

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting  
New Ashford Town Hall/Teleconference  
December 7, 2020

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Mark Phelps  
Call-In: Ken McInerney (MLP Manager)  
Others Present: Frank Speth, Richard George, Lori Jayko, Keith Lacasse

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes from 11-23: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken the minutes from the 11-23-2020 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Richard George, Board of Health Chair, waited for the Building Inspector at the Springs Motel for an inspection, for 45 minutes on December 2, and she did not show up. Mark will call her and find out what it is going on.

3. Fire Department: Fire Chief, Frank Speth, provided an update on the members that were voted out who have not returned Fire Department gear. Certified letters mailed to Dave and Tina Carpenter were returned, unaccepted so a Civil Sheriff served the letters. They had 14 days to return the gear that belongs to the Fire Department. Dave sent Frank an e-mail stating that until he gets paid for an invoice for a replacement lens for engine 2, he will not return his gear. An invoice for the lens has not been received and the lens is not in possession of the Fire Department nor is it installed on the engine. Frank will review the Fire Department meeting minutes to see if the purchase was authorized. He called a special meeting for the Fire Department for 12/8. The Select Board noted that the returning of the gear is a separate issue from the invoice and encouraged the Department to consult with Legal Counsel about the gear and pursue the issue at Small Claims Court if necessary. Dave and Tina have not attended a Fire Department Meeting in months. Dave did not return the money he took from members for badges. Frank will talk to Legal Counsel about Daniel Leddick's failing to meet the obligations of a contract she signed about her EMT class. The Department paid \$1,300 for her EMT training last year. She signed a contract that she needed to attend a percentage of Fire Department trainings or she would pay the Department back for the training. She has not been attending. The Fire Department will send its Annual Fund Drive letter to town residents next week. The mailing was changed to late fall from April, due to Covid. In the future, the Department will send it in October.

The tanker contract was submitted to FEMA. The old tanker will go back to DCR. The new tanker is a single axle truck and should be ready by April or May.

Frank would like to have two working dry hydrants in town. It may be possible to fix the dry hydrant on Ingraham Road by cutting the pipe, attaching a new piece of pipe, dredging that part of the brook, setting the hydrant on a concrete block, and adding a screen on the end. Periodic flushing would be necessary. The pond at Keith Lacasse's may have less sediment than other options. Work there needs approval from the Conservation Commission and DEP.

Engine 4 and Engine 2 had required pump testing and preventative maintenance done by Shakerly, which will give a recommendation of necessary repairs. Engine 4 needs its pump repacked. The bill for both trucks was about \$1,800. Engine 3, a 1980, is no longer MFP

compliant and may be sold in the spring. The tanker is outside that station and the hummer is inside. Hancock and Lanesboro will be automatically dispatched to a structure fire, due to our tanker being out of service.

Frank asked the Town Treasurer to be the third person on the Fire Department bank accounts for oversight, as he thinks it should be someone on the Department or in town. The Fire Department votes on any bill out of the normal (such as the telephone and electric bills). Donation money goes in the savings account. Bills are paid from the checking account and reimbursement from the town goes into the checking account. Frank is working on getting 501C status. He thinks that a Fire Department Association is necessary to be able to raise money for costs not covered by the town budget – for example extra truck maintenance and training. Last year, the Fire Department ran out of town budgeted money in April and the Department covered the rest of the bills. A Stabilization Fund could be set up for the Fire Department. The Board will ask Legal Counsel if the Town Treasurer can be on the Fire Department bank account and if everyone on the Fire Department bank accounts needs to be bonded.

4. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse said he did not make repairs on Greylock Road yet. He will put stone and pipe in the ditch, but thinks the road is too frozen to grade. Tom Greenwood called about the hole after the bridge on Roys Road. Keith suggested that the end of the bridge abutment get paved next year, about 40-50 feet. He will put some millings in it for now, which should last through the winter. Ken will ask DCR when they are closing the roads. Then Keith will close Greylock and Roys Roads. Keith will get the material for the back fill on Smith Road this week and Mark will volunteer his tractor and time to place it.

5. Planning Board – Beach Hill Driveway App: Matt Kelly reached out to the Tree Warden about a shared driveway on Beach Hill Road. The Road Commissioner gave permission for temporary access. A shared driveway requires a special permit from the Planning Board. Ken will forward the Tree Warden's e-mail to the Planning Board and ask Matt Kelly why the special permit application hasn't been sent to the Planning Board.

The common drive at Kapiloff's had paperwork filed on March 10, 1999 by the Town Clerk, stating that the Planning Board did not act. It is on Kapiloff's deed to allow access to lot 6, but there is nothing filed at the Registry of Deeds from the town.

6. Cares Act: Jason will talk to Frank Speth about whether the Fire Department can use a laptop instead of a Chromebook. The CARES Act money needs to be allocated by the end of the month. Walker will give a quote for the instant hot.

7. Any other unforeseen business: None

8. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting December 21 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:44