

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
January 7, 2019

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

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes from 12/17: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 12/17/2018 Select Board meeting were approved. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 11/30/2018 Municipal Light Plant meeting were approved. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 12/12/2018 Municipal Light Plant/Finance Committee/Select Board public forum were approved.

2. Public Comment: Richard George, Board of Health Chair, received the check from the percent at 180 Beach Hill Road.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse called the towns of Washington, Savoy, and Adams about the quality of the road salt that was purchased through the Berkshire Regional Purchasing Group. Washington and Savoy did not get their salt through the Berkshire Regional Purchasing Group and Adams had not called back yet.

There were some icy spots on the roads on 1/5. Keith salted the night prior and again that morning. He is using more salt than usual due to the quality issues and the weather, but thinks there will be enough salt to last through the winter.

There is a problem on Greylock Road between the last and second to last houses, of water bubbling out into the road. The road is soft, but cannot be adequately repaired until it dries out. In the spring, Keith will put in a drainage pipe, fabric, and stone.

Ingraham Road is still open due to the house construction past the gate.

The steel beam will be put up in the salt shed.

There is a pothole where Beach Hill Road meets Mallery Road.

4. BRTA: At the previous Select Board meeting, the BRTA presented the financial impact of the town's using the BRTA service for fixed and paratransit routes. Sherry Youngkin, Chair of the Council on Aging, reported that the COA grant money can be used to fund the service. The board would like to know when the service will start and where the bus stop(s) will be. They recommend that the COA monitor usage. Ken made a motion to support the town's using the BRTA services, contingent on the Council on Aging reimbursing the town for BRTA services, seconded by Mark.

5. Flag: Lori Jayko would like to try to put together a committee of interested town residents to complete the creation of the town flag. She will write up a request for flag committee volunteers to put on the town website and to send to the e-mail list.

6. Building Commissioner: Jason spoke with Deborah Dunlap, from the Town of Adams. Jerry Garner is the Interim Building Inspector, while the replacement search is conducted. Residents needing an inspection should contact the Town of Adams.

The Town Clerk received a letter of resignation from John Carchetti as an alternate building inspector.

7. Broadband: Jason and Ken tiled the IT Room. The A/C unit works and is hooked up to a wireless controller. Jason installed an electronic door lock and a regular door handle. There are three ways to access the room: key, code, or with an app. It has a deadbolt and an alarm. The board can receive notifications when the room is accessed.

Jason, Lori, and Ken will attend an informational meeting with Whip City on 1/10.

Eversource has been replacing poles around town.

Jason will talk to Whip City about marketing and the expected delivery time for the equipment for the IT Room. He drafted a rough draft drop policy and resident authorization form for access to property. He also has a draft agreement with Whip City as ISP. Jason will submit these forms to legal counsel for review.

Jason is researching using google accounts for town e-mail.

8. Any unforeseen items: Wired West was informed, via mail, of the town's withdrawal from the group, with a check for dues for the year. No response has been received.

The warrant signing process does not have to be done in a meeting. The warrant could be left at the Town Hall for the board to review and sign, or a member can be designated as signer, as long as the warrant is available to all members for review. Digital signatures may be a possibility.

Jason will get the firm numbers from Whip City in order to schedule a Special Town Meeting to appropriate funding for finishing the broadband project.

Mark will call Williamstown Town Manager, Jason Hoch, for an update on the shared assessing agreement.

At the next meeting, the board will discuss the budget, the annual town meeting warrant, and the snowplowing contract.

9. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting January 22 at 6:30

Meeting closed at 7:45.