

New Ashford Select Board Meeting  
New Ashford Town Hall  
June 19, 2017

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Ken McInerney, Mark Phelps  
Others Present: Richard Demyer, Keith Lacasse, Stephen Jayko, Joe Nawazelski, Chuck Morrone, Lori Jayko, Sherry Youngkin, Frank Youngkin, Kurt Singer, Wayne Buckley

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Public Comment: Sherry Youngkin provided an update on the Council on Aging. The Council will send a letter to Elder services of the Berkshires, stating that the town's Council on Aging is established. This will allow the Council to get free farmer's market coupons for the town's seniors. The Council will apply to be included in the BRTA's bus loop. The town's use of this service will need to be approved at a town meeting. The bus ride will cost each individual \$2 to be picked up at the home (this may apply to homes on the route only). At the end of the fiscal year, the state assesses a fee based on the town's usage. There is no cost for the application. County ambulance will take anyone, at no charge, to doctor's appointments with 24 hours notice. The Council is planning two meet and greets on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, which will include blood pressure checking, and providing information about available services. The Council will send an informational mailing to the town's seniors along with File of Life forms. The board thanked the Council on Aging for their work.

2. The Springs Motel: Building Inspector, Don Torrico, and Fire Chief, Wayne Buckley performed an inspection of the Springs Motel on June 19, 2017. Don will provide the board with a full report. Wayne found that the fire system works, but the fire extinguishers are out of date. The emergency lighting works. The end apartment is split into three apartments, and all three are occupied. This division was not approved by the town and may be a Board of Health issue due to shared water and septic. The back motel building of rooms is condemned. The pool has many violations.

3. Veterans': Richard Demyer, Veterans Services Officer, reported that a case has been pulled by the state due to fraud to Adams, North Adams, and possibly Northampton. Benefits for the other case requesting entitlement were approved for \$583.91 a month. After the current vet benefits are paid for the month there is \$132.60 left in the Veterans' Account. On a motion by Ken, seconded by Mark, the board voted to move \$284.88 from the reserve account to the veterans chapter 115 account. The rest will be paid for out of the Veterans' Officer's Expense Account. The board will schedule a special town meeting to approve additional funds needed for the veterans' account for FY18. Based on the current figures, \$7006.92 more will be needed for a twelve month period. A greater amount will be requested in case of heating cost or other unanticipated increases.

4. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse reported that Smith Road will be paved on Friday, June 23, 2017. He will sweep that section of road the day before. He will have Tri-town fill in the edges, using money from the Road Commissioner's Expense Account.

Keith will get the paperwork together to put Beach Hill Road paving out to bid. He will confirm that logging is complete on the top of the hill, before committing to paving.

The guard rails on Roys Road will be done in FY18.

Keith talked to the new resident on Greylock Road about location of the blocks to close the road for winter, where to build a turn around, the resident's curb cut, and possibly a culvert. Does there need to be room for the school bus to turn around there? Lori Jayko will bring this up at the School Committee meeting on June 21, 2017.

Keith has not received anything in writing from the resident on White Road.

Keith confirmed that the Mason property can be used as a turnaround for the Greylock Road project as long as it's kept clean. (i.e. no food or litter).

The shared mower for the sides of the roads is supposed to be available. Keith is going to check again and can call Eversource for follow-up.

5. Trees: Chuck Morrone, Tree Warden, was contacted by a resident to take care of some dead branches. Keith will do it by the end of June.

6. Greylock Road Update: Ken has a meeting Friday, June 23, 2017 at the base of Greylock Road with Emily Stockman (certified botanist), D. Condron, the Conservation Commission, and the Road Commissioner to sign the contract for roadwork. Emily will update on permits, and will advise if there is any work that can be done before the permits are issued. The Bauer Road gate could have an opening/walkthrough for snowmobiles.

7. Snow Plow Contract: The board reviewed the snow plow contract, made changes to specify road blocks or gate on Greylock Road, added Old Route 7 between Smith Road and the Springs Motel, and modified wording to clarify the payment schedule. Wording was changed to confirm that the salt and sand is only used on town roads and is not used on private driveways. Jason will send the contract to legal counsel before putting it out to bid.

