

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall

April 26, 2019

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps

Call-in: Ken McInerney (MLP Manager) until 3:55, then present

Others Present: Richard George, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 3:33

1. Approve minutes from 4/16: Minutes will be approved at the next meeting.
2. Public Comment: Richard George, chair of the Board of Health, confirmed that the Springs Motel does not have a second water source. He informed Doug Paine from the MASS DEP. The DEP will send a letter to the Springs through their attorney. The chicken coop at Bills Happy Chicken Farm needs to be checked by the Building Inspector, as it is too close to the road.
3. Building Inspector: Jason talked to Building Inspectors Bill Girard and Gerald Garner. Bill currently covers Becket and Middlefield, while Gerald works for Adams. Bill would require the town to use and pay for online permitting. He charges an hourly rate instead of per permit. Middlefield budgets \$12,000, but hasn't spent more than \$6-7,000. Gerald sent an e-mail outlining his needs and questions about the position. He follows a permitting schedule. Jason will ask Gerald his hourly rate for enforcement issues and will verify with that he will not get retirement from the town. Mark made a motion to appoint Gerald Garner as the Building Inspector, seconded by Ken. Mark made a motion to appoint John Carchedi as the Alternate Inspector, seconded by Ken.
4. Assessor Equipment: The assessor's laptop needs to be replaced as it is missing keys, is several years old, and is not under warranty. Jason will get one at Staples, with a warranty, for no more than \$400.
5. Budget: The MLP Enterprise Fund will be created by vote at the Annual Town Meeting. Jason consulted with Deb Wagner, from the Division of Local Services, on how to create and present the MLP budget to the town. The Board reviewed the MLP budget. The retainer fee is unknown and set at \$9,600, but is expected to be lower. The MLP budget is funded by user fees. The board reviewed the town budget. The Building Inspector has \$2,000 added for enforcement. Salaries, electric, and propane for the MLP need to be paid from the town budget. Those items will be reimbursed to the town's general fund by the MLP enterprise fund. The total town budget is \$777,808. Ken made a motion to bring before the town the FY 20 budget of \$777,808, seconded by Mark. Mark made a motion to approve the enterprise budget of \$73,691, seconded by Jason.
6. ATM Warrant: The board reviewed the warrants for the Special Town Meeting and the Annual Town Meeting. Mark made a motion to approve the warrant for the Special Town Meeting, seconded by Ken. Mark made a motion to approve the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Ken. Jason will get the copies to the board for signatures.

7. Broadband: There are 86 households signed up for internet service. Of those, 27 are signed up for internet and phone, 37 internet only, and 22 that are premise only. The enterprise budget is based on this take rate. The board will review the broadband sign-up list and reach out to residents that are not signed up. Jason has a meeting in May with Whip City and Sertex for the build-out kick-off. On Tuesday, April 30th, Lieutenant Governor Polito will be at the Town Hall at 1:15 to talk about broadband.

8. Any other unforeseen business: A Girl Scout from town is getting her gold award. The board will take out an 1/8-page congratulatory ad in the event program. The board looked at the assessor's contract. The state has not approved it yet. Williamstown will take over New Ashford's assessing on May 1.

9. Warrant: No warrant.

Next meeting May 6, 2019 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 5:12