

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
March 9, 2017

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps, Ken McInerney
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Wayne Buckley, Everett Martin

Meeting opened at 6:33

1. Road Commissioner: Keith LaCasse not present. Mark thanked Keith for filling in the potholes on Smith Road. The material is holding up well and the road is much improved.
2. Assessor: Everett Martin, provided the board with handouts from Collect Pro, an add-on to the Patriot System, used for printing tax bills. Everett currently prints the real estate tax bills and Kevin Bolduc, deputy tax collector, prints the excise tax bills. Collect Pro will come talk to the board about their services. There is a cost involved with the service and they do not collect outstanding bills. The assessor and the tax collector cannot print bills from Patriot. The Town Assessor currently is allowed \$2000 in expenses a year, which includes the mapping updates (\$600) and postage. Eventually portions of this account could be incorporated into the Collect Pro system.
This year is a recertification year for the town. Everett is interested in continuing his work as assessor for the next two years.
3. COA Update: The \$5,000 grant money for the Council on Aging was received and surveys were mailed. If the survey results show interest in transportation, the board will look into the acceptability of using the COA grant money to get a BRTA bus stop in town. Elder Services of the Berkshires recently got a grant for transportation.
4. Broadband: Mark attended the last Wired West meeting. Wired West has put out a resolution for towns to sign that would lock-in using our professional services money with Westfield Gas and would confirm the town's preference to operate broadband regionally. MBI has required the RFP's to be rewritten to include a higher coverage percentage. This week MBI is going to start the pole surveys. The pole data collection meeting with MBI is Tuesday, March 14, 2:30 – 4:00.
Jason received correspondence from Crocker concerning the revised RFP to include the 96% coverage, which includes no town borrowing. Jason will invite Crocker to the board meeting on March 20, 2017.
5. Town Report: The town secretary will do the town report this year. Job descriptions and the by-laws will be looked at for next year.
6. Tax Collector: Four town residents expressed interest in the position. The Board asked each to submit credentials for the job. One resume was received. Candidates will be invited for interviews on March 21st at 5:00. Current tax collector, Amy Kohlenberger, will be invited also.
7. Budget: Ken has updated the budget and will repost it. The School Committee is meeting March 13, 2017 to finalize their proposed budget for FY18.

Public Comment and any other subject for consideration:

DCR sent a letter about their desire to purchase a small piece of property in town. They are negotiating with the ski club to buy the development rights, with conservation restrictions. A certification of announcement was sent and read aloud. A waiver of the 120-day waiting period was signed by the chair.

Ken printed out town hall insurance waiver forms for the groups using the town hall to sign. The Girl Scouts have the insurance certification; Jason will forward it to Ken. Mark will get the drama group and the homeschool group to fill out the forms.

Ken met with Keith LaCasse and Emily Stockman, certified biologist, to review a conservation area on Greylock Road. They agreed that a guard rail is the best approach, rather than moving the road. Emily will quote Ken for her services for the MESA filing to come out of the conservation account. The next steps are to file with DEP and get the RFP out.

The Commonwealth of Mass General Court would like the town to create a town flag as our town's is one of the few missing from the State House. The board will ask the Historical Commission to work on this.

Jason received a letter from FEMA acknowledging the Select Board's letter in support of the grant for the Fire Department. Wayne reported that both grants submitted by the Fire Department have made it to peer review.

Wayne turned in the Fire Department's budget for FY 18. There are a couple of new members on the department, all from out of town.

Keith picked a spot to move the gate on Greylock Road.

On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from February 22, 2017 were approved. The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting March 20, 2017 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:15