

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom

September 18, 2023

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

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Susan Supranowicz, Diane George, Piotr Masiakowski, PJ

Pannesco, Gary Sagendorph, Billy Filliault, Frank Speth, Keith Lacasse, Richard George

Zoom: Jake Scace

Meeting opened at 7:05

1. Approval of Minutes from September 5, 2023: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the September 5, 2023 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Public Comment: Piotr said he could not get on the zoom for the last meeting. The Board confirmed that zoom was working and advised him to call in if that happens again.
3. Tax Rate: The rate was set at the Tax Classification Hearing.
4. Fire Department – Truck: The Board requested that Fire Chief, Frank Speth, get a detailed contract from Greenwood for the engine purchase with the trade-in values and a list of equipment to be included. The \$55,000 that was set for the Special Town Meeting was supposed to cover the engine, new tires, and lettering – as the communicated price of the engine was \$50,000. Greenwood is now charging \$55,000 for the truck. The Board would like to know the cost of new tires and lettering. Frank will get three quotes for tires and Jason will give him the contact information for someone who may be able to do the lettering. The Board requested estimates of necessary work to have all apparatus in good repair. Frank said the Tanker is all set and Engine 4 needs the exhaust repaired. Engine 4 is nearly 20 years old and has its original tires. It passed inspection. The batteries were replaced in the Humvee. It needs a different charging method and doors sewn on. Jake said a zipper is around \$50 and a slave receptacle is a couple hundred dollars. Connectors are \$500- \$600. The rear passenger door does not lock. Jake is not sure if he can replace just the handle or if it needs a new door. New doors are \$350 each. The Humvee otherwise runs as it should and is the primary method for towing the trailer with the ATV. The Humvee belongs to DCR, but needs to be maintained for member safety. The Board questioned why the price of the Engine went from \$50,000 as communicated to \$55,000. Frank said that the Engine was traded in to Greenwood for \$60,000 and that Mike Nugai agreed to take \$55,000 because that was what the town voted. The Board will be cautious of working with Greenwood in the future with this uncommunicated change in price.
5. Road Commissioner: Keith said the beavers are back and he cleans the screen at the culvert daily. He will get in touch with the logger on Ingraham Road to ask him to consider running lighter loads and let him know that if the road starts to break up he will be shut off. Jason asked Legal Counsel for an answer for the logging bond. There was a limb down on Beach Hill Road Friday, during heavy rain, that knocked out power. There are a lot of maple trees on Beach Hill Road that need attention. Keith will start working on them. Piotr wants to put up a privacy net to keep people off his property near the turnaround. Keith told him to place it off town property. Keith will post a no parking sign up there. He contacted blacktoppers to patch Mallery Road by

Beach Hill Road and by the Salt Shed. No one has gotten back to him, so he may get a couple of loads of blacktop and spread it himself.

6. Trees: Keith and Mark will look at the trees on Beach Hill Road and prioritize the worst for removal. There are three dead trees in back of the Salt Shed.

7. Church: Legal Counsel has not heard back from the company doing the title search.

8. Fire Station Addition: Jason has the draft specifications written up and will get quotes, with work to be completed by May 1.

9. Town E-mail and State Training Requirements: Susan thinks 40 positions need e-mail addresses, however there may be some overlap with people serving in multiple positions. Jason will make a spreadsheet.

10. Old and Any Other Business: Andrew Short from Whip City will attend the 10/2 meeting. Ken wants to discuss the repairs at 259 Route 7, the connection policy of first and last month's deposit, the reduction in the seasonal reconnection fee, the intermittent low speed problem, and CAF.

Mark said that DCR has a moratorium on tree cutting for six months while it looks at managing state forests for climate resiliency. The listening session was the September 12th, with written comments accepted until September 15th. The Committee will look at the comments and make recommendations to DCR on how to manage the forests. A draft will be published in November with time for feedback. New regulations for cutting/managing state forests will be issued by Governor's office or EEA during the first week of December.

There is a Hilltown Meet and Greet from 4:30-6:00 at Whip City on September 26.

Eversource had a data breach.

Jake has completed the State Ethics course and meets the town requirements.

11. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting October 2, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 8:14