

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting  
New Ashford Town Hall/Teleconference  
August 3, 2020

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

Others Present: Frank Speth, Lori Jayko

Call-In: Keith Lacasse

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve Minutes: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 7-20-2020 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved as amended.

2. Public Comment: Frank Speth from the Fire Department, advised the Board on marking the derelict buildings in town to ensure firefighter safety. A red X, placed on three sides of the building, means no interior firefighting will be done on premises. A list of such properties could be kept by the Fire Department and shared with dispatch. It is unclear if the Building Inspector needs to be involved in this process and Frank requested permission to speak with Town Counsel about it. The Building Inspector has a letter for such property owners of what the law is. Ken would like to review town addresses to make sure everything aligns for taxes and for the Fire Department.

The Building Inspector is working on the long-term rental problem at the Carriage House. Frank gave an update on the Fire Department. He is revising the run card, which spells out the apparatus from each town that responds to mutual aid calls. He is redrafting the incident card for simplicity. The Department is updating the bylaws and will clean the Station. Frank would like to paint the inside of the Station in the winter. Frank has tasked Dave Carpenter as the EMS Deputy and they will go over the EMS equipment. The Department meets every Tuesday and has been doing a lot of training. Frank is keeping track of man hours to add to the Town Report, and also the number of hours he puts in of Chief work. The program "I Am Responding" tracks progress of how many people show up, including the number of hours that are put in. The procurement procedure document for the tanker grant was submitted to FEMA. It would be ideal to have at least two water sources in town. Currently the Department draughts from the brook on Ingraham Road. The dry hydrant is not functional, but would be more efficient to use.

The Board asked about the amount of trucks in the station, taking up too much space and suggested that it might be better to have a smaller vehicle. Frank explained that when the Department looked at getting Engine 2, they explored the idea of retrofitting a plow truck. They determined it would cost about \$15,000 more than they ended up paying for Engine 2. Frank does not want to get rid of equipment unless it starts needing many repairs.

The Department needs more members. There are currently 16 members, three of which are juniors. Three people have expressed interest in joining. Frank would like to put a sign out near Route 7, asking for volunteers. Interested people can also sign up through The National Volunteer Fire Council's website.

Jason will ask Town Counsel if the Fire Department's bylaws need approval by the Select Board, at Town Meeting, or just by the Fire Department.

Frank is making a 3-5 year capital plan, that includes putting on an addition to the back of the Station, with consideration for the costs of meeting ADA requirements. This would allow Truck 5 to be housed inside the Station and would include a work space and a meeting room. The location of the septic system may prohibit adding on to the back.

Frank wants to set up a Fire Association to do fundraising, such as pancake breakfasts, to raise money for the Department.

The Select Board will be looking into getting an energy efficiency grant to replace the Town Hall windows and the Fire Station doors.

The Board thanked Frank for the update and for all his work.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse reported that the town has an \$896 credit with E.J. Prescott. The Board would like him to request a refund.

A tree came down on Greylock Road and Keith removed it.

4. MLP: Ken reported that the internet build-out is complete. The \$900 retainer for emergency coverage and the \$426 for annual registration with Dig Safe are recurring costs. Residents will be responsible for their Dig Safe costs.

Keith will ask Dalton about renting the mower for the sides of the road. If the mower is unavailable, Keith will check with a place in New York. PLT does not have a mower.

Keith advised that the dry hydrant on Ingraham Road is hooked up but is plugged with sediment. It was installed at the bottom of the brook. Keith may be able to clean it out, get it off the bottom of the brook, and prevent sediment from getting in. He estimates that it would take about a day and cost \$1,500 - \$2,000. The pond on the corner of Mallery and Cemetery Roads could also be a good place for a dry hydrant. Ken will look into the conservation issues of digging out the pond on Keith's property for use as a water source for the Fire Department.

Jason will run the devices for the internet for the Fire Department.

Ken will work on a job description for the Emergency Management Director position based on what the state recommends. It will include attendance at a couple of meetings and applying for a grant.

Frank was appointed as Fire Warden at the last meeting. Wayne Buckley would like to do it until January. Berkshire County has an online burn permit process. Frank will look at the cost and let the Board know.

5. Any other unforeseen business: The Board reviewed and discussed Matt Kelly's e-mail pertaining to his temporary access road for 94 Beach Hill. They will send him an e-mail asking him to clarify his intentions and will reschedule the multi-board meeting for August 24 at 6:30.

6. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting August 17, 2020 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:24