New Ashford Select Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
September 8, 2026
Select Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney, Mark Phelps
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Susan Supranowicz, Keith Lacasse, Cindy Grosso, Ed Grosso, Pete Haig, Diane George, Terese Nishimura, Mary Rojo, Richard George, Robert Lyons

Meeting opened at 6:55

1. Approve Minutes from 8/17 and 8/27: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 8/17/2026 New Ashford Select Board meeting were approved. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 8/27/2026 New Ashford Select Board meeting were approved.

2. Tax Rate: A single tax rate of $5.68 was approved at the Tax Classification Hearing. Increased school tuition costs due to higher enrollment and increased snow removal costs may cause the tax rate to increase in coming years.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Church: The church was deemed an unsafe work environment due to animal droppings. The Select Board approved Servpro's quote of $4,300 for clean-up. Valley Restoration and GNCB recommended putting up plywood and zip tape to button up the steeple until the repairs can be done. Valley Restoration gave a quote, to bring their boom lift and install ¾ plywood strips over the louvres and painted white, of $3,500 for the lift and $3,000 to install the plywood. The Board would like to coordinate this with Servpro's clean-up. GNCB said they need to do further engineering study and recommend getting an architect that can consult for historical buildings, with planning for current and future needs. The Board and Historical Commission do not think a historical architect is necessary. The end goal is to shore up the building and make it sound, including restoring the steeple. Matt Kelly met with the Historical Commission and reviewed the work that was done when he owned the church. Mark made a motion to approve the $6,500 as quoted by Valley Restoration to shore up the steeple, seconded by Jason. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Road Commissioner: Road Commissioner, Keith Lacasse, gave papers to the Select Board for the blacktopping at Town Hall. Keith will take the trees down tomorrow, starting at Ken's, then at Town Hall. He will get the sides of the town roads mowed by the end of the week. The Conservation Commission got notice that Maxymillian will install the environmental mitigation for the culvert replacement on Rockwell Road and the road may close earlier than usual. When Rockwell Road is closed, Keith will close Greylock Road.

6. Trees: Covered above.

7. Fire Department: Fire Chief, Frank Speth, sent an e-mail to the Select Board stating that Engine 4 went back to Shakerley to have its pump checked. It worked after Shakerley repaired it earlier in the summer but is not working now. CORI checks and invoices were submitted in a private mailbox that is not used for town business and not checked regularly. Invoices and town paperwork should be left at Town Hall. The Fire Department is getting quotes for a dumpster to clean out non-compliant equipment. They will get their water bottles out of town hall and are changing the mailing address to the mailbox in town instead of the Association's post office box. Keith will finish the work above the door at the Fire Station.

8. Grants/Projects: There is a webinar coming up about MVP grants.

9. Transfer Station: Ken thanked Walker Haig redistributing the recycling and notifying him about the overflow. Casella took the recycling but the load was contaminated with food filled items and paper bags. The Board would like to get a Recycling Attendant. Ken will call Williamstown. Town e-mail appears to be delivering more successfully.

10. MLP: The town has 100 customers. Ken will ask Whip City about when the increased speed offering will be available and the one federal remediation.

11. Old and Any Other Unforeseen Business: Keith will put wood up for the mailboxes at Town Hall. There was discussion of adding railings to the ramp at Town Hall and the requirements for municipal buildings. Jason will recheck the requirements and Keith will look at pricing for vertical rails. The pitch adds cost.
The Board discussed where to put the tables and benches. They will look at pavilions and gazebos for pricing.

12. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting September 23, 2026 at 6:30
Meeting adjourned at 7:37