

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom
March 3, 2025

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Susan Supranowicz, Keith Lacasse, Ed Grosso, Diane George
Zoom: None

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approval of Minutes from February 19, 2025: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the February 19, 2025 New Ashford Select Board/MLP meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Public Comment: Susan gave a letter to the Board from Pineapple LLC, concerning door-to-door cannabis delivery. The Board would like legal counsel to review it, before they sign. Susan has been adding the approved bylaws into the town document. One bylaw will make a new chapter C and one is on hold needing more information.

3. Church: Jason reached out to DLS and Deb Wagner about procurement rules using gift funds. She recommended reaching out to the IG's office. Jason will contact them and legal counsel. Ed Grosso talked to Mark Raimer who worked on the church for several years. He said they accessed the space under the floor to repair supports, by removing seating and pulling up floor boards. There are vents around the building to keep air moving under the floor. The bell was repaired in the '80s. The heating system was installed in 1997 and the raised bed septic system, bathroom, and exit signs were added. The Berkshire Eagle visited and wrote stories about the project. Steven Nielsen is looking to make the procurement process easier. His foundation's attorney said the town could lease him the building for a year and he could do the work. He has contacted an attorney in Boston for another opinion.

4. Fire Department: Keith will have a quote for the fire station addition for the next meeting. The door opener for the bay doors has arrived and Jason will install it.

5. Road Commissioner: Keith priced propane tanks for the church. A 1,000 gallon above ground tank is \$9,424 and \$10,424 for a below ground tank. The tank at the church is Ostermann's.

Keith couldn't get into the website to submit the information to the Berkshire Purchasing Group. They are going to send him last year's information. They want to know lengths of roads that will be resurfaced, how much blacktop will be used, and how much it is going to cost. Keith estimates that we will resurface 4,000 feet from Route 7 to Town Hall on Mallery Road by reclaiming and blacktopping with 2 inches of base and 2 inches of top. Another 664 feet will be done from the fire station to the north end of Mallery Road where it meets Route 7, and 484 feet between Roys Road and Greylock Road. He estimates using 2,100 ton of black top and will call some companies for prices.

A resident on Roys Road called because the road was icy and not plowed. A resident said Greylock Road was icy. John's salted Roys and put sand on Greylock Road and it is better.

6. MLP: The MLP is caught up on the late invoices with Whip City. The batteries have been ordered. The generator passed its self-check on Thursday.

7. Annual Town Meeting Warrant: The warrant will include a 10% match for the MVP grant to add two dry hydrants in town for water source for the Fire Department. The grant submission is due April 4. Keith will call Prescott for pricing. Hydrants could be placed at Ingraham Road, the pond on Mallery and Cemetery Roads, or the pond at Keith's. The Board discussed adding an article to repair the ramp at Town Hall and what materials to use. An article will be added for the MLP to pay for repairs from broadband stabilization or broadband free cash. An article will be included for a town match for the church repair project. The Salt Shed doors need to be repaired, which could cost up to \$6,000. There was discussion of using Winter Roads funds or WRAP to pay for it. Jason will have a draft warrant ready for review for the next meeting.

8. Budget: The budget is being entered into Vadar. The Board reviewed the budget in the new software. The budget has three levels. The initial budget proposal is entered in level one, the Board reviews and approves in level two, and the Accountant will lock level three after approval at Town Meeting. Budget proposals were due February 17. The Board discussed snow removal at town properties and possibly purchasing a snow blower. Ken will talk to Andrew Short at Whip City about the cost of higher speed internet. A recurring management cost will be added as a place holder to the MLP budget.

9. Old and Any Other Unforeseen Business: Susan said that in order to not hold early voting, there needs to be a Special Town Meeting 45 days before any election to decline it. She will hold early voting hours to avoid that.

Keith asked the process for burial in town. Burials are handled by the Cemetery Commission and the Select Board.

Keith would like to get a three point hitch, detachable counter weight for the tractor for \$165. Mark made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Ken.

Ken asked Lori to find the bill for generator maintenance to add to his spreadsheet.

Mark is following discussion of changes to the PILOT program. The state auditor created four scenarios, which all benefit towns that are being underpaid. Representative Blais, from Franklin county, submitted a bill to change the formula, which will not provide as much funding to the town as the state auditor's scenarios.

Ken reached out to Mark Jester at DCR to see if they have any projects in town that could use the \$22,500 grant funds which are expiring on June 30.

10. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting March 18 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:52