

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

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McNerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Keith Lacasse, Richard George, Kevin Flicker, Ed Grosso, Susan Supranowicz, Diane George, Frank Speth, Gary Sagendorph
Zoom: None

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approval of Minutes from July 24, 2023: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the July 24, 2023 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Appointments: Mohawk Woodlands Partnership Rep, Cemetery. Jason read the appointment wording for the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts: “The Town of New Ashford hereby names Mark Phelps as the duly appointed representative to serve for another three-year term (from 1/6/2023 – 1/6/2026) on the Board of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership as established in 2018 state law, and now operating as the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts, per the 2022 Board vote recommending a name change.” Ken made a motion to appoint Mark Phelps to the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts from 1/6/2023 – 1/6/2026, seconded by Jason. Mark explained the purpose of the partnership to the residents.

Mark nominated Kurt Singer to the Cemetery Commission for a one-year term seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark nominated Kevin Flicker to a three-year term on the Historical Commission, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Fire Department – Engine: Fire Chief, Frank Speth, provided the Board with options for Fire Engines to replace Engines 2 and 3. The Board reviewed the list which included: A 2014 Engine with a 1,000 gallon tank for \$50,000 with estimated repairs of \$17,000 necessary, a 2007 Freightliner with a 1,000 gallon tank and 58,000 miles for \$109,900 – the manufacturer is no longer in business, and a 2006 Engine with a 500 gallon tank costing \$145,000, with over 90,000 miles. Frank looked at a 2000 Spartan available from New England Fire Apparatus. The price is \$68,000 and it needs a paint job. Frank does not recommend the town consider purchasing it. The Fire Department looked at an engine for sale from Greenwood from the Town of Pelham for \$50,000. Most of the equipment on the apparatus is included with the sale. The tires are in good condition but need to be replaced, to meet NFPA standards, for around \$2,300 and the lettering needs to be changed. It is 20 years old and was recently pump tested. Mike Nugai quoted \$6,000-\$7,000 for the trade for Engines 2 and 3. Frank will get a quote from Berkshire Village Trucking and will remove all usable equipment from both engines prior to getting rid of them. The Pelham Fire Chief offered to bring the Engine to town for residents to see. The Department currently has Engine 4 and the Tanker in service. Engine 2 failed inspection and needs at least

\$40,000 worth of repairs, and Engine 3 is out of compliance due to its age. Engine 4 has 1,000 gallons of water and the Tanker has 2,300 gallons. Ed Grosso noted that the flow rate is a key factor in home insurance rates. The insurance rate is a 9 right now. The Board would like a purchase and sale agreement before the Special Town Meeting on September 5 at 6:00PM. The Humvee needs maintenance.

5. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse said the bucket truck is back together. He will address the immediate tree problems, including an Ash tree near 9 Mallery Road. There is a meeting on August 14th with Eversource. The forester with the state said there will be logging done on Greylock Road. Keith recommended having the logger get a bond to cover any road damage. Jason will ask Town Counsel about requirements for getting a bond. There is a cutting plan off of Ingraham and Bauer Roads. Keith and Max replaced the boom piston seal on the tractor. Keith ordered new bolts for the blades for \$79 plus shipping. The septic alarm problem at the Fire Station has been alleviated but Keith will keep an eye on it when it rains. Bob O'Connor acknowledged receipt of the MTWP grant invoices.

6. Trees: Covered.

7. Fire Station Addition: Jason has the specifications for the addition to the Fire Station. The specs will be cleaned up and put out to bid. The addition includes a steel roof, steel siding, no insulation, no wiring, no lighting, no outside door and a poured floor for the storage area.

8. Recycling Bins: A resident has been dumping trash in the recycling bins. The Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District recommended locking the bins. Once the locks were placed, the residents dumped their trash in the steel bin. The Board of Health will contact the State Police to inform the resident to stop.

9. Old and Any Other Business: The safe was opened and has been removed from the Town Clerk's office. There were no town documents inside.

Mark made a motion to approve the Ken's letter to MassDOT, seconded by Jason. The motion passed unanimously.

Jason is waiting to hear from MEMA about the culverts on Ingraham Road. Keith is working on getting a letter from the owner of the pond on Mallery and Cemetery Roads for use as the water source for the fire fighting.

There is a Special Town Meeting on August 14 about the church.

A tree branch fell on Beach Hill Road and took out power. The utility company cut up the tree and Keith pushed it off the road. There are a lot of dying maples on Beach Hill Road that need attention.

10. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting August 21 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:07