

New Ashford Select Board Meeting  
New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom  
March 18, 2024

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney, Mark Phelps  
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Keith Lacasse, Lars Reinhard, Piotr Masiakowski, Diane George,  
P.J. Pannesco, Gary Sagendorph, Frank Speth, Billy Filiault, Susan Supranowicz  
Zoom: None

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approval of minutes from March 4, 2024: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the March 4, 2024 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Public Comment: None
3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse said there is pavement plowed up on Ingraham Road. He will drive the road tomorrow to see if there is a tree down.
4. FD Addition: Jason measured the area that DEP listed on the map. He will mark off the 2,400 square feet of land that the town will give to native species along the river. The Select Board needs to mail the NOI to the Conservation Commission and the DEP, including the plans. When the Con Com receives it, they will schedule a Public Hearing. The Con Com can rule if they can adopt the rule of necessity, otherwise the DEP will rule. When the project is done, the town needs to file a certificate of compliance with the Registry of Deeds.
5. Fire Department – Safety Grant, MEMA Grant, Repeater, AFG: Fire Chief, Frank Speth, said there's a radio repeater on Brodie Mountain in working condition. There is power going to the building and the building is in bad shape. The Fire Department will file for the FCC license, then either move the equipment to where the State Police equipment is or fix the building. It needs a new roof, plywood around the sides, and a secure door. Frank may look at FEMA grants. The Board encouraged Frank to talk to the property owners and make a formal agreement. DCR owns an acre near the building. The building appears to be on parcel 507, which is Brodie's.  
The MEMA grant has been approved for a 30-gallon, 2 horsepower, portable air compressor and lighted safety vests.  
The gear is in production for the Fire Fighter Safety grant. Frank will reach out to the owner of New England Fire Apparatus for a delivery date.  
This year's grant is being used for a 4-gas meter, accountability board, and 10 sets of wildland fire gear consisting of pants, shirts, and helmets. Frank will order the gear from a catalog and check with Shakerly for the accountability board. Mark made a motion to approve the grant application, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously.  
A.J. advised that it would be unlikely to get a full size engine with the AFG grant, as the costs are \$600,000 – \$700,000. He suggested trying for a mini pumper which costs \$350,000 – \$390,000. The 5% match would be around \$18,000. The mini-pumper can carry up to four people and would replace the 2004 Darley International which carries two people. The mini-

pumper's water capacity is 300-400 gallons, and can have a foam unit. The Tanker has 2,300 gallons of water and Engine 2 has 1,000 gallons. The Board asked what is required by insurance companies for water capacity. The mini-pumper could tow the ATV trailer.

The Fire Station generator will be maintained on the same schedule as the Town Hall generator.

6. Animal Control Officer: Ken talked to the Town Manager of Williamstown, Bob Menicocci, about shared services for animal control. They do not have a full time ACO and are working to be compliant with the state's training requirements. The new Health Officer may take over the position and they are interested in discussing a partnership. We could have a deputy ACO in town. Mark made a motion to continue to pursue a cooperative relationship with Williamstown for the ACO, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously and Ken will e-mail Bob.

7. Woodlands Partnership Grant FY24: Mark drafted a memorandum of understanding for Piotr Masiakowski. The Board reviewed the letter. Piotr thinks the parking area should be open in winter for access for skiing, snow shoeing, and hunters. Bauer Road is seasonal and not open year round. The parking lot would need to be added to the next snow plow contract and would not be a year round pull off in the first year. There is concern about added traffic on the road during mud season if the parking area is open year round. Mark will continue working on the memorandum of understanding. Ken has a meet and greet with the new contact for the Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership and will see if this grant idea is viable.

8. MLP: There is question on whether the federal government can pull back the CAF money. Ken is getting clarification on that. The repair to 599 Route 7 was due to rodent damage. The Board may create a policy about repairs, making sure homeowners are aware of repair costs in advance. Ken is checking with other towns to see how they handle repairs. Verizon, the middle mile, and town fiber are connected to the new telephone pole. If the town gets a bill, we will put in a claim on the driver's accident insurance.

9. Purchase Requests: The treasurer will purchase a box of copy paper for the Town Hall and a new door lock for the church. The lock will be the same as the Town Hall and will cost \$190-\$200.

10. Church: The Board will get the electricity put in the town's name. Susan would like to have the Annual Town Meeting at the church. The next MEMA grant could be used for an AED for the church. The estimate to have the church painted was \$42,700, not including a lift rental and necessary carpentry work.

11. Budget: The Board reviewed the budget spreadsheet. The Town Accountant is doing a demonstration with Vadar for accounting software. It costs \$8,000 a year. A line was added to the budget for shared ACO services. The Board discussed the MLP budget. An MLP planning meeting may be beneficial to discuss modernization plans for speed or equipment.

12: ATM Warrant: The Board reviewed the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Jason will add the AFG with the mini-pumper town match.

13. Meeting Postings: Jason will reach out to all the town boards to make sure everyone is posting their meetings on the town website.

14. School House Boundaries: Nothing new to report. Mark will call Legal Counsel.

15. Town Clerk Updates: Susan got a quote for \$217.95 for voting signs, including inserts for town meetings, early voting, and vote here. Ken made a motion to approve the town treasurer's placing the order with RSI signs in Pittsfield, seconded by Jason. Susan said the elections went well and thanked all her helpers. Diane noted that the ballot box should have the ink checked. Susan will send out a second census mailing to people who have not sent their census back.

16. Old and Any Other Unforeseen Business: Keith said three of the four wheeler signs are missing. He found one at Brodie.

Grants for the culverts and water supply for fire suppression will be on the next meeting agenda. Ken got an e-mail for a culvert and small bridge grant, due April 4<sup>th</sup>.

17. Warrant: The warrants were reviewed and signed.

Next meeting March 26 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:27