

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
September 16, 2019

Select Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Mark Phelps
Phone-in: Ken McInerney (MLP Manager)

Others Present: Richard Demyer, Wayne Buckley, Sandy Moderski, Jeff Grandchamp, Alan Steinhoff, Tammy Steinhoff, Richard George, Stephen Jayko, Lori Jayko, Louise Palmer, Keith Lacasse

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve the minutes from 9/5: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 9/5/2019 Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Alan Steinhoff asked for an update on broadband, and drainage on Beach Hill Road. Both topics will be covered later in the meeting.

Jeff Grandchamp, lawyer representing Sandy Moderski from 3 Smith Road, said there is an issue with drainage from a culvert that was recently opened. Mark Phelps declared, that as an abutter to the property, he will abstain on any official action on this issue.

Richard Demyer, Veterans Services Officer, said a veteran services recipient is out of compliance. This person will get a notice and have ten days to respond. If no response is received, there will be a notice of determination, then benefits will be cut, and then an appeal with a hearing via telephone is possible.

Richard Demyer, Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District Representative, said the disposal fee for plastic will likely increase, and he expects to have a definite answer by November. If recycling is not financially worthwhile for towns, the state may step in. A hazardous waste collection, including paint, will be at the Adams DPW on September 28. Dick will make an electronics collection flyer for the website and for the recycling attendant to pass out. In October, he will do a computer collection. Dick would like the town to consider adopting a bylaw for garbage trucks before July 1, to limit tonnage and require them to register with the town, in order for the town to be eligible to receive a \$2,750 grant. Dick will call the Department of Environmental Protection for guidance. Richard George, Board of Health Chair, said that garbage trucks have to be permitted starting on January 1, 2020 per state regulation. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is also involved.

Louise Palmer said she is a public notary and will provide notarizing services for residents.

3. Fire Department: Wayne Buckley, Fire Chief, announced that the Fire Department received an \$86,000 grant, from the Federal Emergency Management Association, through the Assistance for Firefighters Grant, to replace the aging self-contained breathing apparatuses, SCBAs. Thirteen units will be purchase for \$7,000 a piece. The department is required to provide a 5% match of the grant, equaling \$4,333.34. Wayne requested the town pay half of the 5% at \$2,166.66. The grant money needs to be spent by 9/8/2020. It's feasible to wait until FY20, unless there is a Special Town Meeting, as money has not been budgeted for this in FY19. MSA will provide a demo of their SCBAs on 9/17. SCOTT and ISI will hold demos on a later date. The department has 14 active members and 2 inactive. An announcement will be made about the

grant for the tanker on 9/18. Amalio Jusino provided professional grant writing for \$200 this year and free of charge last year. The current tanker belongs to the federal government. The department is signed on with North Adams for new bunker gear for a regional grant.

4. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse, Road Commissioner, will continue the drainage work on Beach Hill Road. He will leave some of the vegetation in the ditches to trap the sediment and will clean out the mouths of the culverts.

Alan Steinhoff said he cannot get across the new swale on the side of the road, to access the hay fields. Keith recommended putting in a 12-inch culvert which would cost about \$250, plus labor. Keith will assess White Road, which is covered in dirt from the logger.

Smith Road Culvert: Jeff Grandchamp said a culvert that was recently reopened on Smith Road is causing water to flow towards Sandy Moderski's house, and could contaminate the well. Keith will meet with Jeff, Sandy, and Mark to examine the area and discuss possible solutions. The house location presents a challenge as it is close to the road and below grade. Keith will check with the state about records of drainage on the road.

The paving trucks for Beach Hill Road damaged Mallery Road. Keith will call HMA about their repairing it.

Keith recommended that the school bus turnaround be at the top of Beach Hill Road, rather than in Frye's driveway, due to concerns about road damage and ease of snow plowing.

5. Broadband: The overhead friendlies will start getting connected this week. Jason is waiting to hear when the undergrounds will be scheduled. Once the friendlies are completed, the rest of the town will be done. There is conference call on Wednesday with Whip City. Jason forwarded a docusign to Ken for the out of scope work. The generator at the Town Hall is set up to wi-fi with alerts for power.

6. Any unforeseen business: Ken will resend the letter concerning 94 Beach Hill Road to Janet and Joel from legal counsel.

Keith will fix the pot holes on Old Route 7, and at the mailboxes at Roys Road.

The letter for the Building Inspector, concerning zoning violations, was reviewed by the Board.

Mark a made a motion to send the letter as amended, seconded by Jason.

7. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting October 7, 2019 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:58