

New Ashford Select Board/Planning Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom

January 18, 2023

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

Planning Board Present: Jen Lescarbeau (Chair), Richard George, Steve Jennings

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Susan Supranowicz, Cindy Grosso, Ed Grosso, Jane Kaufman, Gary Sagendorph, Frank Speth

Zoom: None

Meeting opened at 6:14

1. Approval of Minutes from January 4, 2023: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the January 4, 2023 New Ashford Select Board meeting were approved unanimously. On a motion by Jason, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the December 28, 2022 New Ashford MLP meeting were approved. Mark abstained.

2. Planning Board Appointments: There are two vacancies on the Planning Board to be filled until town elections. Mark made a motion to appoint Tammy Steinhoff to fill one of the vacant terms, seconded by Jason. The motion passed unanimously by vote of the Select Board and the Planning Board. Mark made a motion to appoint Diane George to fill the other vacant term, seconded by Jason. The motion passed unanimously by the Select Board and the Planning Board.

3. Public Comment: None.

4. Letter – ATV: The letter was sent to the Governor, State and Federal Representatives, Legislators, State and Local Police, the State EPO office, and the Superintendent of the Mount Greylock Reservation.

5. Fire Department – Invoices – Grants – Members: Fire Chief, Frank Speth, said the Assistance for Fire Fighters grant is opening up again, with a five percent town match. Last year the Department applied for the grant to get a mini-pumper. The goal is to downsize and modernize equipment by getting rid of Engine 3 and the Humvee. Engine 2 is the next oldest and the size is a problem. The Department would like to keep two engines and the tanker for adequate fire protection. Engine 2 was appraised for \$11,000. Engine 3 could be sold to a private collector, but not to another Department. Engine 2 is running well now and the CAF system on Engine 4 was serviced last year. Mark asked for a ten-year replacement schedule, projected out over the life of the equipment. Frank thinks we did not get the grant last year because funding ran out but he will ask if there was any feedback on the application. The Board would like the Fire Department to reapply for the grant.

The Board asked Frank to please get invoices in before each meeting. He provided the Board with a list of members for insurance for the budget. The Board asked Frank to review the list and determine the commitment of listed members who do not attend. The Department welcomes new volunteers, if any residents are interested. Frank will have the Humvee moved for plowing.

6. Road Commissioner: Not present.

7. MLP – any updates: All articles passed at the Special Town Meeting. Ken talked to Andrew about the ACP charge for \$27. He is waiting for an answer but thinks it's a cost that will be spread across the subscribers for the affordable connectivity program. Subscriber rates will be reviewed during budget planning and will likely stay the same. The batteries are installed. The generator's battery will be checked during spring maintenance.

8. Town Clerk: The census went out today.

9. Any Other Business: Representative John Barrett called Mark and said there was money in the state budget for the MLP. Ken and Mark will follow up. He said we should have gotten a check.

Mark thinks the Board should advocate for a change in state law for a minimum mileage fee on electric vehicles that goes into a fund for repairing state roads. Mark will draft a letter.

10. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting February 6, 2023 at 6:30

Public Meeting with CMC the 23rd at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:19