

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Teleconference
April 5, 2021

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Frank Speth, Keith Lacasse, Richard George, Zack Cochrane
Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes from March 15, 2021: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the March 15, 2021 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith placed 306 yards of material on Ingraham Road. A new house may be built on Ingraham Road this year near the town line. The snow plowing contract will be modified to reflect the additional length needed to be plowed and a turnaround will be necessary. Ingraham Road was not plowed wide enough this year to allow the melting snow to run off the roads. The center of the road is clay. There is a material that gets mixed in during a full depth reclamation, to create a concrete surface that should last up to twenty years. It costs \$15,000 for a two-mile treatment; however, we would only need it from the blacktop up. The road would need to be closed for the day. Keith will get the width, depth, and length of the road for more accurate pricing. Old Route 7 should be milled to Mountain Pond Lane. The Board will ask legal counsel if building permits can be denied in the interest of public safety on seasonal roads. Keith will patch potholes on Old Route 7 to Mountain Pond Lane and on Mallery Road. Keith dropped off material for the edges on Smith Road and Mark has been filling them in. There's about one load of base material left at the Salt Shed. There were a lot of branches down in the wind storm and Keith took a tree off the line on Beach Hill Road. There's a town owned plot of land on Ingraham Road that could be used for storage of materials.

4. Fire Department: Frank Speth turned in the Fire Department's budget request for \$18,200. There is an increase in the EMS budget and truck maintenance. Pump testing is required annually and costs \$1,900 for engine 4 and \$1,400 for engine two. This could be done every other year to save money. Frank is getting quotes for hose testing which should be done annually. The First Responder class cost \$1,700 this year. The CPR/AED class will be \$900 – \$1,100. There is a line item for four EMT's reimbursement for license renewals. The AED's need replacing, which is not included in the budget. A refurbished unit costs around \$850 or \$1,250 for a new one. The Department currently has five. Electricity, telephone, and fuel increased. PPE is level funded. The total budget is a \$5,520 increase over last year. Frank says this is a realistic budget of what it takes to run the department. Engine 2 needs repairs not included in the budget of \$2,696. The light bar needs repairs of which \$212 is estimated labor cost and \$950 is for parts. Some of the work needs to be done by a certified technician, some does not. Engine 3 is no longer being maintained, as it is out of compliance. International, the manufacturer of parts for the new tanker has shut down due to Covid. However, our chassis has been built and the new tanker is expected to be ready in the fall. Frank is having Sayers take the training vehicle out of the Fire Department parking lot after receiving a complaint from a resident. Next weekend the Department is doing a Station clean up.

Mirabito gave a quote of \$4,250 for a new propane tank. They do not want to put a tank of their own in until they know we are renewing our contract with them. Frank is getting another quote for a propane tank from a different company.

The Department got a grant of \$8,000 for a radio for the new tanker.

Jason will reach out to legal counsel for an update on the case against the former Department members that have not turned in their gear and equipment.

Keith will repair the dry hydrant on Ingraham Road when the culvert work is done.

5. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program: The MVP program is through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to help municipalities prepare for climate change. Jason will look into it.

6. MLP: The fiber is connected to the new pole on Route 7. Ken has the insurance information if the town receives an invoice for the work.

7. Annual Town Meeting/Warrant: The Board reviewed the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. They will decide how much to put in the Broadband Stabilization account once they get the estimate for installing the fire suppression system in the IT Room. The system involves a chemical under high pressure that fills the room. The floor where the cable comes up needs to be plugged and someone needs to be notified if the system is activated. The cemetery committee is being changed to appointed, rather than elected. \$250 will be put in the Old Schoolhouse Stabilization. The \$420,000 borrowing that was approved to build out the Broadband will be rescinded, as it is no longer needed. The Board discussed putting in a line from the Town Hall propane tanks to the Fire Station to eliminate the need for a tank there. They estimated it would cost around \$1,200 to trench and drop a line.

8. Budget: The Board reviewed the budget. The VSO stipend remains the same. Chapter 115 was set at \$14,500. The Recycling Account was increased to reflect the increased cost of recycling and the payout for the Small Scales Grant (which gets reimbursed to the general fund). The Recycling Attendant's stipend was increased to \$1,816.

9. Any other unforeseen business: Town hall lights were replaced with LEDS. Mark turned in his letter of resignation to the Board for the Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership. The Board declined his resignation. Ken asked Mark to stay on for another year to help with the MTWP grant work. The approved grant funding of \$39,000 cannot be carried over to the next fiscal year, according to Bob O'Connor, and needs to be spent by the end of June. Ken met with DCR and picked a spot near the beaver pond off Bauer Road to create a New Ashford Trail. However, there is not enough time to put the project through the DCR green docket review process. DCR was going to offer some ideas of how to improve trail access through work on Greylock and Bauer Roads but Ken has not heard back from them. Mark will call Representative John Barrett to see if he would sponsor legislation for towns to receive carbon credits for state owned land.

10. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting April 21 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:53