

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
November 5, 2018

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps

Absent: Ken McInerney

Others Present: Keith Lacasse, Ed Grosso, Mike Birch, Sherry Youngkin, Joe Nawazelski, Chuck Morrone, Richard George, Hedy Lipez, Mike Nixon, Denise Bronson, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve the minutes from 10/15: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 10/15/2018 Select Board Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Fire Department: Firefighter Ed Grosso wrote a letter with Firefighter Mike Birch, about getting town residents to join the Fire Department. They will send Jason an electronic copy of the letter to be distributed to the town e-mail list and posted on the town website. It explains how recent retirements from the Fire Department have decreased the number of firefighters from town, which will affect response times. This could lead to relying on other Fire Departments in the area, possibly for a fee. Mark mentioned that firefighters in some other towns have their property tax waived or reduced, which could be an enticement for new members. Mark will contact Representative John Barrett, Senator Adams Hinds, and the Regional Planning Commission for ideas.

The Fire Department is having problems with their heating system. The Board suggested that the Fire Department look at grants and private foundations as possible sources of funding. Solar panels on the Fire Station roof may be another source of revenue.

The Board thanked the Fire Department for their service.

4. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse said the logging should be done on Ingraham Road. The logging damaged the road and an 18-inch culvert is crushed. Mark called Dave Dence and he is going to look at the culvert on 11/6. The road needs an estimated 10 loads of gravel which costs around \$450 a load, plus the cost of spreading.

The Sheriff's Department cleaned the throats of the culverts. They will return with more equipment and leaf blowers. Keith and Max Lacasse cleaned the culverts on Greylock Road. DCR blew off the leaves twice, but recent heavy winds covered the road again. Keith bought a blower for the tractor and will use it, if the road dries off.

The new homeowner on Ingraham Road may move in in February. Keith will plow to the gate and give him a key. The turnaround is not currently adequate for the snow plow.

The logger on White Road is going to put a ditch in to keep the water off the road. They are planning on logging all winter. Jason will call legal counsel to learn the process for posting weight limits on roads.

A culvert on Bauer Road is filled in, has separated, and collapsed causing water to run over the road. Ken has the gate for Bauer Road. If the gate is reinstalled, cameras will be also.

The residents of the first house on the left on Roys Road cut their forsythias and put the pieces in the brook by the culvert. The Conservation Commission will be informed.

Keith put up the Smith Road sign and will put up the sign on Roys Road soon.

The state would like the roads open through deer hunting season. Keith suggests closing the roads by Thanksgiving and the Board would like them closed if they are muddy.

Keith will check with Max about the emergency management check.

No one has heard about the STRAP grant.

Keith will run some blacktop on Beach Hill Road to take the dips out and will fill the potholes at the same time.

There's some beaver activity at the culvert on Ingraham Road. Keeping a screen on it and checking it every couple of days is working fine.

Keith will be working at the Salt Shed with Mike Holden to mount the beam. There's about 40 tons of salt and we'll need about 200 ton. Keith will order it. There should be enough sand for the season.

Keith will put blocks around the generator until it is fenced in. He will level off the pile for the propane tanks and the area around the generator. He will get 6 X 6 posts from LP Adams and will place them for the fencing for the generator.

5. Schoolhouse Access: Mike Nixon is interested in doing a pilot project in the Old Schoolhouse for 3rd and 5th graders. He is proposing half day field trips in May. They will need access to the Town Hall for the restroom. Mark made a motion to grant access to the Old Schoolhouse and the Town Hall, provided the group provides a certificate of insurance and a waiver of liability, seconded by Jason.

6. Town Hall Updates: The furnaces are working and Ken installed the Wi-Fi thermostats. Jason got invoices from H.A. George, but is going to call them for some clarifications. Jason will ask Pat Mickle, electrician, if we can set up an alert to know when the generator kicks on.

7. Broadband: Whip City recommends getting a multipurpose lock for the broadband room with keys and a code. They will need access to the room. The L6 outlets have been installed. Jason is waiting for the cost per drop document from Whip City to help develop the town's drop policy. Jason and Lori J. attended a financial/accounting meeting with DLS discussing accounting by general fund vs. enterprise fund for broadband. An enterprise fund needs to be established by vote at town meeting and requires a three-year commitment. Make ready work is in progress and should be done by the 28th. Wired West will be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Any Other Unforeseen Business: Richard George, Chair of the Board of Health, contacted the DEP about the Springs Motel's two lots being served by a common well and septic system. The DEP says they can because they are not putting new water in the system. The Town of Williamstown has the laptop for assessing, Jason will talk to Williamstown's Town Manager to get the assessing deal signed.

9. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting November 19 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57