

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom

August 5, 2024

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

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Ed Grosso, Cindy Grosso, Anthony Gregorio, Alan Steinhoff, Tammy Steinhoff, Pete Rancourt, Carlanne Rancourt, Matt Ostrander, Richard George, Lars Reinhard, Frank Speth, Jeremy Knox, Gary Sagendorph, Susan Supranowicz

Zoom: None

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approval of Minutes from July 22, 2024: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the July 22, 2024 New Ashford Select Board/MLP meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Public Comment: Tammy said the swales on Beach Hill Road are not cleaned out, including a tree in the swale.
3. Brodie Mountain: Matt Ostrander, contractor for Brodie Mountain LLC, is requesting an all boards meeting to discuss the plans for the property. The meeting will be scheduled for August 12th. If the 12<sup>th</sup> does not work for the majority of people, it will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
4. Fire Department – Engine Maintenance: Fire Chief, Frank Speth, said the rear springs need to be replaced on engine 2. He will talk to Superior Springs about pricing and will get a second opinion. Repair costs will come out of the Fire Department’s budget. All three trucks were serviced by New England Fire Apparatus. The technician was on site for five days. The service on the tanker truck was comped and the remaining bill was over \$10,000. Frank asked about it and they brought it down to just over \$7,000. The Department has been working on setting up a Fire Fighter’s Association for the purpose of fund raising. Engine 2’s pump, ladder, and transmission were inspected prior to purchase but the underframe was not. If we buy used equipment again, we could hire an outside technician to go over the truck. The hub started leaking at the Memorial Day Parade and needed to be replaced. The Board recommended doing the fluid and filter changes in house and scheduling the service in April. Next year Frank will solicit three quotes before he has the service done. The technician checked the motor transmission, gauges, pump, integrity of the vehicle, frame, and brakes. Ken noted the fire department budget number that was quote in the recent Berkshire Eagle article was incorrect. The bid opening for the station addition is August 19th
5. Mowing Town Lawns: The Board asked Pete Rancourt if he would mow the church lawn, in addition to the Town Hall lawn that he currently cares for. 2,400 square feet was removed from mowing for the Town Hall lawn this year, to give back to native species for the Fire Station addition. Pete said he will mow the church lawn for the rest of this year and will come up with a price for next year.

6. Road Commissioner: Keith cleared an oak tree off Ingraham Road. He got an estimate for connecting water from the Town Hall to the Church. It's \$15,000 – \$20,000 to drill a well. Keith could do the job for \$11,900: \$6,000 for the excavation, \$5,500 to drill under the road with a pipe puller and two cores, and \$450 for the water line and fittings. The price does not include the gas hook up, which the gas company does. Tammy recommended using Morse Fuels. Keith will patch the holes on Mallery Road and will discuss paving in the spring. He will clean out the swales on Beach Hill Road and put the tree waste on the town property at Ingraham Road. Keith will remove the old see-saw metal from the Town Hall lawn.

7. Woodlands Partnership Grant FY24: Nothing to report.

8. School House Boundaries: The Board got an e-mail on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July that the law office is waiting on an additional piece of information from the title attorney. Jason will reach back out.

9. MLP: Ken talked to Commerce Insurance about the claim he submitted for the pole/fiber damage from a car accident. They have to reopen the claim in order for the town to get reimbursed. There will be a meeting with John Leary from Whip City to discuss the upgrade to the internet. The fiber has been in service for five years and it's time to upgrade the equipment in the hut. The upgrade could position us for 5G in the future and a potential reduction in the backhaul cost. Andrew Short from Whip City has not responded to e-mails.

10. Town Clerk Updates: The Select Board signed copies for the state primary warrant. The poll pad for the elections is in and Susan is going to get everyone trained on it. Susan went to the Berkshire County Town Clerk meeting. There is a homeland security grant that will give each town \$1,000 to pay for a police officer to be present at the state election in November. Susan would like to get a lock box for ballots to mount outside the Town Hall. Jason made a motion for the town treasurer to purchase the lock box for \$24.99 from Amazon, seconded by Ken.

11. Old and Any Other Unforeseen Business: Jason has been working with Vadar and Chris Lamarre. Patriot quoted \$3,600 for each data extract. Jason said that wasn't an appropriate charge for the amount of data involved and Patriot lowered the price to \$2,700 for each extraction. The Board may need to hold a Special Town Meeting for this and the church well.

12. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting August 19, 2024 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:39