

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
May 1, 2017

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps

Absent: Ken McNerney

Others Present: Keith LaCasse, Lori Jayko, Richard Demyer, Chuck Morrone, Tom Matuszko,

Call In: River Strong

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. UMASS Clean Energy Extension Study: Tom Matuszko provided an introduction about The Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership. In January, legislation was filed to establish the partnership. Using a grant from MASS Energy, the partnership hired UMASS Clean Energy Extension to do a feasibility study about using wood energy to heat municipal buildings. They need a list of the town's municipal buildings and its heating demand.

River Strong, from UMASS, went into further detail about the four pieces of the process they are working on: 1. A wood heat demand study to look at the potential demand for wood pellets/chips, if municipal buildings were converted to wood heating energy. 2. An emissions study associated with wood energy. 3. Business models concerning a wood pellet or chip manufacturing facility in the partnership area. 4. A wood heat economic analysis - What kind of impact would wood heating have business wise?

Focusing on number one: River requested two years of heating/fuel demand from the municipal buildings in town, i.e. usage, delivery dates, how much delivered heating fuel used. From that information, a short report on the town's heating demand and how it translates to wood energy will be created. The wood heat screening study also looks at the boilers – how old, what vintage, condition and are they worth replacing? The board reported to River that we heat a town hall, fire department, and salt shed. The town hall has two furnaces that have been in place for a long time.

Jason will be the contact person for the town and will e-mail his information to River.

Tom provided a Green Communities Program hand-out. It is a state program, where towns can take steps to be eligible for grant money for energy saving. One step is to figure out the municipal energy demand. Mass energy insights is a state program for towns to keep track of their energy usage information. The town can activate this account to share energy information by authorizing the UMASS study to access the information.

Tom gave the board paperwork with an update on the woodland partnership.

2. Public Comment and Other Subjects for Consideration:

The board would like Chuck Morrone, Tree Warden, to look at the trees, specifically any near the wires. Chuck will make a list of trees that need work.

Chuck would like the blocks moved to open the cemetery for mowing and for Mother's Day.

Keith will take care of it.

Richard Demyer is going to get a grant for the veterans for the cemetery. He will bring in the paperwork for the board.

Richard put the camera up at the recycling bins, he will continue to monitor.

The Greylock/Bauer Road project was advertised in the newspaper on the 26th.

Chuck will try to change the tumbler on the side door.

Mark made a motion to send a letter of commendation to the Girl Scout earning her silver award. Jason received insurance renewal information for the fire department and will talk to Wayne Buckley, Fire Chief.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith LaCasse got three sealed bids for Smith Road paving, 850 feet. The bids were opened and read aloud: first bid Tri-Town Paving \$22,317, second Donovan's \$42,020, third D. Condron \$24,900. Mark moved to accept the bid from Tri-Town Paving, seconded by Jason.

Next week, Keith will fill the pot holes around town with mix from the hot plant.

Keith will get a price from Dettinger's for the Roys Rd. bridge guard rails. In FY18, he will work on the apron for the bridge.

Salt will likely be delivered next week. The loader rental for the salt will come out of the winter road's account.

The retaining wall blocks, from the emergency management grant, need to be picked up by the end of the month and will be billed by the end of June.

4. Broadband: The board recently met with Westfield Gas and Electric, Whip City. Whip City sent Jason the intergovernmental agreement for the MLP's. Jason sent it to legal counsel and forwarded it to the rest of the board. The Intergovernmental Agreement will begin a five step process. Whip City will do the pole surveys and the design and engineering. Then the project will be put out to bid, at which point the town will decide who will build out the network and who will be the ISP. Wired West will not work as an ISP. Whip City can manage and maintain the network. Crocker Communications is another option that has communicated with us. However, their build out, and customer prices have increased.

5. Approve Minutes: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from April 18, 2017 and April 28, 2017, were approved.

6. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting May 15, 2017 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14