

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom

April 28, 2022

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

Others Present: Susan Supranowicz, Lori Jayko, Keith Lacasse

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Public Comment: None

2. Budget: The Board reviewed the budget. The total is \$794,951, which is a 5% increase over last year. The letter was sent to North Adams about the VSO. Steve Roy estimated \$1,500 for the cost. Mark made a motion to put the FY23 budget of \$794,951 before the town for vote at Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously.

3. ATM Warrant: The Annual Town Meeting warrant was reviewed. Legal Counsel has reviewed it. An article was added for paving the front of the parking lot at the Fire Station for \$15,000. Ken talked to Lanesboro about shared EMS services and shared Fire services. Lanesboro proposed a cost of \$15,000 for coverage by the Lanesboro ambulance from 8:00 am - 12 midnight or \$50,000 to include Fire services. The Board will add a warrant article to gauge the town's interest in the shared EMS services. Klaus roofing (Smeagal) gave a quote of \$10,800 to do a regular shingle roof at the Old Schoolhouse. Cedar roofing is more expensive with less availability, but is more authentic. The Board will get a quote from Smeagal for cedar roofing. Wooliver's quote was for hand split cedar, but he can also do machine split. The Board will get advisement of roofing material from the Historical Commission.

4. Town Bylaws: The Board will propose changing the wording in the bylaws of "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board". Mark is opposed to the change. Article 22 updates chapter 3, section 1 on which positions are elected and which are appointed. Article 23 will cover Massachusetts general law Chapter 48, section 42A that the Select Board oversees the Fire Chief, Officers, and Members of the Fire Department. As such, if there is an issue with a member, the Board can take action.

5. Policies: The Board will develop a list of policies and base their creation on level of importance. Policy adoption requires at least two meetings.

6. Fire Department: The door lock was changed. Jason is waiting for Fire Chief, Frank Speth, to give him a list of people that need a code to the door. A member of the Fire Department called the town Chief of Police and said that Jason yelled at her at the previous Select Board meeting, however, Jason did not even speak to her at the meeting or yell. Another member sent an e-mail to the Board complaining of harassment after Jason asked the Fire Chief to follow up on a safety concern about that member. All information has been provided to Legal Counsel.

7. Any other unforeseen business: Mark made a motion to sell Engine 2, for \$11,000. He feels the Department should not wait if it has an offer.

The Mount Greylock Advisory Council is banning trucks over 22 feet long on the roads to Mount Greylock. Mark asked if that effects any of our vehicles. Emergency vehicles may be exempt.

Keith and Mark talked to Village Truck Sales about the tractor and they think the town should buy it. Village is putting two new tires on loaded rims and will fix a few minor issues that need to be addressed before we would write a check.

The Lanesboro/New Ashford Scholarship Fund asked for information to be sent to residents.

The Board will send a town wide e-mail. Mark made a motion to approve, Jason seconded and will send it out.

Keith noted that there is beaver activity on Ingraham Road.

The Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership grant work needs to be done and invoiced by the end of June, not to exceed \$25,000.

Ken applied for next fiscal year's MTWP grant to maintain and grow Bauer and Greylock Road trail access.

It may be possible to use ARPA funds to replace the Town Hall windows and the bay doors at the Fire Department. Jason will get three quotes for windows. After the windows are done, the siding can be addressed. He is watching for energy efficiency grants.

Keith said the Town Hall septic tank is hooked up. Jason will call Pat Mickle to get it wired.

Next meeting May 2, 2022 at 6:00 with MVP first and Select Board meeting to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09