

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom
June 7, 2023

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Richard George, Lance Beauchamp, Frank Speth, Gary Sagendorph,
Keith Lacasse
Zoom: Doreen Defazio, Andrew Short

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2023: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the May 15, 2023 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved unanimously. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the April 13, 2023 New Ashford Select Board/MVP meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Reorganize Board: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Jason was nominated as Chair. The motion passed unanimously. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, Ken was nominated as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Commonwealth Municipal Consulting, LLC – MVP Grants: Commonwealth Municipal Consulting is available to assist the town in grant writing in relation to the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness. Doreen Defazio will attend the next Select Board meeting to review and finalize the findings from the HMP and talk about next steps. The focus will be on the recommendations from the HMP, as FEMA and MEMA will look for some of those to be completed before the town starts the process again. Doreen recommended that the Board set a three-year-goal to determine a plan. The Board agreed that the top priorities are repairing culverts, creating a second water supply for fire protection, and tree canopy management. CMC charges an hourly rate and expects the grant writing to require a couple of hours. Mark mentioned problems with wireless service and asked if the plan can be amended to reflect that. Doreen said communication is addressed in the HMP and the HMP can be amended with the Board's approval. It would need to get submitted to MEMA and FEMA again. If another Berkshire County community addresses this issue under the new MVP grant, Doreen will let the Board know to partner with them for a regional grant.

4. Public Comment: Andrew Short from Whip City said the recent problems with internet speed are likely due to one or two super users in town. If a high volume user is identified, their speed will be throttled. Whip City is finishing its reliability program and expects better speeds by the end of the month.

Caitrin reached out to MBI to get the lashing of the MBI fiber resolved, as this has been a problem since March 14. Andrew will follow up on this.

The Board reviewed a spreadsheet of policy charges. There will be an activation fee of \$85 plus the first month's \$85. The policy will be cleaned up to reflect a \$170 fee.

The change in vacation reactivation fee is pending. Ken sent Whip City the document in April and Andrew will get it taken care of by the end of the week.

Andrew said that 73 Ingraham Road was removed from the CAF 2 for being out of the boundary, however the Board noted it is a legitimate house with two connections. Ken will follow up on this with Andrew.

Ken thanked Andrew for sharing the minutes and video from the Hilltown Meeting.

5. Fire Department – Calls, equipment: A warrant was submitted by the Fire Department without gas receipts and will be held until the receipts are turned in. The Fire Chief, Frank Speth, was reminded to get all invoices in before the end of the fiscal year. Frank said that the modifications to the FY 23 Fire Fighter Safety Grant were submitted. The grant is funding a thermal camera, gloves, and gear. The town needs the invoice before the end of June.
The Board asked what the Department needs to handle a leaking propane tank, such as the recent fire call. Frank said the Department needs a propane kit. If a homeowner has a propane leak, the propane company handles it. The Fire Department cannot transport leaking propane tanks in its apparatus. Dalton has a propane kit, but the Board would like to have a kit in town. Frank will look into it. Frank took the leaking propane tank to his house in the Humvee after talking to Haz Mat. He was advised to hook it to a gas grill. He hooked it to the Department's grill but the grill did not work. The Board expressed concern for the members' safety in transporting a leaking tank to Pittsfield.
6. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse, filled in the dirt around the propane tanks. He got two loads of six inch minus from Condrion and got base material delivered to the Salt Shed. He will get more. Keith will call Cargill about the salt, as no one has heard from them. Dave Stokes said \$35,000 will be sent to the town for WRAP money, with a year to use it. The town needs to send a form to the state stating what the funds were used for. It could be used for brush clearing, to fix the road to the Salt Shed, and repair the bridge at Roys Road. Keith got a report about the bridge and the box culvert by the town line, with noted concern about the bridge's not being paved on the other side. Keith dug out the outlet of the culvert there. He will fix Greylock Road with the MTWP grant. He talked to Condrion about renting the grader and will get some material. Next year the Board will use the grant money towards the land donation/park build on Ingraham Road. There's a spot at the parking lot near Bauer that needs a ditch on the side. Ken sent Bob O'Connor a picture of the Old Adams Trail. Ken will submit the FY 24 grant for parking on the west end of the Sugarloaf Trail. If there's money left over, it could be used for clean-up. The Board noted that the fence at the Town Hall looks nice. Keith will mow the sides of the roads this week. The Board will find out the steps necessary to register the tractor.
7. Trees: There's money left in the tree account. Keith will see what he can do.
8. Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership Grant: Covered above
9. Safe: Art Johnson's heir, Karla, does not want Art's safe, which is in the Town Clerk's office. The former Town Clerk, Lori Trottier, has the key. The safe will be opened under the current Town Clerk, Susan Supranowicz's supervision and all town documents will stay with the town. Ken will talk to Karla and get a written release from her so the safe can be removed.
10. Old and Any Other Business: Mark noted that the cemetery looks good and he will take down some trees there. Pete Haig cleared the limbs. Keith will mow the upper part. Smegal Roofing will start staging equipment next week for the Old Schoolhouse roof. The pad for the generator for the Fire Station is at the Town Hall. Keith will move it with the skid steer.
11. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next Meeting June 26 at 6:30
Meeting adjourned at 8:20