

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Teleconference
August 23, 2021

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney, Mark Phelps

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Chuck Morrone, Susan Supranowicz, Richard George, Keith Lacasse, Alan Steinhoff, Tammy Steinhoff, Nikki Miller, Frank Speth, Zack Cochrane

Call- In: None

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes from 8/2: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 8/2/2021 New Ashford Select Board Meeting were approved. Ken abstained.

2. Snowplow Contract Bid Openings: Keith asked for clarification on the payment schedule before the bids were opened. He said that the statement concerning the payments to the contractor being made until the full value of salt/sand in the salt shed has been expended did not make sense. The Board agreed and the sentence was stricken. The Board opened the two bids that were received. One bid was from KLC for \$66,000 for the contract period, no exceptions other than the clerical clarification already made. The other bid was from John's Tractor and Excavation for \$70,000 for the contract period, no exceptions. Mark made a motion to accept the lower bid, seconded by Jason. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment: Chuck asked for an update on pistol permits. The connectivity issue on the state's end has been fixed and Kurt Singer is connected to the system. Jason will contact Kurt about Chuck's permit.

4. Fire Department: The Fire Chief, Frank Speth, said that FEMA gave the Department an extension on the tanker grant until March 2022, due to the delays in production caused by covid. The grant was awarded in 2019 and Frank wants to get the tanker by September 13th.

Engine 3 was donated to the Department, so the Department has to donate it when getting rid of it and cannot sell it. Frank wants to apply for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for a mini-pumper to replace it. The Board advised giving a waiver of liability to whoever it gets donated to. Frank said he can invite Mike Nugai to the next Select Board meeting to talk about it.

Engine 2 failed its inspection for emissions and Engine 3 failed its inspection for safety. Engine 3's brakes will be fixed so there is coverage for when Engine 2 is out for repairs, around September 6.

Nikki Miller, Assistant EMS Deputy, informed the Board that the Fire Department's AEDs are no longer in compliance as they are over ten years old, do not record data, and the Department cannot get replacement pads. An AED was covered in mold from being stored in the back of the truck. The Department purchased a dehumidifier for the station to combat the growing mold problem. Sealing the floor at the Fire Station might help with the moisture. There are four AEDs, one on each truck. The Department is requesting \$5,000 from the town to get four recertified Lifepack 1,000 AEDs, with a warranty for 5-10 years. The Department has an MOA with BMC that oversees the use of its AEDs, epipens, and narcain administration. Live Action Safety charges \$3,799 for four refurbished AED's, an additional \$464 for Infant/Child Pads and \$364 for a non-rechargeable battery. AED Professionals charges \$10,360 for four new AEDs, \$492 for four infant/child pads, \$596 for four carrying cases, \$1,800 for four rechargeable batteries, and \$484 for a battery charger. Nikki was unable to find a grant for the AEDs replacement. The Town Hall should also have an AED. Alan Steinhoff asked what the Department's long-term plan for AED maintenance is, specifically if a refurbished piece would need replacing that much sooner than a new one. The Board would like quotes for five brand new AEDs. Mark asked if the Department's budget contains anticipated

additional budgetary needs for new mandates. Frank said no. The Board asked how the Department did not know this was out of shelf life and needed replacement. Nikki said she has been going through the supplies. The Board made a suggestion that the Fire Department go through equipment to confirm that nothing else is out of compliance. The Department has new SCBA's and medical supplies. Frank does not anticipate needing anything else. Nikki is looking for a loaner AED for the interim. Ken asked if the AED batteries are checked on an annual basis and Nikki said yes.

5. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse got a quote from Aero Concrete for a 2,000-gallon tank of \$5,800. It will take 3 -3 ½ weeks to make. Two poly tanks delivered from Virginia would cost \$12,800 and would need to be strapped down when installed. Keith will order the tank from Aero. E.J. Prescott advised that the price of culverts has gone up to \$88 a foot, equaling around \$5,280 for the three necessary culverts for Ingraham Road. There is a shortage of culverts due to a lack of materials and staffing due to the covid. E.J. Prescott has four culverts available and the Board advised Keith to purchase them and store any extra for emergencies. Keith asked for three quotes for black topping and got no replies. Old Route 7 needs to be resurfaced before winter. Tritown said they are too busy. Keith will call Dave Stokes to see if MassDot can help. Keith got a call from Lee Bouchard about a maple tree in his yard that is dropping branches. The Tree Warden looked at it last year, but it was never taken care of. It is near the power line. Mark will call Eversource and mention the evergreen tree near the Old Schoolhouse that needs removal. Two culverts need replacing on Ingraham Road with a 12- inch 30-foot long culvert and a 12-inch 26-foot long one. It also needs 6-inch minus rip rap to do the gutters from the iron bridge up to Roughley's driveway. The old culvert is still in place near the second culvert on Ingraham Road and it has settled. Bauer Road needs two 12-inch culverts and a plastic one needs to be cleaned out. It also needs 1,320 feet of rip rap, equaling around 50 tons of stone. Keith will give replacement estimates to Jason and he will submit them to the Northern Berkshire Emergency Response Group, which is working with MEMA about reimbursement for flood damage. Alan mentioned that the drainage swales on Beach Hill Road have filled in with trees that have fallen. Keith will clean them out and will talk to the new homeowner of 123 Beach Hill Road about water that is flowing in the road, so it will not create an ice problem in the winter. Alan asked if town roads could be closed during the wet season as the logger working at the top of Beach Hill Road caused damage this year. Keith will call MassDot for guidance on posting roads. Alan asked about mowing of the sides of the roads. Keith will contact the Road Superintendent in Dalton about renting the mower. Max Lacasse put together a mower that needs some adjusting before it's ready for use. Keith will extend the post and rail on the mailboxes at the Town Hall.

6. Clerk Laptop – File Cabinet: Jason is waiting to hear back from legal counsel.

7. Any Other Unforeseen Business: Cindy Grosso asked if there is space for historical papers at the Town Hall for the Historical Commission. Susan and Chuck also have some. There is a dehumidifier in the basement and elevated shelving can be put in. The Board discussed this year's MTWP grant. Ken e-mailed Travis Clermont from DCR. The tentative plan is to create a parking lot for four cars with access to the old bog trail to the beaver pond and to restore the bridges. The work will likely be done in the spring due to the permitting process. There is a leak in the Town Hall ceiling that seems to be coming from the cupola.

8. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Next meeting September 8, 2021 at 6:30