

New Ashford Select Board Meeting

April 3, 2017

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps

Absent: Ken McInerney

Others Present: Keith LaCasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Public Comment and Any Other Subjects for Consideration:

The paperwork for Commbuys was submitted in the fall, but was not received. Jason resubmitted the paperwork via e-mail. He will receive a login to the portal and will attend training.

Jason has the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District contract form. Mark will contact Linda Cernik at NBSWD to discuss the contract, NBSWD services, and waste removal needs of New Ashford.

The board received a letter from Mass Dot. The town will receive \$57,030 in Chapter 90 funds for FY 18.

2. Road Commissioner: A resident on White Road would like a branch, which was cut down by the town, removed from his property. He would like a culvert put in to replace one that was removed. Also, he would like a berm removed so he can better access his field. The berm was put in place when repairing drainage issues. The board would like Keith to clean up the brush, fix the berm and put the culvert in, with work not to exceed \$500.

There have been no problems with plowing. There is plenty of sand for next year. There are 80 tons of salt left. We usually have 250 tons of salt to start the snow season. Keith will check on the price of salt.

Keith updated the board on Max LaCasse's emergency management grant. The grant money will cover 40 cement blocks, but not their delivery fee. They will be put near the salt shed and will extend the retaining wall. Some will be placed around the gates where the roads are closed for the winter.

3. Trees: Covered under Road Commissioner.

4. Collect Pro Software Module: Jason spoke with a representative from the company. The \$1500 a year lets the tax collector print the real estate, personal property, and motor vehicle excise tax bills. The treasurer will also have access to the system. The \$1500 may be able to come out of the assessor's expense account. Gus Martin will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the breakdown of that account. Jason will contact Patriot to confirm that the town's information is up to date.

5. Broadband: The company that owns the fiber for the middle mile is going bankrupt. Axia and Mass Tech are in a legal battle about this.

The grant money was approved for the final mile. There is a form to fill out and then the money will be allocated to the town. Wired West is still an option. Westfield Gas will do their design and build.

OTT is now running Leverett. Jason is going to call Crocker for more information about this.

Jason let MBI know that we have talked to Crocker. MBI thinks that Westfield Gas and Electric may also provide a response to the RFP.

MBI has put the pole surveys on hold as they would like the company that builds out the network to do the pole surveys.

6. Budget: Will finalize the budget at the next meeting.

7. Approve minutes from March 20, 2017 and March 21, 2017. On a motion from Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from March 20, 2017 and March 21, 2017 were approved.

8. Warrant. The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for April 18, 2017 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45