

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall

April 1, 2019

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

Others Present: Wayne Buckley, Richard George, Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:31

1. Approve the minutes from 3-18-2019: On a motion by Ken, seconded by Mark the minutes from the 3-18-2019 Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Richard George reported that the MASS DEP sent a letter to the Board of Health informing that the Springs Inn can no longer rent rooms because of the water system. Richard talked to Arun Ankola, owner of the Springs, who said he is not renting rooms. The BOH has not issued any permits to the Springs. Jason will send a copy of the letter to the Building Inspector.

Wayne Buckley, Fire Chief, gave the board a quote for replacing the heaters in the Fire Station from H.A. George for \$9,605. This includes removing the four old heaters and replacing them with two new heaters. Wayne brought quotes for two new insulated garage doors from Madsen for \$6,400 and Overhead Door Company of Pittsfield for \$4,583.12. The heating system and garage doors need to be replaced before the next heating season. Wayne recommended using the lowest bidder. Jason will add these to the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

3. Road Commissioner: Max Lacasse, Emergency Management Director, received the grant funded items for the Fire Department.

Keith Lacasse consulted with MASSDOT District State Aid Engineer, Dave Stokes, about Beach Hill Road. They could not completely inspect the culverts because of the snow and ice. When the Beach Hill Road project was put out to bid, \$105,000 was deducted from the town's Chapter 90 funding. The Select Board will send a letter stating what the bid actually came in for and requesting that the \$105,000 be put back in. There is \$230,613.71 in the Chapter 90 account. Theodore Toothaker from Northeast Paving, reviewed Beach Hill Road and estimated it would cost \$359,000 to do the desired drainage and paving. It will take three more years to save up enough Chapter 90 money to complete the project that way. Theodore recommended doing the drainage along the road after doing a reclamation of the road. Before reclaiming the road, the culverts that go under the road need to be addressed. The current 16 inch culverts are handling the water and do not need to be bigger. Three culverts are new and the others will be inspected for corrosion. It will cost around \$3,000 to replace a culvert. Keith will give a recommendation at the next meeting of which culverts need to be replaced.

Keith patched the upper part of Greylock Road and Smith Road using base material from the salt shed. Two culverts on Ingraham Road were heaved by the frost. They may need to be lowered or replaced. Keith will move the gate on Ingraham Road to the town line and do some grading. The gate can be kept closed, with the town plowing to the last residence and placing a road closed sign.

Keith received the letter from MASSDOT about the bridge that needs repairs.

The steel beam for the Salt Shed needs to be installed. There is money in the winter roads budget to purchase salt.

4. Driveway Permit Bylaw: The Board and the Road Commissioner reviewed the draft of the proposed Driveway Permit Bylaw. The phrase “sight distance” was added between “traffic hazards and drainage problems”. The Road Commissioner will determine the necessity of a culvert and its size. The Conservation Commission has 45 days to respond to a written request by certified mail, will notify the Planning Board as to the receipt of the request and their action, and will collect a fee of \$100. This bylaw applies to temporary and permanent access such as gravel removal, log clearing, and new construction. This does not apply to normal agricultural usage and is not applicable for access to the state highway. Jason will send the revised bylaw change to legal counsel for review.

5. Budget: The Board reviewed the draft budget. The Building Inspector may need a budget for enforcement or online permitting. The Board discussed adding budgeting for two extra students to the School Committee’s budget (which currently has two extra students built in). Town insurance may need to have IT insurance separated out. The FY 20 budget will be around \$800,000. The Board discussed the cost of lawn mowing for the Town Hall.

An additional \$5,000 will be added to the warrant article for the hydrant for the Fire Department. The town needs written permission from the landowner.

The Forest Warden account has \$100. This will allow the town to participate in the BC burn permit program, at \$65-\$70 a year.

The Board reviewed the Annual Town Warrant. An article will be added to change the Forest Warden position from elected to appointed (to allow for the Fire Chief to fill the position). The seventh article establishes the enterprise fund for the MLP. The Division of Local Services reviewed the wording and gave positive feedback. Jason will ask how the MLP budget is presented at the Annual Town Meeting. The eighth and ninth articles are for the construction cost for the Broadband. Those numbers need to be finalized. Jason will ask Whip City about the necessity of startup money. The eleventh and twelfth articles will be removed. The fifteenth is the fire hydrant that will cost \$10,000 plus permitting fees. Jason will modify the ATW and send the revised version to the Board.

6. Broadband: There are 65 residences committed to service, and 25 wanting fiber to house without committing (there may be duplicates in the report). The Board will do outreach to the households that have not signed up. Walker Haig will clip off a drainage pipe in the Town Hall basement to make access for the broadband connection. Two town-owned poles will be placed to connect the Town Hall. The fiber will be trenched from a pole on Route 7 on the west side of the climbing lane to the pole on the southern corner of Mallery Road, to avoid running conduit under Route 7. A camera will be put up outside the Town Hall.

7. Any other unforeseen business: The town recycling program was discussed including usage, necessity, and cost.

The Board asked the Board of Health to address the collapsed barn on Mallery Road, the collapsed building off of Smith Road, and the dilapidated property on Ingraham Road across from the Fire Department. The BOH will act on it.

8. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting April 16.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44