8. Appointments: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Art Johnson was appointed as the Animal Control Officer for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Kevin Flicker was appointed as the alternate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Sharon Morrone was appointed to the Board of Registrars for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Jacqueline Trottier was appointed to the Board of Registrars for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Carlanne Rancourt was appointed to the Board of Registrars for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Don Torrico was appointed as the Building Inspector for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Mark Kruzel was appointed as an alternate building inspector for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Jeff Clemons was appointed as an alternate building inspector for one year. On a motion by Ken, seconded by Jason, Harley Phelps III was appointed to the Conservation Commission for three years. Mark abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Tamara Leminen was appointed to the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Leo Mazzeo was appointed to the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken,

Mike Lescarbeau was appointed as the Electrical Inspector for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Max Lacasse was appointed as the Emergency Management Director for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Winn Frye was appointed as Fence Viewer for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Steve Jennings was appointed as Fence Viewer for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Winn Frye was appointed as Field Viewer for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Winn Frye was appointed as Field Viewer for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Jack Haig Sr. was appointed as Gas Inspector for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Val Girard was appointed as an alternate gas inspector for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Ben Glick was appointed to the Historical Commission for three years. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Charles Morrone was appointed to the Historical Commission for three years. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Keith Lacasse was appointed as the Highway Commissioner for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, Ken McInerney was appointed as a Mt. Greylock Advisory Representative for one year. Ken abstained. On a motion by Ken, seconded by Jason, Harley Phelps Jr. was appointed as a Mt. Greylock Advisory Representative for one year. Mark abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Steve Jennings was appointed as the Measurer of Wood & Bark for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Keith Lacasse was appointed as Moth Inspector for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, Ken McInerney was appointed as the New Ashford MLP Manager for two years. Ken abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Jack Haig Sr. was appointed as the Plumbing Inspector for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Val Girard was appointed as the alternate plumbing inspector for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the chair of the select board was appointed as the Procurement Officer for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Kopelman and Paige was appointed as Town Counsel for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Lori Jayko was appointed as Town Secretary for one year. Jason abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Richard Demyer was appointed as the Veteran's Officer for one year. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Jason Jayko was appointed as a Wired West Delegate for two year. Jason abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, Ken McInerney was appointed as an alternate Wired West Delegate for two years. Ken abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Bill Johnston was appointed as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals for two years.

9. Fire Department Budget: The Fire Department's budget was inadvertently level funded for FY18. \$8145 was requested, but \$7445 was actually approved. The additional \$700 will be requested at a special town meeting.

Wayne Buckley, Fire Chief, reported that Mike Holden will turn in a written resignation for the Fire Warden position. Joe Nawazelski will be the Fire Warden. Wayne recommends making the Fire Warden an appointed position that goes to the fire chief. The change needs to be on the town meeting warrant and on the town election ballot.

Wayne supplied the board with information about a free, used, propane generator (it was a back-up for the FAA in Plattsburgh). Wayne has called DCR and put our name on it. It needs to be kept indoors or covered. Wayne can get more information about the estimated cost of maintenance and whether it could also be used as back-up for the internet. It turns on within 5 seconds of the power going off. It would need to be hooked up by an electrician. It was suggested that Max Lacasse, Emergency Management Director, look into getting the hook up costs covered by a grant.

10. Legislative Letter – Constables: Kurt Singer, Police Chief, reviewed the potential legislation. Cahill from the tenth district is removing constables from the law and replacing them police or law enforcement. This could be costly for the town if a constable cannot man the ballot box. Mark contacted Senator Hinds' office and they were unaware of it. The board would like Mark to follow up with Senator Hinds and Representative Paul Marks.

Kurt wrote up a proposal for shared services with the Lanesboro police. The next step would be a meeting with the Lanesboro Police Chief and town management. Kurt mentioned that the response time for Massachusetts State Police to a recent call for a bear getting hit on Route 7 was about 27 minutes.

The board acknowledged the passing of State Representative Gail Carriddi.

11. Any other subjects for consideration: Jason, Broadband update. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, Jason received an e-mail from Bill Ennon that there was not enough substance in the town's broadband grant application. Bill shared another town's approved application with Jason. Jason reviewed the paperwork, added details to our grant application and resubmitted it by certified mail. It was received by the state on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Jason met with Westfield Gas and Electric June 19, 2017 and toured the facility. They are ready and want to start in the next 5-10 business days. Work is being held up by the grant application. Jason e-mailed Bill Ennon to let him know that we are ready to start. Bill responded with the time table for the grant application's awarding. No towns have received their grant money. Jason will talk to Senator Hinds to see if anyone can help us move this process along.

Does our town have a copy of Rural Electrification Agreement of America? This could protect the town if there is a problem with spacing on the poles.

Some points to consider: Once the network is built, what if other towns want to buy service from us? Are there any prohibitions to doing this? How much of the town to cover? Where to put the equipment in the town hall or a hut? Where to store spare equipment/parts? Would the name be Whip city or New Ashford Fiber? If Wired West were involved, they would be the middle person. There is a Wired West meeting this weekend.

12. Approve minutes. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from June 5, 2017 were approved. Ken abstained. On a motion by Ken, seconded by Mark, the minutes from June 6, 2017 were approved.

13. Warrant. The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting July 10 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:54