

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Teleconference
April 21, 2021

Select Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Richard George, Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko
Call-In: Shaun Garvey, Stephen Demyer

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes April 5, 2021: Mark made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2021 New Ashford Select Board/MLP meeting as amended, seconded by Ken.

2. Public Comment: Lori asked that any information for the Annual Town Report be submitted by Friday.

Shaun asked for clarification of what to do with the additional town budget for tree removal in FY22. Keith and Shaun will drive the roads, focusing on the canopies and ash trees.

Stephen Demyer wanted to know if the Board took any action on giving him a raise. The Board gave him a raise of 12%.

3. Planning Board: Tom Morton has agreed to serve on the Planning Board. Mark nominated Tom Morton for the Planning Board, seconded by Ken, to fill the remainder of Tom Murray's term. The Board will ask legal counsel if a Board member can refuse the rule of necessity.

4. Road Commissioner: Keith brought a sample of Permazine for the Board. It makes a water tight concrete-like barrier and Keith thinks it would be a good option for Ingraham Road. The Board wants to know what the live load rating is. Keith said he will find out. The material will be laid a foot thick. Keith suggests doing the culverts and reclaiming Ingraham Road, even if we don't pave it this year. He would add calcium as far as the blacktop goes. There are 1,812 feet to the end of the black top and 8,238 feet from the bottom of the road to the town line. Old Route 7 to Mountain Pond Lane needs to be reclaimed and paved. It is 1,618 feet from Route 7 to the end, and 418 feet from the apron to Mountain Pond Lane. After Mountain Pond Lane, the road could be milled down and narrowed. Old Route 7 may need a shallow grind, as there was rebar found there during past projects. Keith will talk to someone worked on the road last time and find out what was done. The Fire Department pad is 50' X 55'. The Salt Shed is 285 feet from the bottom of road to the white birch just up the hill from the Salt Shed. Keith will talk to Dave Stokes from Mass DOT about the town's Chapter 90 balance.

5. Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership: DCR suggested using the grant money to purchase material to make three stream crossings on the Old Adams Trail, which runs on the Adams/New Ashford border, or to purchase material to make bog bridges in the beaver pond. We could do work on Greylock and Bauer Roads to improve trail access. A walking trail could be created on the 2 ½ acre town-owned lot on Ingraham Road or the lot could be used to create parking for the Sugarloaf Trail.

6. MLP: Wired West wanted non-member towns to support the middle mile's improving redundancy, in consideration of a catastrophic event. MBI said towns need to figure out their own redundant loops. Our town has an automatic switch on the fiber to go either way if needed.

7. Labor: Jason talked to the Department of Revenue and they advised that towns should be using W-2's instead of 1099's for town positions. This switch will be made for the new calendar year. Mark made a motion to raise the Treasurer's and Accountant's salaries by \$1,500 each to account for the extra work involved, seconded by Ken. Jason abstained.

8. Annual Town Meeting/Warrant: The Enterprise budget is set at \$72,878. An article will put \$4,000 from the Enterprise Free Cash into the Enterprise Stabilization Fund. Article 14 is for \$2,700 from Free Cash to fix Engine 2. Article 15 is to transfer \$4,300 from Free Cash for the cost of installation of gas lines to the Fire Department.

9. Budget: The Board increased pay for town positions by 12%, bringing the total FY22 budget to \$753,183. Jason will clean up the budget spreadsheet and get the Annual Town Warrant ready for signatures.

The Annual Town Meeting will be May 18 outside of the Fire Station at 6 PM.

10. Any other unforeseen business: The Blood Mobile would like to set up in the Town Hall parking lot. The Board approves.

Jason got an e-mail that the town needs an Emergency Response Coordinator. They recommend it be someone different than the Emergency Management Director. Mark nominated Jason, seconded by Ken.

11. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed. There is no Staples receipt to go with the invoice. Ken will follow up with the Town Clerk as she has not answered the Treasurer's request for the receipt and the Treasurer and Accountant did not make purchases.

Next meeting May 3 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:40