

New Ashford Select Board Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall

February 4, 2019

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

Others Present: Richard George, Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:32

1. Approve Minutes: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 1-22-2019 Select Board Meeting were approved.
2. Public Comment: None
3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse reported that the road salt did not activate during the really cold weather. There are two ice flows; one on Beach Hill Road and one on Ingraham Road. He added extra salt in those areas. Eversource's trucks may have caused some drainage issues in that area on Beach Hill Road. Keith will look at it and call Eversource if he deems it necessary. The school bus got stuck on Beach Hill Road. Keith will patch the pothole where Beach Hill Road meets Mallery Road. He has used about half of the salt and will order more sand.
4. Budget: Ken will e-mail a request for budget numbers to applicable individuals and boards.
5. ATM: An article will be on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to establish the Broadband Account as an Enterprise fund. The Board will review the driveway permitting process as stated in the bylaws and revise it to make it more clear. A Special Town Meeting will be set to allocate funding for the fiber drops and completion of the broadband project. Jason will draft the articles for review and send them to legal counsel. The Broadband Drop Policy has been sent to legal counsel for review and to Whip City for feedback.
6. Building Inspector: Jason got an e-mail from Gerry Garner that as of July 1, Adams will no longer be continuing the shared services agreement. Gerry is interested in being the Building Inspector for New Ashford. An official notice has not been received from the Town of Adams. Mark will speak with Jason Hoch, Town Administrator of Williamstown, about shared services for a Building Inspector and also about the status of the shared services assessing agreement. Jason will call an inspector recommended by Keith to see if she is interested in the position. The Board will ask the Building Inspector if he requires money in the budget for enforcement action.
7. Broadband: Whip City will be at the Town Hall on February 9 from 10:00-12:00 for a marketing/sign-up event. Jason hung a banner about the event on the Town Hall. Jason has been working on several spreadsheets in order to determine the internet fees necessary in order to pay for the expenses and build a depreciation reserve. The best estimated monthly figure, accounting for all expenses and revenue, is \$85 for internet and \$14 for phone or \$99 for both. Insurance for the lines and equipment is unknown. MIIA will provide a quote and Jason will inquire with PURMA to cover 241 poles and 9.13 miles of strand fiber footage. Coverage for the IT Room equipment will be increased, as current coverage is for \$25,000. Expenses include insurance, electricity, pole licensing, accounting, the ISP/Network operating fee, back haul, retainer for repair services, MLP administration, reserves, and maintenance. Pole licensing consists of \$5.03 for Verizon and \$4.50 for Eversource per year. Backhaul is the fee to connect to MBI's network. Total expenses per month is estimated at \$6,223.61. Reserves are set to include 3% for IT Room equipment. Revenue, based on a take rate of 60%, will be approximately \$6,705.75 per month. Jason will ask Whip City how long it takes to get hook-ups to internet for the necessary 60%. Mark made a motion to adopt the \$85.00 monthly internet fee and \$14 a month telephone fee, seconded by Jason. Jason ordered cameras that are weather-proof, hi-def, and with DVR from Staples, due to arrive this week. He also got a desk, a chair, a surge protector, and an eight port POE switch for the IT Room.
8. Unforeseen: Shamrock Used Auto sales has not submitted a check for its license.
9. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting February 19 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02