

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting  
New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom  
June 26, 2023

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps  
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Susan Supranowicz, Jake Scace, Richard George, Mike Nugai, Keith Lacasse, Frank Speth, Gary Sagendorph, P.J. Pannesco  
Zoom: Sophie Protano, Carrieann Petrick

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approval of Minutes from June 7: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the June 7 New Ashford Select Board/MLP meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Commonwealth Municipal Consulting, LLC – Action Grants: Carrieann Petrick gave an overview of the action grant RFR (request for responses). The RFR comes out in March, is due in May, and awarded in July and August. The amount can range from \$25,000 – \$3,000,000, and up to \$5,000,000 for a regional grant. In January there is an expression of interest form that is reviewed by the MVP team. Funding is from state funds out of the capital budget. Action grants are one-year projects and a limited amount of two-year projects. It's a reimbursable grant program with a 10% match requirement. Sophie Protano from Commonwealth Municipal Consulting says they can't do much until the expression of interest form comes out next January. She looked at other grants and couldn't match them to the town's priority list, but will confirm the answer with Doreen. Carrieann said she can go over the list of priorities and provide sample applications to see how they are scored. Jason will e-mail Carrieann the list. Big projects are broken up into three phases planning, design and permitting, and construction. The Board can discuss the process with MEMA as the action grant process will take too long to fix the culverts. Shelly O'Toole from MEMA may know of federal funds that can help. Carrieann will send an email introduction to Shelly. Sophie will pass along comments to Doreen and said that CMC can help with federal grants. Jason will contact Shelly and look at regional grants.

3. Public Comment: None

4. School House: The roof is finished. There was a \$100 fee for boards underneath that needed replacing. There are leftover shakes.  
Granger surveyed the Schoolhouse for Steve Neilson. Jake planted trees on the Schoolhouse lawn, thinking it was on his property. Ken will call Steve and the Board will follow-up with Jake after the discussion.

5. Fire Department – Grants, Trucks: The invoices for the FY23 grant have been submitted. Fire Chief, Frank Speth, called for an update on the grant for the mini-pumper. The application has not gone to scoring/peer review and the chance is very small for the grant being awarded this year. Engine 2's recent maintenance revealed it needs a new pump for \$20,000 - \$25,000, rot on the frame, and the back of the truck is sagging. The total estimate for repairs is \$30,000 - \$40,000. Frank recommends that the town not put money towards repairs and looks into getting a replacement engine for water capacity. New England Fire Apparatus will give \$3,000 for Engine 2. They have a 1995, four-door engine with 58,000 miles, a 500 gallon tank, pump and

roll, auto transmission, foam, California truck for over \$50,000. A new engine would be \$311,000. Mike Nugai from Greenwood Fire Apparatus prepared several options for the Board to review. He said the service life of a fire truck is about 30 years. New trucks range from \$425,000 - \$600,000. His company stands behind the product for 30 years and he recommends staying with a vehicle within the production line so that parts are still available. The warranties for the pump, body, and frame are transferable for engines, not mini-pumpers. A vehicle from 2,000 – 2,004 ranges \$50,000 - \$100,000. Mike thinks that a twenty year old truck would be ok given the town's call volume and that a brand new truck should last 40 years. The NFPA requirements include replacement of tires every 7 years. Engine 2 has original tires and an exhaust leak. Mike gave a list of all the trucks that he found and new options. Engine 4 has 1,000 gallons of water and the tanker has 2,300. There is a lease to own option for new trucks. It takes two years to fabricate a new truck and 3 months to a year to get a demo vehicle. If the town purchases a new truck and gets the grant within a certain time frame it can be applied to the new truck. Jason does not think that a new vehicle, at \$350,000, is the right choice for the town given the call volume. A Mini-pumper would be good for medical and rescue and an Engine would be good for fire protection. The ISO rates the Department every year and that effects homeowner's insurance. Ken thinks the town is already at the highest rate because of not having hydrants. The Board will look at the options, determine a range, and have a public meeting. Frank can have NEFA give a written assessment to the Select Board of what they have available. Frank turned in invoices for the work on Engines 2 and 4.

