is doing recycling from 7 AM – 11 AM on Saturday mornings, but Richard thinks that 8-12 would be better hours. This will be put on the next agenda so the entire Board can discuss it. NBSWD bought blue boxes for recycling. When they come in, Stephen will pass them out to residents that want them during recycling hours at no charge.

The Chair of the Board of Health advised a property owner on Ingraham Road not to use soap in the river.

Mark reminded the Board to post a Select Board meeting following the Tax Classification Hearing.

3. Taxes: The Tax Classification Hearing has been scheduled for Friday, September 21 at 6:00 PM with a Select Board meeting immediately following. The Board reviewed the LA 4 forms. The total assessed value rose from \$39,217,825 last year to \$39,374,930 this year.

4. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse reported that the propane tanks are in for the Town Hall. He bought sand from O'Donnell in Pownal, for \$300 a load and the bill will be sent to the town. He will need a couple more loads to finish. Wayne Buckley, Fire Chief, inspected the tanks. The ditch was dug for the electric work and the generator. Stone will be put under the pad for the generator.

Mike Holden will do the welding to put up the beam in the Salt Shed.

The sign for Roys Road is in and Keith will hang it. It cost \$128 for the sign and \$15.61 for shipping. Keith will order a road sign for Smith Road. The state does not have it.

The mowing on the sides of the roads is done and the mower was returned to Dalton.

Keith caught seven beavers on Ingraham Road. He will take the traps out. He left the big grate on the culvert and took the smaller one off.

The tree removal work for the propane tanks is finished.

5. Town Hall Updates: The Broadband room is complete, but it needs a door handle. The AC unit is in. Jason will call the electrician to find out when he will start the electric work. The Fire Station will not be hooked up to the Town Hall generator.

6. Broadband: Jason has a conference call with WHIP City on 9/18 to discuss next steps and progress. The make-ready work for Verizon is on the warrant. Eversource is going to replace around 7 poles.

7. Any other Unforeseen Business: It is unclear from the logging plan filed for Matt Kelly, where the logs will be removed.

The Conservation Commission is holding a Hearing on Wednesday the 19th.

The Massachusetts Municipal Association sent a survey about Chapter 90 funding needs. Keith suggested using the same amount as last year.

8. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting October 1 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30