

New Ashford Select Board Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall

October 15, 2018

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

Others Present: Richard Demyer, Gus Martin, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 5:05

1. Approve Minutes from 9/17 and 10/5: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 9/17/2018 Select Board meeting were approved. Ken abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 9/21/2018 Tax Classification Hearing were approved. On a motion by Ken, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 10/5/2018 Select Board Meeting were approved. Mark abstained. On a motion by Jason, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 10/10/2018 New Ashford Public Hearing were approved. Mark abstained.

2. Public Comment: Richard Demyer, Veterans Services Officer, will attend two trainings in October and November. The veteran that was overpaid due to working, is all caught up. Richard has flags and medallions from the Williamstown American Legion for the veterans' gravestones. The increase for veterans' benefits will be announced in December and will likely be the same as social security. A veteran passing through town applied for assistance. Richard got help from veterans' associations to move the veteran south.

Richard, Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District Delegate, gave the board a copy of the bylaw that Williamstown uses for licensing haulers and charging a fee. The state is going to send the basic minimum mandated bylaw request. Adopting this bylaw will help get the town a higher grant amount. Mark recommended that Richard share the proposed bylaw with the three members of the Board of Health. NBSWD will buy one more container this year. Richard would like to use the funds generated from the metal recycling to buy a shed. In the spring, he will do another computer collection to earn a point towards the grant. He will also organize a hazardous material collection for another point. NBSWD is trying to stream-line the process for tire disposal. Residents will likely have to take their tires to Adams and pay a fee.

Recycling Attendant, Stephen Demyer is working recycling from 7:00-11:00 on Saturday mornings. Richard would like the hours to be 8:00 – 12:00. Mark made a motion to reestablish the hours for recycling as 8:00 – 12:00, seconded by Jason. Stephen attended a tour and training at TAM and thought it was informative. There will be another training in the spring.

3. Road Commissioner: Not present. Jason talked to Keith Lacasse, Road Commissioner, about the water problems that have been created by the logger on White Road and Keith made a site visit. Keith is working with the property owner to get the water diverted.

4. Taxes: Assessor, Gus Martin, reported that the tax rate is set. Tax Collector, Joan Wilkinson, started printing the bills and they should be mailed in a day or two. Gus found an error on the LA -4 comparison sheet and will ask the Chief of the Property Tax Bureau about it. The change in the commercial value is because of the breakup of the Springs Hotel. The inn is commercial, but there are house buildings that make it mixed use. Jason will talk to Richard George, Board of Health Chair, about the shared septic system for the two lots at the Springs. Gus is meeting with Bill Barkin, Assessor in Williamstown, on October 22, 2018 to turn over the job and the laptop to Williamstown. The Board thanked Gus for his many years of service.

5. Town Hall Updates: The furnaces will be turned on 10/16/2018. The Wi-Fi thermostats will be reinstalled. Jason will ask the electrician if the old oil burner switch is still active. The generator will be hooked up to the propane. Jason will ask the electrician about generator maintenance for FY 20 budget purposes.

6. Broadband: Jason met with Whip City on 10/11 in Otis to see their broadband room and equipment. Whip City visited our Town Hall, looked at the broadband room, and took measurements. They are starting procurement. The equipment will come in 12-16 weeks. Jason will get a quote from the electrician for 2, 20-amp L6 outlets. Access to the internet can be available at the Town Hall, prior to the town's light-up, so people can try it. At that point, monthly back haul payments will be due to the MBI. The make-ready pole work should be done in November. The Drop Policy needs to be set. Jason will ask Whip City for the spreadsheet with the drops on it. Tile for the Broadband Room floor is \$16-\$20 a box. The generator will be fenced in.

7. Any other unforeseen business: The Board set the Trick or Treat hours for 5:00-7:00PM on October 31, 2018.

Hedy Lipez resigned from the Fire Department. The Fire Department is doing a new member drive and would like to talk to the Select Board about it.

Condron sent a bill for stone for Ingraham Road. Mark talked to the person who bought the lot and he offered to pay for the stone to fix the road. The logging will be done in about three weeks.

Jason is going to the Selectman's Conference on 10/20.

Jason and Lori Jayko will attend a DLS accounting/finance workshop for Broadband on 11/1.

8. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting November 5 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23