

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
August 1, 2016

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps, Ken McInerney
Others Present: Keith LaCasse, Lori Jayko, Wayne Buckley, Peter Traub, Sherry Youngkin,
Frank Youngkin

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Appointments (Board of Registrars): Item is tabled until input is received from town counsel.

2. MBI/Wired West Update: Jason received the papers from the Town Clerk to send to MBI. Gus Martin, assessor, provided a town household count of 98 dwellings with six extra apartments on those parcels. He does not know how many renters there are. There are eight business parcels. Clark Rowell will meet with the treasurer for financial advising on August 10. The \$5,000 planning grant money that the town turned over to Wired West does not cover the pole attachment fees. The Board needs to write an official letter to Wired West stating what the money will be used for and it must be an acceptable use for the grant in order for the town to get it back. The Eversource application for pole attachments will cost a survey fee of \$1890 to be paid in advance. Verizon will cost \$425, but the town is required to have a bond in place first. The Board will review and discuss these forms at the next meeting.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith LaCasse reported that there was a wash out on Mallery Road due to a rain storm on July 31. He removed gravel that was in the road and began working on the ditches on the south end. It will take a couple of days to complete. After Mallery (will seed afterwards) will work on Beach Hill Road ditches. The Mallery Road paving project required 80 more tons of blacktop than anticipated, adding \$10,000 to the cost. Keith rented a grader for the project. There was a problem with the millings that left chunks of blacktop on Greylock Road. It's unclear whether the problem was due to faulty equipment, operator error, or poor blacktop conditions. Fine millings are required to finish the top. Keith contacted Kathy Stevens who advised that we can do this under the same contract as long as we keep the same contractor. Keith recommended two options for fixing the road: dump millings with a truck and spread them with a grader or run the millings through a paver. The best price for millings is from Condron at \$20 a ton. The Board would like to use the base material from the salt shed. It will be run through the paver. \$12,000 is Keith's estimate to fix the road. Also, Keith will fix a driveway apron on Mallery Road. The leftover millings stored between Roys and Greylock Roads will be used there for ditch work. A tree came down on Greylock Road that is partially in the road. Keith will take care of it.

4. Building Inspector (fee schedule): Don Torrico answered the Board's questions, via e-mail, about the proposed permit fee schedule. The Board questioned why the building permit fees will be based on construction cost instead of square footage. Don replied that the inspectors are trained to determine fair market value for construction costs. A Mechanical permit is for heating and air conditioning equipment. R2 is summer camp's inspection by law. Complex permits are required for bigger projects such as Snowy Owl.

The Building Inspector also proposed that the town adopt a law to ticket individuals for fire code violations. The Board would like to know who determines those fees.

The Board would like to have building permit fees based on square footage instead of permits based on construction costs. Jason will invite Don to the next meeting to talk about the fee schedule and also to share the plans for the potential subdivision at the Econolodge property. The Building Inspector will be out of the area 8/8-8/16. If there's an emergency, contact Mark Kruzel. Don recommended appointing Jeff Clemons as an alternate. Ken made a motion to appointment Jeff Clemons as an alternate building inspector, seconded by Mark.

5. Colonial Power: Colonial Power provided an update that included the aggregation plan. The Board reviewed the paperwork. The Board unanimously agreed that price is the motivating factor on making the decision about a supplier. The Board signed the paperwork and will return it to Colonial. Jason will scan it in and e-mail it back.

Public Comment and any other subjects for consideration:

Pete Traub from the Council on Aging from Cheshire informed the board that Carmen Field-Mitchell, outreach worker, has been replaced by Karey Lahey. The Council has the funds to provide an outreach worker to New Ashford, there is no fee for the town. The town by-laws state that the Select Board is the town's Council on Aging. The Council can apply for a \$5,000 grant that can be used for programs and services for people over the age of 60. The director of the Council on Aging in Lanesboro, Lorna Gayle, is part time and may be interested in working for New Ashford for a fee. Some benefits of having an active Council on Aging in town are access to the Shine program (which helps with health insurance), food bank program, and housing and fuel assistance programs. Pete will have the Mass Council on Aging bring the grant paperwork to the next meeting.

Ken was contacted by Mass Alliance asking the town to look at alternative heating by wood pellets for the town hall. As the building is not staffed every day, it is not a viable option.

Chuck Morrone retired from the Fire Department.

Jason will write a letter from the Select Board to get more keys to the Town Hall made.

Jason will further secure the filling cabinet for the police chief.

The Fire Department is conducting fire training Saturday and Sunday for vehicle extrication in the Snowy Owl parking lot.

Warrant was reviewed and signed.

Minutes from July 18, 2016 were approved on a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken.

Minutes from July 21, 2016 were approved on a motion by Ken, seconded by Jason. Mark abstained.

Next meeting August 15, 2016 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:07.