

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall

January 6, 2020

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

Others Present: Richard George, Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes December 16: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 12-16-2019 Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse reported that one beaver was trapped on Ingraham Road and one was found dead in the woods. The culvert is not getting plugged anymore. A resident on Greylock Road called Keith about potholes. There is about four inches of ice buildup on the road. Once the ice is gone, Keith will fill in the holes. The road is getting salted to the top of the black top and then getting sanded the rest of the way. Keith recommended it get salted all the way. Ingraham Road is getting salted to the end of the black top, then sanded without plowing to the gate. Keith will attend the MASS DOT pre-construction conference on January 14<sup>th</sup> about paving Route 7. One of John's plows broke in town. Keith can get cold mix from R.I. Baker to patch the roads for \$800 a pallet. He estimated needing three bags. He can use the base material from the Salt Shed for the pot holes near the mailboxes at the end of Roys Road and on Greylock Road. There is about 200-300 pounds of spilled salt in the parking lot at the Salt Shed. Keith dug the ditches along Greylock Road to help with the drainage problems.

4. Broadband: There are 80 active households and 2 connections scheduled. The rest are cold drops plus two in the spring. A resident on Roys Road wants connection.

5. Budget: The Berkshire Country Retirement System appropriation for FY21 is \$1,082.

6. Any other unforeseen business: The Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership is having an organizational meeting on January 28. They require notification of the appointment of the town's representative. Jason made a motion to appoint Mark Phelps as representative to the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership, seconded by Ken. Notification will be sent to the MTWP and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Ken wrote a grant for the Bauer Road trails through the MTWP. He will get the USB required for submission. The Board reviewed the grant application and signed it.

The Community Host Agreement is expected back from legal counsel by January 10<sup>th</sup> and will be discussed at the next meeting.

There was a request for information from WGBH news about cannabis. Jason called back and left a message. Ken abstained from the conversation.

Mark noted that Verizon cell coverage has gotten worse. He would like to contact Representative John Barrett and register a formal complaint.

A member of the Fire Department started a GoFundMe to raise \$25,000 to expand the Fire Station. An addition would need town approval. There are also concerns about raising money for an unapproved project and oversight of the account. Jason will talk to the Fire Chief, Wayne Buckley.

Governor Baker gave the MASS DOT an extra 20 million dollars. Our town will get \$4,312.

7. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting January 21 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:50