

New Ashford Select Board Meeting  
New Ashford Town Hall  
September 5, 2017

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps, Ken McInerney  
Others Present: Richard Demyer, Lori Trottier, Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Snow Plowing Bids: One sealed bid was received, opened, and read aloud. The total bid amount from KLC Construction for snow plowing for 2017-2019 was \$62,000. Mark made motion to accept the bid of \$62,000, seconded by Ken. The board signed the contract.
2. Public Comment: Richard Demyer wanted to know if Beach Hill Road would be paved this summer. The paving project will be put back out to bid in the spring. Keith will patch up the holes in the road within the next week.
3. Veterans: Richard Demyer, Veterans Services Officer, spoke to the Building Inspector on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August. The Building Inspector needs permission from the board to talk to legal counsel. The unit at The Springs Motel is not an apartment and has no kitchen facilities. It has been occupied for 90 days, but it can only be used for 30 days. Dick is withholding the security deposit until he hears that the business is in good standing and that the apartment is allowable. Jason will call Don. There is a fourth applicant for benefits.
4. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse reported that Max Lacasse finished the mowing of the sides of the roads and the mower was returned to Dalton. We can pay for this year and ask for a refund on last year, as we didn't get use last year. Keith will start the ditch work when a rubber tired excavator is available.  
Ken gave an update on Greylock Road. The project will be done on September 6. The botanist will need to check it one more time. The gate needs to be moved. Richard Demyer and Lori Trottier have gates that Keith can look at to see if they will work.
5. Broadband: Westfield Gas and Electric had a meeting in town on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August. They discussed plans and equipment needs. A hut would cost \$50,000 initially, and \$80,000 to have it all connected. It would save the town money to put the equipment – two cabinets - in the town hall. The best placement in the town hall is in the Town Clerk's office. This would likely require a small air conditioner because the servers generate heat. The old bathroom could be turned into a secure file room. There was talk of how to run the fiber from the Town Hall with concern to the plumbing and the leach field and the pros and cons of trenching versus overhead lines. Lines would be run separately to the north and the south so that if there was a problem with one, it wouldn't affect the other. A generator would be put in the back of the Town Hall. The pole surveys were started last week and continue this week. Westfield Gas and Electric will make a map within thirty days after the pole survey is finished and then meet again. Ken signed the pole agreements. Jason sent them in. Eversource has responded. Verizon has not. The board will create a policy of what the town is going to cover distance-wise to the houses. Westfield Gas and Electric estimates that service will be available in a year.

6. Mowing: Pete Rancourt told The Board that he mows approximately 25 times a year for \$1,400. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> year he has mowed the yard at the schoolhouse.

7. Any other subjects for consideration: Mark Phelps contacted the five candidates running for State Representative: Christine Canning, Kevin Towle, Stephanie Bosley, Lisa Blackmer, and John Barrett III. They will attend a forum on September 16 from 9-12 at the Town Hall. John Barrett will attend the first hour.

The Conservation Commission is meeting at 6:00 on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September for a public hearing about a septic system. They will be scheduling a public hearing for another septic system.

Ken forwarded the invoice to Amy Kohlenberger for the all in one computer the town purchased for her. He has not heard back.

Jason contacted Gus Martin, Town Assessor, about the Tax Classification Hearing. Gus said that the DOR field rep inspects on 10/3, and then Boston does a review. Jason will ask Gus to be at the next meeting.

Mark will talk to the Adams Town Manager about sharing an Assessor. The cost and computer programs used are considerations.

The Town Hall's furnace is getting cleaned on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

8. Approve the minutes from August 23, 2017. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from August 23, 2017 were approved.

9. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed. The oil lock-in letter was received from West Oil and payment was added to the warrant for 1,100 gallons of oil at \$2.149.

The second payment for D. Condron Construction, Inc, of \$122,000, was approved, to be paid when the grant money is deposited.

Next meeting September 18, 2017 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:42