6. Appointments: On a motion by Ken, seconded by Jason, Kurt Singer was appointed unanimously to a one-year term as the Animal Control Officer. On a motion by Ken, seconded by Mark, Kurt Singer was appointed unanimously to a one-year term as the Animal Inspector. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Kevin Flicker was appointed unanimously to a one-year term as the alternate representative to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Chris Lamarre, Thomas Elder, and David Westall were unanimously appointed to one-year terms on the Board of Assessors. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Helen Majchrowski, Jacqueline Trottier, and Carlanne Rancourt were appointed unanimously to one-year terms on the Board of Registrars. The Board discussed appointing an alternate to the Board of Registrars and will check the Town Bylaws. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, Brenda Church was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Building Inspector. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, John Carchedi was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as the Alternate Building Inspector. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Jake Scace, Pete Haig, and Lori Trottier were appointed unanimously to a one-year term each on the Cemetery Commission. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, Ken McInerney was appointed to a three-year term on the Conservation Commission. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Jake Scace was unanimously appointed to a three-year term on the Conservation Commission. On motion by Jason, seconded by Mark, Jake Scace was unanimously appointed to a three-year term as Constable. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Tamara Leminem and Leo Mazzeo were unanimously appointed to a one-year term each on the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Mike Lescarbeau was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Electrical Inspector. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the Fire Chief was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Emergency Management Director. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Pete Rancourt and Steve Jennings were appointed unanimously to a one-year term each as Fence Viewers. On a

motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Pete Rancourt and Steve Jennings were appointed to a one-year term each as Field Viewers. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Frank Speth was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Fire Warden. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Walker Haig was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Gas Inspector. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Brady Haig was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as alternate Gas Inspector. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Linda Seney was unanimously appointed to a three-year term on the Historical Commission. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Keith Lacasse was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Road Commissioner. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, Ken McInerney was appointed to a one-year term as Mount Greylock Advisory Representative. On a motion by Ken, seconded by Jason, Harley Phelps III was appointed to a one-year term as Alternate Mount Greylock Advisory Representative. Mark abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Steve Jennings was appointed unanimously to a one-year term as Measurer of Wood and Bark. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Keith Lacasse was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Moth Inspector. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, Ken McInerney was appointed to a two-year term as MLP Manager. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Walker Haig was appointed unanimously to a one-year term as Plumbing Inspector. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Brady Haig was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Alternate Plumbing Inspector. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the Select Board Chair was appointed to a one-year term as Procurement Officer. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Stephen Demyer was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Recycling Attendant. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Jason Jayko and Jake Scace were appointed to a one-year term each on the Technology Committee. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Koppelman and Paige was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Town Counsel. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Stephen Demyer was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Town Hall Custodian. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Lori Jayko was appointed to a one-year term as Town Secretary. Jason abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Stephen Roy was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Veterans' Officer. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Allen Seney was unanimously appointed to a three-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Matt Quinn was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as associate on the Zoning Board of Appeals. On a motion by Ken, seconded by Jason, Gary Sagendorph was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Deputy Chief of the Fire Department. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, P.J. Pannesco was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Assistant Chief of the Fire Department. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Billy Filiault was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Captain of the Fire Department. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Jeff Tykot was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as Lieutenant of the Fire Department. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Lance Beauchamp was unanimously appointed to a one-year term as EMS Deputy of the Fire Department.

7. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse noted that the grader is in town and he will grade tomorrow. Jason talked to Cargill today and Keith is waiting for them to call for a salt delivery. He got two loads of sand and base material. The lower gate was open on Greylock Road. Keith removed three trees that needed to be cut down because they were hanging or broken. He took down three Ash trees near the culvert on Bauer Road. He started widening Roys Road and will finish tomorrow.

8. Kearsy Dam – FEMA: The topic is withdrawn.
9. Trees: Nothing to report.
10. Safe- Key: Now that the minutes have been approved, Lori Trottier will hand over the key.
11. Staples Account: Staples is discontinuing the credit card program at the end of the month. The town does not have a town credit card. Lori will look into it.
12. Mohawk Trail Woodlands Grant: Ken will submit the FY 24 application by July 10. Mark tried to contact Lisa Roughley, but didn't get her.
13. Old and Any Other Business: Susan noted that she could not find Building Inspector records for a resident's house plan. She asked if the Board would consider certain town positions to be exempt from doing the ethics training on the computer. The Board will look into it. An e-mail address is necessary to do the computer training. Jason has been working with Berkshire Regional Planning to get town e-mail addresses and other best practices in place. A mail account is \$8 per month per person.  
Keith voiced his concern that if the town digs out the pond on Mallery Road for a water source for the Fire Department, it may fill back in. He suggested adding a valve.  
Susan would like a new safe to store town documents in.
14. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting July 10 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:39