

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
June 6, 2017

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Ken McNerney, Mark Phelps

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

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Reorganize Board: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Jason was nominated as the Chair. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, Ken was nominated as Vice Chair.

2. Public Comment: There was a tax overpayment by a resident that needs a refund check issued. This item was added to the warrant.

Richard Demyer, Veterans' Services Officer, provided an update on the veteran's account. A veterans' benefits receiver was transferred from the town of Adams and is living in the Econolodge motel. Richard needs to verify that the veteran lives in town, and can report substandard living, but is not responsible for the legality of the housing. The town's regular authorizer was out of the office, so Richard talked to another authorizer, Keith, in Boston. One option is for the state to take over the case, pay in full, and penalize the town 10%. Keith told Richard to move forward and do what he is required to do by law for the benefits receiver. The benefits receiver has been in the system for eight years. The security deposit was not approved. Utilities will not be included in benefits as those are provided by the motel. Richard has an appointment set up for interviewing and documentation. Benefits will need to be paid this month. The town needs to enforce the housing standards for the motel. Jason called the building inspector, Don Torrico, and hasn't heard back yet.

There is a town resident requesting review for entitlement, which would also need to be paid out this month.

3. Greylock Road Bids: The one bid received, from D. Condron Construction, was opened and read aloud 6/6/2017. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the single bid from Condron for the total of \$304,991.13 was accepted. The project cannot begin until the town receives the Mass Natural Heritage permit. Ken will call Emily Stockman, certified botanist, to see where we are in the process. Ken will inquire with the state rep. if the grant money can be used for gates.

There were piles of dirt near the vernal pool on the new property on Greylock Road. Ken called the owner, and let him know of that error. The contractor working on the property offered to move the gate free of charge. Ken told him to call Keith, but Keith has not heard from him.

Someone is unlocking the DCR locks and leaving the gates open. There is no evidence of vehicle traffic. A tree fell across Greylock Rd. It will be left until the project starts.

4. Beach Hill Road/Smith Road: An e-mail was received by the board 5/23/2017, by a resident questioning the paving project for Smith Road. The resident stated that Mark Phelps should not have made a motion to accept the bid for the Smith Road project, claiming it is a conflict of interest. Ken disagreed with this position. He explained that all three select board members had reviewed bids in October and rejected them for being too high. Therefore, the recent bid that was awarded was based on a previous decision made when all three board members were present. The resident who wrote the e-mail was encouraged to attend the select board meeting to discuss concerns, but was not present. A previous board member mentioned that he did not recuse himself from a vote for roadwork where he lives.

Further, Roys Road, White Road, and Mallery Road have already been paved and Greylock Road is getting work done this year. No preference is being shown to Smith Road.

Beach Hill Road may be able to be paved this year, using Chapter 90 funds. Keith will start putting together the numbers.

Old Route 7 needs some attention.

5. Building Inspector Contract: Mark talked to Tony Mazzuco, Adams Town Administrator, who said enforcement issues by the building inspector can be discussed as necessary. Tony and the Adams' Assessor can attend a board meeting to discuss sharing services. Mark made a motion, seconded by Ken, to accept the building inspector contract with the town of Adams. The board signed the contract.

6. Appointments: The appointment list was reviewed by the board to see what appointments are due for July 1, 2017.

7. Any other subjects for consideration: Mark said that Harley Phelps offered to donate \$500 towards the purchase of a self-starting propane generator as mentioned by Max Lacasse at the June 5, 2017 meeting. Jason forwarded an e-mail to the board about the meeting with Whip City on June 19, 2017. Jason has a call scheduled with Bill Ennon on June 9, 2017 to discuss the town's broadband grant application. The application was in the third group, which should be reviewed and awarded next. There is a town bank account set up solely for the broadband grant.

Ken will attend the next Wired West meeting on June 10th. After this, Wired West meetings will be every other month.

Lori Trottier questioned why the culvert mentioned in the April 3, 2017 minutes was not placed at the residence on White Road. Keith LaCasse, Road Commissioner, responded that the last time he was there, the resident just wanted to fill it in with a dip. Ken would like the project in writing as the resident keeps changing his mind.

The Board received a letter from the Massachusetts Bay Constables Association claiming that a recently filed bill would strip powers and duties from municipal constables. The author, Richard Ramponi, president of MBCA, encouraged the town to contact the state senators and representatives to express opposition to the proposed law, H.2252. Jason will post this letter on the website. The board will review the potential legislation and will discuss it at the next meeting.

Ken sent in the paperwork, notarized by Louis Palmer, naming Art Johnson as the animal control inspector and animal control officer. Ken asked Kurt Singer if he was interested in the positions but did not get a response.

Keith cut two trees on Bauer Road and cleaned the culverts.

The Council on Aging will meet on June 19, 2017 at 5:30.

8. Approve minutes from May 15, 2017. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from May 15, 2017 were approved.

9. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting June 19, 2017 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:29