

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
November 18, 2019

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Mark Phelps

Absent: Ken McInerney

Others Present: Keith Lacasse, Richard George, Lori Jayko, Richard Demyer, Tom Davis, Mike Birch, Ed Grosso, Cindy Grosso, Jackie Lacasse, Tammy Steinhoff, Alan Steinhoff, Jenna Phelps, Louise Palmer

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve the minutes from 11/4: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 11/4/2019 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Richard Demyer, Veteran Services Officer, said the veterans' budget for FY21 will be ready in January. He is collecting the required information from the benefits recipients. They have until the end of December to submit their paperwork, and if not they will not receive benefits.

Richard reported that the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District is creating two budgets for FY21, one if North Adams joins the district and one if they don't. A firm budget will be completed by the end of January. They are negotiating using the waste station in North Adams so TVs, mattresses, hazardous waste, etc can be dropped off year-round. NBSWD is getting bids ready for recycling. Richard will get a clothing box placed near the town recycling. The town will get seven cents a pound for clothing. There is no contract necessary and the bin can be removed upon request. Metal recycling is bringing in \$500-\$600 a year.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse, finished the ditches on Beach Hill Road. He would like to blacktop some of the approaches to the culverts, if the weather allows. He cleared the culvert that the beavers plugged on Ingraham Road. He will close Ingraham Road by moving the gate. He will also close Roys Road. When Greylock Road gets really wet, water bubbles out of the road. Keith blew the leaves out and water was draining better. He will look at it. The tracks for the Salt Shed door got pinched and are creating a problem with getting the door open. Keith will try to straighten them out. The door is rotted on the bottom and does not run on the bottom track any more.

4. Taxes: The Tax Classification Hearing was November 14, and the rate was set at \$12.48. The bills should be going out soon. Assessor, Chris Lamarre, gave a detailed presentation. He recommended budgeting more money in assessing to meet DOR's inspection requirements.

5. Broadband: There was a meeting call on November 15 with Whip City. They talked about the delay on the underground installations. There are 60 households up and running. The installations should be complete the second week in December. A tree fell near the top of Beach Hill Road and it appears as if the wire is wrapped around. The power company may need to be called. Jason will look at it.

6. Host Community Agreement: Jason sent the Host Community Agreement from Tom Davis to legal counsel and is waiting to hear back from them before going further. Tom gave the Select Board a spreadsheet of the potential tax revenue. Ed Grosso is concerned about the processing being an industrial use of the property. Specifically, he is concerned about noise from the compressors, ethanol in the process as a fire/explosion hazard, more lighting, ground water pollution, and vapors. Tom has started looking at the state's information about Route 7 where the climbing lane ends and has been brainstorming solutions, including lights and road signs. There's a checklist of what needs to be submitted plus a form from the Planning Board for a change of use to the property. Jason will scan it in, send it to Tom, and post it on the website.

7. Any Unforeseen Business: None.

8. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting December 2, 2019 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:10