

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall

April 16, 2019

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

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Richard George, Lori Trottier, Keith Lacasse, Kurt Singer

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes from 4/1: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the April 1, 2019 Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Richard George, chair of the Board of Health, presented the board with documents from the Regional Board of Health and the state on how to address decrepit properties. The board reviewed the documents. The Board of Health can give the property owners an Order to Abate Nuisance and they have seven days to respond. The Building Inspector may also have jurisdiction over properties in disrepair.

Richard has not heard from the DEP about the Springs Motel and whether the water has been tested. He will call the DEP and also confirm that the Springs has no other water source. The board will check with legal counsel to find out what the town's rights are. The board thanked Richard for his work.

Kurt Singer has concerns about Bill's Happy Chicken Farm. The smell is a problem for the neighbors and the waste is a potential well-water contaminant. The neighbors asked Bill Haley to move the chickens and he would not. The business is selling eggs and is not registered. The board reviewed the zoning by-laws. Jason will call the Building Inspector. The board will consider drafting a bylaw limiting the number of chickens allowed at a residence. The board recommended that the neighbors send a certified letter to the Board of Health and the Building Inspector addressing the odor and nuisance.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse will get written permission from the property owner to use the pond on Mallery and Cemetery Road as a water source for the Fire Department. The pond needs to be dug out. Ken will take the issue to the Conservation Commission.

There are three culverts that should be replaced on Beach Hill Road before road work is done.

Keith will assemble the bid package to do a total reclamation of the road, grind the material, add calcium twice, and pave three inches. Drainage work will be done along the road at a later time.

Keith inspected the roads and ditches because of impending rain. Ingraham Road is rutted from the Smith's house up. Once the road dries out, Keith will work on it.

The holes are drilled for the beam for the salt shed. Keith will work on the retaining wall.

There are a few trees that need removal, including a dead ash on Mallery Road and a dead tree at the top of Beach Hill Road. Mark will take down the trees on Smith Road that need attention, at no cost to the town.

Keith would like to pave over the grass triangle where Ingraham and Mallery roads meet.

A truck hit the guard rail on Mallery Road, causing damage. A bill for repairs will be sent to the truck's company.

Mallery Road cracked due to frost heaving. There is an expandable latex rubber crack sealer that could be used the next time the road cracks are sealed.

4. Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership: Tom Matuszko e-mailed the board the paper work about the Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership legislation. Mark made a motion that the Board of Selectman vote to join the Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership at no cost to the town, and to send a representative to the Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership Board, seconded by Jason. Eleven towns need to vote to join in order for the MTWP to be eligible for state funding.

5. Assessor Agreement: We do not have the agreement yet, but Williamstown should be ready to take over by the first of May. The board will find out what Williamstown wants to do about the laptop. Then Patriot can set up the web portion for the property cards.

6. Budget: The last piece of the budget is the Building Inspector's line. The total budget is \$772,058. Jason will contact Bill Girard, who may be interested in the building inspector job. There may need to be money in the budget for online permitting and enforcement.

7. ATM Warrant: The board reviewed the warrant. Town Counsel will review the driveway bylaw permit. There will be a Special Town Meeting before the Annual Town Meeting to account for anticipated Broadband costs for FY19. There will be a ballot questions for the Fire Warden and Tree Warden positions to be appointed instead of elected. The seventh article concerns the enterprise fund. Jason is scheduled to speak with Deb Wagner from the Department of Local Services about the MLP budget and how it gets presented to the town.

8. Broadband: Verizon is working in town. Whip City will provide an update on Verizon's anticipated finish date. A kick-off meeting will be scheduled with Sertex. There are 65 households signed up for service, and 27 getting the drop only. There may be a solution for lowering the retainer cost. Jason is confirming with Whip City whether there will be additional project management costs. Known remaining costs are: the Route 7 and Mallery Road conduit, the active and passive equipment, two poles, and Sertex fees for the build-out, totaling \$464,367. The town has \$125,000 left from the MBI grant. The remaining \$342,812 balance will be paid from free cash and stabilization, if approved by town vote. If the network is operational before the new fiscal year, \$4000 will be needed. There is \$258,257 in stabilization and approximately \$221,498 in free cash. The board discussed the best way to split the payment. The board decided to remove the garage doors for the Fire Station from the Annual Town Warrant.

9. Any unforeseen business: Ken will create a memoriam for the Annual Town Report. Lori J is collecting town reports from department heads.

Jason will talk with Bill Girard and will invite him to a meeting. The Select Board will meet again this month.

Jason and Lori J. attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association's legislative breakfast. Lori talked to Senator Hinds about the legislation for aid for rural schools. A follow-up e-mail from Senator Hind's office stated the aid money will go directly to the schools and cannot be paid directly to the town. Chapter 115 and the impact it has on towns was also a topic at the breakfast. The town's snowplow contract will be discussed at a future Select Board meeting.

10. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14