

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom
September 5, 2023

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

Meeting opened at 7:23

1. Approval of Minutes from August 21 & 30, 2023: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the August 21, 2023 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved unanimously. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the August 30, 2023 New Ashford Select Board Meeting were approved. Ken abstained.

2. Snow Plow Contract Bid Openings: One bid was received, opened, and read out loud. John's Tractor and Excavation Services bid \$59,000 for two years. Mark made a motion to accept the bid, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously and the Board signed the contract. Lori will notify John's.

3. Public Comment: Susan would like to hold Town Clerk hours at the Town Hall for four hours a week. At the next meeting, the Board will discuss e-mail addresses and who needs to take ethics training.

The recycling bins are unlocked.

4. Flu/Covid Clinic: The Public Health Nurse will hold a Flu and Covid vaccine clinic at the Town Hall on October 21st from 9am-11am. They will provide an informational flyer.

5. Solicitors: KP Law responded with information of how solicitors apply for a permit, the cost, and the questions they have to answer. Soliciting will only be allowed between 10am and 6pm, Monday through Friday. Mark made a motion to approve, with the stipulations as recommended by town counsel.

6. Road Commissioner: Keith gave the Board a signed letter from Jeremy Garnish giving permission to the town to dig out the pond on Cemetery and Mallery Roads to use as a water source for fire protection. Mark made a motion to accept the offer, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously. Keith will scrape out and patch the pothole at the end of the bridge at the north entrance to Roys Road. A resident called Keith about a tree hanging over Roys Road. The logger on Ingraham Road left Keith a message. Keith will contact him. The Board discussed posting a weight limit on the road. Jason is still waiting for Legal Counsel's response on the requirement for a bond for loggers. Keith will mow Beach Hill Road and White Road and will cut problem trees.

7. Church: The transfer process has started. There will be a title search with the Registry of Deeds.

8. Fire Station Addition: Jason will type up the specifications. The Board discussed if the addition should be steel and the size. They decided to stick with 16 X 16.

9. Old and Any Other Business: Mark sent the Board an email about the state's six month moratorium on managing DCR's forests. They have experts that are making guidelines for climate resiliency. There's a listening session on September 12. The state will draft a plan and have time for feedback in November.

Mark said he has moved to the Municipal Finance Board of the Woodland Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts and they are looking at PILOT issues. The new rural liaison, Anne Gobi, is holding a meeting in October. Woodlands Partnership meetings need to be posted on the town website.

The town was awarded the FY 24 Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts grant. Andrew Short from Whip City will attend the Select Board meeting on October 2 at 6:00. Ken had a meeting with Whip City and discussed an invoice that needs to be paid by the MLP. Some credits have been applied and the cost needs to be in the MLP budget going forward.

10. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting September 18, 2023 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:07