

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom
December 5, 2022

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Richard George, Diane George, Keith Lacasse
Zoom: None

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes from 11/21/2022: On a motion by Ken, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 11/21/2022 New Ashford Select Board meeting were approved. Mark abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 11/14/2022 New Ashford MLP Meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Planning Board Open Slots: There are two openings on the Planning Board. Mark Phelps resigned from the Planning Board and as delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, effective November 21. There will be a joint meeting with the Planning Board to make appointments to fill out the terms. Diane George is interested.
4. Road Commissioner – Trench: The beavers have not been active. Keith anticipates having an ice problem on Ingraham Road near Raimer's house. There is water running on the east side of the driveway. Keith will talk to the resident about putting in a 12-inch culvert and digging a ditch down the side of the driveway. Costs will be covered by WRAP funds. A couple of branches came down in the wind. The no atv signs are ordered and once they are in, Keith will put them up. He will dig the trench at the Fire Station this week. Keith recommends purchasing a 20-foot container to store things for the road and place it near the Fire Station or the Salt Shed. He will get a price. Keith added three loads of minus three stone to an area of washout under the guard rails on Greylock Road. The Board would like Keith to close the seasonal roads. The Chapter 90 road survey from MMA is due the 20th. Keith will look at it.
5. Town Lawn – Cars/ATVs: There have been problems with cars and ATVs driving on the Town Hall lawn. Keith will put up cement blocks at the Fire Station until he can put up a fence. Pictures of the playground equipment were sent to insurance. They will come out and look at it. The swings are likely ok but the see-saws need to be removed. Jason will get the serial number off the tractor for insurance.
6. Budgets: Jason talked to the Town Accountant about getting a software package. He is looking at demos and at what other towns are using. The ideal package will have accounting ledgers, budgeting, payroll, and tax collecting. Vadar quoted \$8,700 a year which can be done as a capital investment with an annual fee, i.e. \$3,200k up front, \$3,900 a year. A lot of towns use Munis and Accufund is an option. Quickbooks online can do payroll and budgeting but not taxes.

7. Any other unforeseen business: Jason will remove the steps on the side of the Town Hall once the ground freezes. Keith will help with his tractor with forks.

Ken went to Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Polito's hilltown internet celebration. It was well attended.

The splitter charge from Whip City was for an MST that wasn't working. There will be a Special Town Meeting on January 18 at 6:00PM for MLP charges, followed by a Select Board meeting.

Whip City has a new account manager that wants to schedule a meeting. Ken asked Lori and Jason to send him their availability.

The Accountant has a town e-mail address.

The alternator for Engine 4 at the Fire Department is getting replaced.

Jason called Ostermann about the propane tank repair and has not heard back. He will call again.

8. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting December 19, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 7:32