

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Teleconference
July 7, 2021

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Keith Lacasse, Richard George, Lori Jayko, Chuck Morrone, Susan Supranowicz, Kurt Singer
Call-In: None

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes from 6/21 and 6/28: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 6/21 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken the minutes from the 6/28 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.

2. Unforeseen Business: The Select Board and Cemetery Commission need to make an appointment to the Cemetery Commission to fill the vacancy that resulted from the tie at Town Elections. Susan will contact Anthony Bossana to confirm if he accepts the position he was elected to. Mike Bossana was nominated at Town Caucus, however Anthony's name was on the ballot. Ken made a motion to nominate Mike Bossana to the Cemetery Commission, seconded by Mark.

3. Public Comment: Chuck Morrone asked for an update on the status of the pistol permits. Kurt said he is having difficulty accessing the state's site. The new laptop is working well but he needs to use a VPN to get to the portal, at which point he gets an invalid certificate error. He is working with the state to get the problem solved. He has three permits pending and three more to do.

4. Former Town Clerk Equipment: The former Town Clerk has a laptop purchased by the town for \$569, along with binders and flash drives from March. She gave Susan two binders, some post it notes, envelopes, pencils, and paperclips. Moving forward anyone getting town equipment will sign for it and everyone will be required to use a town e-mail address. The Board will work on creating a by-law concerning e-mail addresses and Jason will talk to Legal Counsel about the equipment.

5. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse said there was washout/rain damage on White Road. He cleaned out the road and detoured water around two plugged culverts. He thinks the best solution is to remove the culverts and create a trench, putting in rip rap on the lower side to protect against erosion. Keith opened up the culvert at the bottom of White Road to about 8-inches of clearance. He turned in paperwork to get a permit for the Fire Station roof. He has not heard from Warner Bros about Ingraham Road. Tri-town and Donovan will give a quote for the work on Old Route 7, the Fire Station parking lot, and near the Salt Shed.

6. Septic: The Town Hall septic was pumped and the tank is in good shape. The Board would like to put a 3,000-gallon tight tank in at the Fire Station, to account for its potential use as an emergency shelter. It might be possible to use the Covid funds for this. The Board will put together an estimate for replacing both tanks with alarms, installing low-flow toilets in the Town Hall and the Fire Station, and possibly reducing the number of bathrooms from two to one in the Fire Station. The project could cost \$15,000- \$16,000 and would not need to be put out to bid. It may require a Special Town Meeting.

7. Snowplow Contract: The Board reviewed the contract. They updated about blocks, gates, and pushing the snow banks back. They clarified which roads get salt, which get sand, and added that mailboxes get plowed. Jason will contact Legal Counsel to see if prevailing wages apply. The Board discussed the school bus route and said they would like to see consistency with whether the bus goes up the side streets or not. This is a School Committee issue. Plowing and salting before bus times was added to the contract. It is clear that town plowing and private plowing are separate – especially with consideration to the town sand/salt usage. Jason will clean the contract up and the Board will review it at the next meeting and get it posted.

8. Basement/File Cabinets: The filing cabinets will be moved downstairs and put on pallets. The basement has flooded before due to a crack in the wall. The Board discussed repairing the crack. There is a dehumidifier in the basement.

9. Any other unforeseen business: Jason has the contract for the assessing agreement with Williamstown. Mark made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Ken. Ken will call about the Berkshire Purchasing Group e-mail that referenced locking-in for fuel.

10. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting July 19, 2021 at 6:30

Meeting closed at 8:20