

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Teleconference
October 19, 2020

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Frank Speth, Lori Jayko, JD Hebert, Richard George, Stephen Jayko, Chuck Morrone
Call –In: Bette Craig

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes from October 5: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the October 5, 2020 New Ashford Select Board/MLP meeting were approved.
2. Fire Department: Frank Speth, Interim Fire Chief, said the Department is having a problem with a few members who have not attended trainings since July 7th. Those members were invited to attend a meeting the first Tuesday in September to state their intentions. They did not show up or respond. The Department then sent certified letters. Dave and Tracy Crosby accepted their letters, while Dave and Tina Carpenter did not. Frank spoke with the Fire Chief, Wayne Buckley, who said that they are EMTS and are going to stay on the Department. However, they have not been responding to any calls, including medical. The Fire Department by-laws dictate that if members miss three drills they need to state their intentions. Frank would like help from the Select Board with this issue. The next step could be to have a civil sheriff deliver the letters. The members have Department gear that needs to be returned. Jason reached out to Wayne by text and by phone and did not get a response. Wayne also has not attended a meeting or training since the beginning of July. Frank can conduct smoke and carbon monoxide detector inspections, but he does not have the necessary training for oil burners, underground storage tanks, or propane inspections. The Mass Fire Academy has put the necessary trainings on hold due to Covid. Frank could ask the Hancock Fire Chief to handle the inspections. The State Fire Marshall's Office would need a letter from Frank and a letter from the Select Board. Ken will talk to former Chief Pete Rancourt to see if he would be able and interested in doing the inspections. Ken made a motion that as the current Chief Wayne Buckley is in violation of the Fire Department by-law, "To remain active, members must attend 75% of training, meetings and practices", the Select Board will remediate the situation by appointing Frank Speth as the Fire Chief effective immediately, seconded by Mark. The locks will be changed at the Fire Station. Jason will let the Town Clerk know of the change of appointment and he will notify Wayne. A new policy will be implemented for members to sign for their gear so there is a record of what needs to be returned when they leave the Department.
3. Public Comment: Bette Craig noted that on October 21, at 10:30, Willinet will be filming at the Old Schoolhouse. Chuck will move the ballot box to the Old Schoolhouse, with the Town Clerk's permission. Cindy Grosso will talk about Phoebe Jordan's voting. Barbara Winslow, historian of women's studies, will speak about women's suffrage. They will be done filming by noon. Everyone will wear a mask, except for the person speaking on video. The video will be presented on November 2 and will also be part of a video walking tour of local suffrage sites.

4. Road Commissioner: Not present.
5. Taxes: Assessor, Chris Lamarre, has been going over with the forms with the Accountant. The Select Board will move their next meeting to the second week of November in order to have the Tax Classification Hearing at the same time. Chris and the tax collector have been able to get into the server.
6. Trick or Treat: Mark made a motion to cancel Trick or Treat hours on the advice of the Board of Health, seconded by Ken.
7. CARES Act: Ken asked the Council on Aging and the Fire Department about any expenses they have incurred relative to the grant. The grant could be used to set up the Town Hall better for virtual meetings by purchasing a flat screen TV, a stand, web camera, phone with extension and click share. The Fire Department would like a TV for training. The grant is due at the end of the month. An air exchange system, ultraviolet treatment, and air filters might also be an option. If anyone has hardship with internet costs due to Covid, that could also be covered. The Community Compact Grant is due by the end of the month.
8. Town Hall Ramp: The Board thanked Chuck Morrone and Pete Rancourt for repairing the Town Hall ramp. Chuck recommended treating the ramp. They had trouble at Home Depot with the tax exempt number. Ken thanked Chuck for the helping with wood chipping.
9. Emergency Management: The Board reviewed the job description and will pass it along to Frank Speth for his opinion.
10. Any other unforeseen business: The roof on the Old Schoolhouse sustained damage in the last storm. Chuck will look at it, but isn't sure he can fix it. The Board thanked Chuck for fixing the Town Hall door lock. A subcommittee will be formed to work on ideas for the next Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership Grant for creating a New Ashford trail with DCR.
11. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting November 9 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48