

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
December 17, 2018

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps

Call-In: Ken McNerney

Others Present: Sherry Youngkin, Bob Malnati, Lori Trottier, Richard George, Keith Lacasse, Arun Ankola, Gus Martin, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:00

1. Approve the minutes from 12/3: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 12/3/2018 meeting were approved. Ken abstained.
2. BRTA: Bob Malnati, Administrator of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority, presented handouts on the estimated fiscal impact of using the BRTA for the town. Towns are assessed based on usage and the money is accounted for on the Cherry Sheet. Each town in the BRTA gets one vote and additional votes are determined by the amount of services. There are fixed routes and paratransit costs. For the fixed route, estimated expenses are based on service of 252 weekdays and 52 Saturdays. The cost, at a worst-case scenario of no one in town riding the bus, would be around \$8,434. (Bus fares from passengers picked up in town would be applied to this balance). Federal and state subsidies would be used leaving a balance of \$1,469 for the town. Sherry Youngkin, Council on Aging Chair, confirmed with Emmett Schmarsow from the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs, that the COA grant money can be used to pay for this service. In this example, the town would have a 1.06% voting share. Sherry attends the meetings as the Advisory Board Representative for New Ashford. It is estimated that New Ashford's paratransit needs would be similar to Clarksburg's. In 2017, Clarksburg utilized paratransit for \$273. \$111 was covered by fares, \$134 by federal and state subsidies, and \$28 by the town. Paratransit service operates 6 am – 7 pm, requires a call 24 hours prior, and can be used as a point to point service for anything. County Ambulance will transport to doctor appointments only. The town must have fixed route service in order to get paratransit service. Sherry encouraged the board to consider the BRTA service for the town, as the COA survey responses indicated that there is interest in town for transportation and the aging population may want the opportunity to go places without having to drive themselves. This will be on the agenda for next month's meeting.
3. Public Comment: Gus Martin, Assessor, has been processing abatements from November and December and would like the same salary as he was previously receiving. The Board thanked Gus for stepping back in and added his salary to the warrant.
4. License Renewals: Town Clerk, Lori Trottier, provided the board with license applications from the Mill on the Floss and Shamrock Auto. The board reviewed and signed the applications.

5. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse, Road Commissioner, reported that the road salt was delivered last week at \$76.55 per ton. The new salt is not activating the way it should be. Mark suggested Keith contact other towns to see if they are having the same problem. Keith salted before the storm, plowed, salted again and it's still icy.

No trees have come down.

Ingraham Road is open, due to the residential construction past the gate. The turnaround for the snow plow is still not sufficient.

Arun Ankola asked Keith if he could plow the Springs motel parking lot. The snow plow contract states that a truck needs to be designated solely for the town for salt and sand purposes. The Board upheld the contract to ensure that town salt/sand is not used for personal property. Keith cleaned out the ditch twice on Greylock Road, but it is shallow and will need more work.

6. Any other unforeseen business: Don Torrico, Building Inspector, is resigning effective January 2, 2019. Jason will call the interim town manager in Adams about a replacement. Keith knows an inspector that may be interested in the job.

The Board will hold a Special Town Meeting to allocate the funds for the internet drops. Whip City will do a mailing to residents as part of their marketing. Jason has a call with Whip City 12/18.

7. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting date January 7, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 7:46