

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting  
Teleconference  
May 4, 2020

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps  
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Chris Lamarre

Meeting opened at 6:31

1. Approve minutes from April 23: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the April 23, 2020 Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved as amended to specify the culvert replacement was to the Bauer Road Trail.
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Assessing Recertification: Assessor, Chris Lamarre, informed the Board of assessing directives from the DOR. Inspections for personal property have to be completed by FY23. There are about 14 personal property accounts, with the possibility of a few unaccounted for. The real estate directives must be met by 2028. There are 110 properties that need physical inspections, interior and exterior with measurements, including any out buildings. Photographs will be updated. This is voluntary from the home owner, however the DOR wants as complete an inspection process as possible. Chris thinks he can complete this in six years without additional money from the town, depending on the demands from the Williamstown side, by completing 20 a year. A vendor would likely charge \$40-\$50 per account to do the inspection and data entry. The DOR wants more links to their website provided by the town, to make it easier for the tax payer to access information. CAI currently does the tax mapping GIS, but there is no online presence which the DOR is looking for. This may cost \$1,500 - \$2,000 annually, plus updating.  
Jason talked to Patriot about putting the software on the server.
4. Tree Warden: The Tree Warden could not attend and will be on the next meeting's agenda.
5. Covid-19: Buildings/businesses may or may not open on May 18. Jason attends calls with the Northern Berkshire Operation Center and also with MEMA. Jason will reach out to Wayne Buckley about the Emergency Management Director position. Jason asked him if there is someone else on the Fire Department that could do it. There are no reported cases of covid-19 in New Ashford.
6. Annual Town Meeting: The Board would like to schedule the ATM for June 23 and Town Elections for June 30. The meeting could be held outside. Jason will reach out to legal counsel about the options.
7. Annual Town Warrant: Jason is adding establishing a Broadband Stabilization Account and a chicken by-law. The Tree Warden proposed a vote to become a Tree City, as recognized by the Arbor Day Society. The Board would like more information.

8. Elections: Already covered.

9. Road Commissioner: Not present. Ken will call Keith Lacasse about potholes on Greylock Road. Ken checked on the placing of the millings under the guard rails for the Route 7 paving project. It was included in the drawing but not in the scope of work and therefore, received Conservation Commission approval.

10. Community Host Agreement: Jason sent Hop Cultivators the final draft of the Community Host Agreement. He will follow up about the \$2,500 they were supposed to gift to the town to cover legal fees.

Jason got an e-mail from Sean Sheridan asking about open growing rules in town, pertaining to cannabis grown outside of a greenhouse and without lighting. It does not fit into the town's agriculture rules, so the property may need to be rezoned. Jason will consult with Town Counsel.

11. Budget: The Building Inspector's Expense Account can be cut to \$1,500. She will look for a better deal for online permitting than what the town has previously been quoted. The School Committee is voting on their budget on Friday. The Law Account remains at \$5,000. Jason will review the budget with consideration for the current uncertainties with funding.

12. Any other unforeseen business: Jason will ask the Fire Chief about the radio grant, the fire truck that is still in the Fire Station's parking lot, and the Emergency Management Director job. Ken will send out a drop cost assistance letter to Bill Ennon. There are about 85 residences connected. After June 30, residents will bear the cost of hook-up.

Lori and Michelle Singer have discussed the \$250 for the Old-School House Repairs rolling over from year to year. They will consult with DOR representative Matt Andre.

The Board has not received the requested information about the Fire Department's finances.

The Assessor Expense Account is overdrawn. Lori will check why.

The Roads and Bridges Account error was corrected. There is \$12,000 left, which is not enough for a new culvert on Smith Road. The repaving could be pushed off to the new fiscal year.

Jason will talk to Kurt Singer about the laptop for the Police Chief work.

The Town of Hancock has not returned Ken's calls about the possibility of sharing an Animal Control Officer. He will check with Kurt to see if he is willing to do the 30 hours of mandatory training.

13. Warrant: An invoice for tree removal from KLC was added to the warrant. The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting May 18 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39