

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom

April 2, 2025

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

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Susan Supranowicz, Richard George

Zoom: None

Meeting opened at 6:30

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

Mark abstained.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Budget: The Board reviewed the budget spreadsheet. There are no big increases for expenses. The school budget is down slightly, and is expected to remain steady or increase over the next couple of years due to enrollment. The budget for winter roads and training was discussed and left the same as FY25. The proposal for fire department stipends of \$8,350 was discussed, including a per call payment option and exploring shared services. Paying per call may be more difficult to budget for. Mark is attending a meeting Saturday and will bring up the need for regional discussions around volunteer fire departments and the Animal Control Officer training requirements. Mark moved to table the fire department stipend issue until there is more information on the financial responsibilities and the legal ramifications. Jason made a motion to table the stipend proposal, pending further discussion and information gathering, and accepting the fire department's budget of \$21,500, seconded by Mark. The motion was approved unanimously. The Board will ask the Fire Chief for information from more towns for comparison.

Next meeting April 7, 2025 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:32