

New Ashford Select Board Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall

December 3, 2018

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

Others Present: Keith Lacasse, Richard George, Lori Jayko, Gus Martin

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve Minutes from 11/19: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 11/19/2018 Select Board Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Richard George, Board of Health Chair, got his Title V certification.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse put two culverts in on Ingraham Road and brought in two loads of base material to pack around them. The culvert in the road was placed down 1½ - 2 feet deeper. The shattered culvert was 30 feet long and he replaced it with a 40 foot long one.

Keith will close Ingraham Road after he speaks with resident that is putting up the new house.

Keith cut up and removed two trees that came down on Ingraham Road and Greylock Road.

The school bus got stuck on Beach Hill Road. Keith had a discussion with the School Committee Chair about the bus turnaround. Lori J. said that a driver, using the small bus, has been assigned to the town.

Keith plowed and salted White Road on 11/27, at the request of the state troopers.

The town did not get the STRAP Grant. Keith will meet with the state engineers in February to estimate repairs for Beach Hill Road and put it out to bid in the spring.

The salt will be delivered on 12/6. The steel plate still needs to be installed in the Salt Shed.

4. Emergency Management: Jason asked Keith to ask Max LaCasse, Emergency Management Director, about the check for the emergency management grant, which has not been cashed yet. Bruce Augusti called Jason and told him that New Ashford had dropped off the portal, meaning the town would be ineligible for federal funding if there were a federal disaster. Jason filled out the paperwork to get relisted on the portal. Bruce also sent a hazard mitigation request for renewal.

5. Assessor: Gus Martin told the board that Bill Barkin cannot send information to the DOR until there is a signed contract. Exemptions and abatements need to be processed. The Board thanked Gus for letting them know. Jason Hoke, Williamstown Town Manager, said they rewrote the agreement based on requests by the DOR. The Williamstown Select Board will review the contract on 12/10. Jason will call Williamstown and the DOR. Mark made a motion to appoint Bill Barkin as acting assessor, seconded by Jason.

6. Any Other Unforeseen Business: The Municipal Light Plant will hold an informational meeting on December 12 at 6:00 to discuss the tentative policy on paying for the drops. A Special Town Meeting will be necessary in January for the residents to vote on spending from stabilization and free cash, to cover the drops for the town. New residents will have to pay for their drops. Strands will be available for vacant lots. Covering the cost of the drops will help ensure a take rate that will sustain the network. Mark talked to Representative John Barrett about the lack of volunteers for the fire department. Representative Barrett will contact the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to see what can be done county-wide to address the issue.

7. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

MLP meeting December 12, 2018 at 6:00.

Select Board meeting December 17, 2018 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10