

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
November 19, 2018

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

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve Minutes from 11/5: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 11-5-2018 Select Board Meeting were approved. Ken abstained.

2. Public Comment: Chuck Morrone sold the transfer switch, from the old boilers, on e-bay and turned over the \$160 profit. The board thanked him.

The board will take over the Tree Warden job for the winter.

Richard Demyer, Veterans' Services Officer, is working on the veterans' budget with the state and expects to be done by the end of December. Base benefits are projected to increase 2.8%.

Fuel assistance may be lowered due to federal reimbursement to the state decreasing. Richard will attend a course in January to update his certification. Senator Hinds submitted a proposal for towns to receive Chapter 115 reimbursement in less than the year's time it currently takes.

Richard, Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District Delegate, talked to Stephen Demyer, Recycling Attendant, about the recycling hours being 8:00 – 12:00. Other towns use the metal recycling income for their recycling program to pay their attendant. The cost of dumpster removal went up and the budget for NBSWD will also increase.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse put 42 tons of black top on Beach Hill Road.

The seasonal roads are closed for the winter, except for Ingraham road. Keith needs to speak with the resident whose house is under construction before closing the road. On November 28, Keith will replace two culverts on Ingraham Road. A 16-inch culvert is crushed on both ends and an 18-inch culvert collapsed. Keith can get a 30-inch thick plastic culvert for \$600. These culverts need to be replaced because of the logging and the logger is responsible for at least some of the costs of repair. Keith will give a cost estimate for repairing the road and Jason will contact town counsel.

Keith fixed some potholes on Greylock road and on the road between Greylock and Roys. The wet spot in front of Woolivers' still needs attention.

The loggers on White Road put in a culvert that is working well, however they need to clean the mud off the road after they take loads out.

Keith called Berkshire Purchasing Group to get the contact information for Eastern Mineral to purchase salt. There's enough in the shed now to last for a while longer.

The Sheriff's Department's Community Service program provided the town with 27 man-hours of labor to clean the throats of the culverts.

The school bus got stuck on Beach Hill Road on November 16. Lori Jayko will talk to the School Committee about the use of the full-length bus.

Keith will move the Road Closed sign to the end of Roys Road to try to deter traffic.

A property owner on Beach Hill Road needs a driveway permit. The Chair of the Planning Board will be informed. Mark recommended that the Planning Board be taken out of the process by changing the bylaw. Jason will review the bylaw.

4. Town Hall Updates: A combination lock for the Broadband Room will cost around \$60. The electric is done.

5. Broadband: Jason shared the cost-per-drop documents from Whip City with the Board. He is waiting to find out if the \$184,024 to connect all houses is included in the costs on Whip City's dashboard. The town's Drop Policy needs to be formed soon.

6. Any Other Unforeseen Business: Jason spoke with Colonial Power about the new electricity rates. They recommended suspending the program for now as there will not be a favorable change. Eversource's rate is .11678 and Colonial can get a rate of .14. The board will revisit the issue in May.

Jason will contact the town of Williamstown to get the Assessor's agreement signed.

Mark contacted Representative Barrett, Senator Hinds, and the Regional Planning Commission about the challenges of finding enough volunteers to staff the Fire Department. Representative Barret has some ideas to share with the board, possibly at the December 3rd meeting. Senator Hinds' local office referred Mark to the Boston office and he has not contacted them yet. The Regional Planning Commission is hearing the same problem from towns statewide.

The town will plow to the gate on Ingraham Road. We need to get the keys to the gate back from Dave Dence.

Mark recommends having a line item on the budget for town meeting expenses, public hearing notifications, etc., rather than having it be part of the Town Hall budget.

Sherry Youngkin, Council on Aging Chair, wants to be on the agenda for the next meeting, but wants the whole board present. Ken will not be present.

Chuck recommended selling the portable generator, now that the new generator is installed.

7. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed. Jason will ask the community compact program for funding to cover the unanticipated costs of prevailing wages.

Next meeting December 3, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 7:56