

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom

April 4, 2022

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Mark Phelps

Zoom: Ken McInerney (MLP Manager)

Others Present: Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko, Susan Supranowicz

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes from 3/21: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 3-21-2022 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved. Ken abstained.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Road Commissioner: Jason asked Keith for suggestions of how to keep ice from sliding off the roof over the Fire Station door. Keith will look into adding a shed roof over the doorway or ice slide dams. A beaver dam broke on April 2 and caused flooding at Ingraham Road. Keith worked on it to get it drained through the culvert. Keith turned in the list of estimated materials needed for FY23 for the Berkshire Regional Purchasing group. 2,000 gallons of propane was added and Jason will get the list to Ken. There is a very short section of Ingraham Road that is really soft.

Keith and Mark walked the site for the Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership Grant with Travis Clermont from DCR. Keith estimates it would cost \$15,000 to dig out foot, add gravel and compact it for the trail. It will cost around \$1,000 to add a pressure treated bridge. Parking places could be added on Bauer Road. Keith thinks there's enough money in the grant to add walkways over wet spots, get the trail to 100%, and fix the access to the new parking area by adding rip rap near the town line on Ingraham Road. Jason had a meeting Friday afternoon with MEMA. There may be funds available to apply for culvert replacement. If Ingraham Road does not get paved this year, Keith will do some patching and fix some of the smaller culverts. There's one twelve-inch, two fifteen-inch, and a four-foot culvert. The price of blacktop is going up \$10-\$15 a ton. Keith will remove the trees near the Fire Station. He will redo the drain line that is above the septic tank and will fill in the potholes around town with cold patch.

4. Veterans Service Agent: The Chapter 115 budget was not submitted. The Board will get a proposal from Steve Roy for his services and will discuss with him the implications of the potential closing of the VA Hospital in North Hampton.

5. School House/Town Hall Roof: Smegal will give a quote for repairing the roofs. Mark talked to Cindy Grosso from the Historical Commission. She referred Mark to Chuck Morrone to investigate some grants. There may be a matching grant available for around \$10,000. The Board will get another quote for repairs and Ken will call Chuck about the roofing type for the Old Schoolhouse.

6. Town Caucus: The Caucus will be April 16 at 10am. It's posted on the website and was sent to the town e-mail list.

7. Budget: The Board reviewed the budget and discussed salary increases for town positions. The proposed increases add less than \$1,000 to the overall budget. There's a place holder for a Fire Chief Salary. The Board is waiting to hear the cost of EMS shared services with Lanesboro. The 911 bill increased to \$9,035.01. The Law Account reflects an increase. There will be an article on the town warrant for additional lawyer fees for the year. GIS mapping for the Assessor will be added to the regular budget and will be a warrant article for the one-time fee. Patriot Software is having problems with formatting and support. Jason reached out for a quote from a different tax collecting company. Funds for recertification will be added to the warrant. The town website budget was broken into further categories, such as equipment for the Town Hall, dues, licenses, and security. Chapter 115 is unknown. Overall the budget shows a \$31,000 increase over last year. The Fire Department's budget is about a \$2,000 increase, with the majority of that being for fuel and maintenance, plus an annual \$300 fee to have Narcan. The Board reviewed the MLP budget. The fail over circuit, dig safe, an increase for propane and electricity, and an increase for the contingency were added. The budgets should be finalized at the next meeting.

8. ATM Warrant: The Board reviewed the Annual Town Warrant. The first five articles are the same. The thirteenth is an FY21 grant that was extended to FY22 for the Fire Department, 100% reimbursable. The fourteenth is an FY22 Fire Department grant, 100% reimbursable. These grants need to be paid for out of town funds, not Fire Department funds. The fifteenth is for the FY23 anticipated grant for the Fire Department. The amount is for the maximum that could be awarded. The sixteenth is for the Fire Department's AED grant from January for \$2,500, fully reimbursable. The AED had to be for a Fire Department vehicle, so could not be used for the Town Hall's AED. The seventeenth is \$25,000 for the mower. Capital Tractor has a used John Deere for \$27,000, being sold as is. The New Holland at Village is \$25,000. The eighteenth is for the repairs for Old Schoolhouse roof and Town Hall cupola. The nineteenth is for funds for the assessing recertification. An article will be added for any legal counsel overage.

9. Any other unforeseen business: Mark gave an update on the MTWP. Their annual meeting is in June and their Board will be voting on a ten-year plan. They are working on a summation for the annual town report. New Ashford has benefitted from being in the partnership and there will be opportunities for private woodland owners. Mark will talk to Bob O'Connor about our grant for this year.

Jason told the Fire Chief to cancel the order for the Town Hall's AED with Stryker. They cannot provide the AED until May. The same product was ordered from a different company that had it in stock, with additional items, for \$200 less.

10. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next Meeting April 19, 2022 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:04