

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall

January 31, 2020

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

Others Present: Wayne Buckley, Lori Jayko, Dave Carpenter, Mike Nugai

Meeting opened at 5:31

1. Fire Department: Jason expressed concern about a GoFundMe that was recently published by a member of the Fire Department. Wayne Buckley, Fire Chief, said he asked Dave Carpenter to set up the GoFundMe to raise money for an addition to the Fire Station, as a feeler to see if they could get donations. Jason advised him that, according to Legal Counsel, they cannot use the municipality for a GoFundMe. Fundraising should not be done for an unapproved project and the money needs to go directly to the Department, not to anyone else's account. The first priority needs to be replacing the roof and doors.

The Board asked about the basic requirements in the state for volunteer firefighters and if they are being met by the Fire Department. Wayne said volunteer firefighters need training in basic first aid, CPR, AED, and hazmat. The new firefighters have gotten basic first aid, AED, CPR, and first responders training. A hazmat class is scheduled for the beginning of April.

The Board questioned about the financial safe guards for the Department, in regards to its paying for a member's EMT training. Wayne gave the Board copies of the form that was signed by the member taking the class, vowing a two-year commitment to the Department or she has to reimburse for the cost of the class. Wayne said a benefit of her being trained is that she can then help train other department members. She is required to attend 70% of department trainings. The Board questioned whether she can leave work to respond to calls and expressed concern over response time, as she lives in Dalton.

Wayne explained that basic firefighter training is done in house. Dave runs driver training. The ATV and trailer are in a storage building, owned by Mike Nugai, for the winter to make room for the hummer in the station. A trailer hitch is being made for the hummer and a tool box will be added. It will be moved back outside when the weather is good. The Board has concerns about the liability with equipment being stored at a location that is not the Station. The Board wants to make sure that insurance will cover it. Wayne will call the MIIA representative and ask about storing it off property.

Mike Nugai has been helping with the grant for the tanker truck. They sent out the specs to thirteen manufacturers. The Board will put out an invitation to bid. The town is providing a \$15,000 match for the grant. The department members have to take an EVOC class from the Mass Firefighter's Academy as a requirement for the grant. There is also a day of training when the tanker is delivered. Wayne completed a webinar to learn all the steps to follow in order to get the grant.

Wayne is getting quotes to replace the roof and doors. The roof quotes will be for metal and anything other than asphalt.

Wayne fixed the thermostat, at the Station, that was locked out. The propane was not on automatic delivery and the station ran out. Ostermann responded to an emergency call for \$99 plus the cost of filling the tank at the rate of \$1.53 per gallon. Wayne changed delivery to automatic and added a monitor to it. The Board thanked Wayne for coming and requested the Department's FY21 budget.

2. STM Warrant: The Special Town Meeting warrant draft was reviewed. The Broadband money from the Special Town Meeting in May has been used and there are remaining costs. The MLP is requesting an additional \$30,000 to complete the build-out. There are no criteria established by the MBI to get the remaining \$7,500 of grant money. It is unknown when we will receive the \$500 per connection, for 70%, from the state. Connect America is the CAF-II funding, available when all towns are up to a percentage. The Board discussed changing the Town Clerk position from elected to appointed. The Board will send the Town Clerk a letter with their concerns. An article needs to be added to the warrant for the Fire Department's request for funds for SCBA's.

3. Public Comment: None.

4. Any other unforeseen business: None.

5. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting February 3, 2020 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 6:42