

New Ashford Select Board Meeting  
August 17, 2015

Select Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps

Others Present: Everett Martin (Gus), Amy Kohlenberger, Chuck Morrone, Joe Nawazelski, Ed Grosso, Dave Hadley, Keith LaCasse

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Tax Classification – The hearing will be September 8, at 6:30. The Select Board will meet immediately following. Gus needs receipts from Michelle Callahan, Town Accountant from FY 15. The values are all set and we are within the levy limit. Tax rates should go down.

Recertification was last year. That is done every three years. We revalue every year. Every three years is an in depth study by DOR. The next recertification will be 2017.

Amy Kohlenberger - turned in a list of delinquent property taxes. The town does not have a deputy tax collector for real estate tax. Amy will keep working on it. The Springfield office of the DOR may be of help with information on collecting delinquent taxes.

2. Road Commissioner, Keith LaCasse – Paving money was approved for Mallery Road from the state. The next step is to put it out to bid. It needs to be posted and on the state website. Keith will get the info to the town secretary for posting. Would like to get the paving done before the temperature drops below 40 degrees. The job will be to mill down three inches and put back an inch and a half of paving. Keith will remove two stumps that are near the road.

Keith ordered new blades for the boom mower. Hancock has the mower. It should be in New Ashford next week.

A tree came down on Greylock Road near the new house. The owner cut it. Someone else cut the rest and Keith cleaned up the brush.

Ingraham, Greylock and Bauer Roads were graded and Greylock and Bauer were widened. Keith took the downed trees off Bauer. He will put gravel on Ingraham, Greylock and Bauer and he will grade Roys Road. Greylock Road is open through Bauer which is open to Ingraham.

Hazard mitigation plan paperwork was received. A possible use is for culverts on Ingraham Road. Max will call Jason about it this week.

3. Trees – Chuck Morrone will have three sealed bids for the board for tree work at the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jason is working on the cemetery tree.

4. Snow Plowing Contract – Legal Counsel made a recommendation for a separate value of the sand and salt that is in the salt shed, what is remaining. (There is 10 ton sand. 10-15 ton salt.) The notice for bids will be in the paper this week, on the website and at the town hall. Bids will be received at the second meeting in September. Jason will check to see if it needs to be posted two places in town and if it needs to be posted by a town constable.

The countywide bid for sand from Condron is \$15 a ton. Last year, the town got half of its sand from Daly's at \$14 a ton, and half from J. Donovan at \$18 a ton delivered.

Cargill has winter treated rock salt for \$89 a ton.

The town should try to get its sand and salt as soon as possible. We will likely need 225 tons of salt and 125 tons of sand for this winter. Keith will call to get current prices on sand and will report back at the next meeting.

A different company is doing the salt than last year. There is corn oil mixed in which typically works very well. Keith will verify the coating on the salt before ordering.

The town will wait until the snow plow contract is awarded before ordering salt and sand because the snow plow contractor is responsible for accepting the delivering.

5. Public Comment and Considerations - Joe Nawazelski and Ed Grosso, New Ashford Volunteer Fire Department: The fire department has a wireless access point for internet. They want to make a wireless bridge between the town hall and the fire house with antennae and radios. The firehouse is having difficulty getting e-mail. Jason asked if they can run an underground wire. They will try making the bridge first and see how it works.

Dave Hadley, Mountain Pond Lane Association President: Residents of Mountain Pond Lane pay yearly dues. They take care of the road; plowing, sanding, salting, and grading. The road has erosion issues. This year, the residents paid extra dues. The residents of Mountain Pond Lane would like some road millings from the town to put on their road.

Everything that comes off Mallery Road, in the upcoming project, will go on Greylock Road. There is base material, 300 tons, at the salt shed that the town received at no cost. There is some available that is not being used. Keith estimated that Mountain Pond Lane would need about 200 tons.

The board will take it under advisement and revisit the discussion at the next meeting when Ken McNerney is present, September 8.

Mark – donating surplus materials is not a problem, however the town cannot spend money on a private driveway. Does the association have a long term plan for what they need to spend for long-term maintenance for the road? Dave can pull the financial information. Currently they collect \$2700 a year for snow removal. The association does not have money set aside for road maintenance, but they have discussed it.

Chuck Morrone would like the information on the website to be updated.

Update from the Wired West meeting: Crocker Communications has been contacting many towns and causing problems.

The homeschooling /homeless coordinator has applied for unemployment benefits.

6. Warrant – Warrant was reviewed and signed.

7. Approval of minutes from the August 3, 2015 meeting. Approved on a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason.

Next Meeting – September 8, 2015 at 6:30, Tax Classification Hearing. Select Board meeting will follow.

Meeting adjourned 7:50.