

New Ashford Select Board /MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall

February 19, 2019

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

Others Present: Richard George, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:33

1. Approve the minutes from 2/4: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason the minutes from the 2/4/2019 Select Board Meeting were approved as amended to correct the spelling of the word flows.
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Road Commissioner: Not present. Jason will call him about the potholes on Beach Hill Road.
4. Driveway Permit Bylaw: The driveway permit bylaw will be on the next meeting's agenda.
5. Budget: The Board put the budget numbers, that Ken received in response to his e-mail request, into the spreadsheet: E911 at \$8,268.31, Planning Board \$150, Tax Collector Expenses \$1,000, Accountant Expenses \$200, Berkshire Regional Purchasing Group \$800, Tree Removal \$4,000, Maintenance and Upkeep of the Old Schoolhouse \$300, Cemetery \$1,000, and Conservation Commission \$150. Richard Demyer turned in budget numbers: Veteran's Chapter 115 \$20,000, Veterans' Services Officer Stipend \$1,200, Recycling Attendant \$1,700, Recycling Account \$2,000, Veterans' Services Officer Expenses \$175, and Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District \$654. He would like an article put on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant that any money received for the metal recycling be put into the recycling account. As the recycling account is an expense account, this is likely not allowable. The Board discussed the Town Hall expense account, including the cost of propane and likely usage. Treasurer Expenses, Secretary Expenses, and Town Report Expenses will all remain the same. The Board is waiting on a quote for insurance.
6. ATM Warrant: Jason will start working on the wording for the articles.
7. Building Commissioner: Mark called Jason Hoch, Williamstown Town Administrator, about shared services. He has not heard back and will call again tomorrow.
8. Broadband: Jason has a call with Whip City on 2/21 about the equipment for the IT Room. Eversource has finished their pole work. Verizon should be done soon. Ken and Jason drafted a letter to mail to residents explaining about the broadband network and services that will be offered. Whip City added a check box to the sign-up website, for the option to get the drop but not service at this time. There are currently 46 residents signed up, two of those requesting the drop only. The Board reviewed the revised drop policy, which legal counsel has advised on. The word residential was removed from the phrase, "detailed residential service drop". The Drop Policy will be sent to Whip City to be added to the website's FAQ's. The policy is subject to

change based on usage. The deadline to sign up for services is March 31. The bank account to handle the network payment transactions has been established.

On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 2-1-2019 MLP/Select Board Meeting were approved.

9. Unforeseen: There is a meeting, sponsored by the Regional Planning Commission, on March 7 at Lee High School from 6-8 about the new state law concerning Airbnb's.

There was an article in the newspaper on 2/15 about Senator Hinds' legislation on funding for rural school districts. Mark suggested that the Select Board or School Committee contact the Senator's office to request that the town receive its portion of the funding directly, rather than its going to the school district.

At the March 18 Select Board meeting, Tom Matuszko will give a presentation on the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership, including an overview of the legislation and what it means for property owners.

There is a legislative breakfast, on April 5, at MCLA's Murdock Hall from 8-10. Sign-up is required at the MMA's website.

10. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed. The veterans' benefits were added per written letter by Richard Demyer, VSO.

Next meeting March 4.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.