

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
June 5, 2017

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps

Absent: Ken McInerney

Others Present: Richard Demyer, Chuck Morrone, Max LaCasse, Keith LaCasse, Lori Jayko, Wayne Buckley

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Public Comment: Chuck Morrone, Tree Warden, reported that Keith LaCasse received a phone call from Nathan Smith concerning a live tree with dead branches hanging over his property. Mark made a motion to have Keith take the dead limbs off. The board approved, to come out of the tree removal account.

A resident on Ingraham Road has taken trees down on the road. Keith advised him to contact the Tree Warden when he wants to take trees down.

3. Fire Department: Wayne Buckley, Fire Chief. The department requested \$8145 for FY18. They would like that amount reinstated instead of the \$7445 that was approved at town meeting. This was due to an oversight when moving budgets to the computer form. The Board would like the Fire Department to try to stay within the \$7445, if they can. The two new veterans' benefits' requests put a strain on the budget. However, if there is a special town meeting during the year, the increase in the Fire Department budget can be added. Wayne mentioned that membership fees have gone up and repairs to engines 4 and 2 required extra money last year.

The dry hydrant on Ingraham Road is filled in with silt. Alternate potential water sources were discussed.

2. Veteran's: Jason has corresponded with Don Torrico, Building Inspector. Don has not received the paperwork from the Econolodge motel for the inspection. He will be taking the next step. Richard Demyer, Veteran Services Officer, says he has to provide services regardless, as this case has been transferred to him from the town of Adams. Boston will not get involved in the legality of the housing. There are concerns that the motel room cannot be rented out on a monthly basis as motel rooms are only for temporary use. The board will contact town counsel. The manager of the Econolodge is demanding a security deposit. Richard will give the contact information of the veteran's department in Boston to the board.

There is a town resident requesting entitlement, under chapter 115. If this is approved, there will need to be a special town meeting to approve the amount. The maximum, by law, of veteran's benefits is \$995 a month.

Mark would like the board to reach out to Representative Gail Carriddi and Senator Adam Hinds to discuss the issue of how the veteran's account affects the budget.

4. Econolodge Motel: The town will be paying the Pittsfield City Clerk so the building inspector can exact the fine process. Wayne inspected the fire alarm system last week and it passed. The upper building is not being used. Jason will check with Don for an update.

5. Greylock Road Bid Opening: One bid was received from D. Condron Construction of project 1 take down 40 + trees marked with orange dots on Greylock and Bauer Roads \$18,000, project 2 cleaning of all culvert throats and select Road Cross Culvert and Embankment Repair/ Maintenance on Greylock Road \$27,000, project 3 Application of 6 inches of recycled base \$150,000, project 4 select guard rail replacement \$43,124.13, project 5 guard rail installation at \$4,367, project 6 cleaning all culvert throats on Bauer Road \$4,000, project 7 application of 6 inches recycled base material \$58,500. The total amount is \$304,991.13. The bid will be discussed at the select board meeting on June 6, 2017.

6. Road Commissioner: Smith Road will be completed before the end of the month. Smith Road will be discussed further at the meeting on June 6, 2017.

Keith turned in an invoice for the salt. The bill should follow in the mail.

Keith is trying to contact the resident that lives near the gate on Greylock Road. There was not a curb cut permit issued for this property.

Work at the residence on White Road will be done in the next couple of days. Keith's truck was being repaired for steering.

Keith will call Dalton about the mower for the sides of the roads, which the town shared the cost of last year, but did not receive use of. If it does not get supplied, Keith is going to call Eversource and let them know the problem we are having. Max got a brush hog that will hook up to the skid steer.

Keith will confirm there is enough money in the budget before he does the guard rails on the Roys Road bridge, because he needs to also rent a sweeper for Smith Road (will do any other roads that need it at the same time). He will base his decision on the recap sheet at the meeting on June 6, 2017. Keith will call Williamstown to see what the cost would be to use their town's sweeper.

After July first, Keith and the board will discuss making permanent gates.

Keith will move the blocks in the cemetery up to the west side to try to keep atv's, etc out of the cemetery.

Someone dragged a tree down Mallery Road, which left a scar on the road.

7. Trees: Chuck Morrone, Tree Warden, left a bill from Troy's Tree Service that should be on the 6/6/2017 warrant. They took the trees down in one day and did a nice job. After the dead branches on Ingraham Road are cleared, there's some money left in the budget. Are there any more trees that need to be done before July 1? Could an e-mail be sent out asking residents if they've noticed any trees that look like potential problems? There's not much debris near the road that needs to be cleaned up.

8. Any other subjects for consideration: Max Lacasse, Emergency Management Director, will finalize the emergency management grant. He needs a copy of the town's payment to 911 for FY16. Lori Jayko will bring it to the 6/6/2017 meeting. He will check into funds available for next year to make a water source for the Fire Department. Richard Demyer said he has a spring on property across from the fire department that might work.

Max may try to get a propane generator that could run the town hall and fire department, automatically. The town would need to supplement the grant for around \$1500.

Jason will meet with Westfield Gas and Electric on the 19th of June to discuss the details and next steps. The agreement has been signed to do the pole survey, and for the design engineering.

Mark will call Adams tomorrow about the possibility of shared Assessor services as well as the building inspector. What do they use for Assessor software?

Next meeting June 6, 2017 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:52