

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
February 16, 2016

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

Others Present: Wayne Buckley, Joe Nawazelski, Max LaCasse, Keith LaCasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Fire Department - The Fire Department presented its budget to the board of a 57% increase over last year. Reasons cited for the increase: major expenses on engine 4, engine 2 needed tuning, expenses that were paid out of pocket in the past being added to the budget, equipment/gear needing updating. The board requested that the department keep working on its budget.

2. Building Inspector – waiting to receive a proposal from Tony Mazzucco, Adams Town Administrator, for sharing a building inspector with the town of Adams. Adams hopes to have a Building Inspector hired by March 1.

3. Road Commissioner - Keith LaCasse. Keith talked with Kathy Stevens about the Mallery Road paving contract. She said the paving project does not have to be completed by July 1, 2016. She recommended adding the stipulation of work beginning after May 1 and being completed by August 1. Also, changing the wording to stockpile the millings to be placed on Greylock Road, and that the millings be 2” or less. Lori Jayko will post the project for bids by the first week in March.

MASS DOT project list - Keith made a list of road lengths and conditions, and culverts and their conditions for the board. The MASS DOT project list is more of a hope list for critical needs projects that the town won't be able to fund. The town does not have any projects to submit to the list.

The Federal Government is releasing money in the spring for bridges less than 20 feet. The bridge on Roys Road is classified as a condition 6, and will not be categorized as available for these funds.

Plowing – Keith received two complaints of snow being plowed onto lawns. The town has a 60 foot right of way.

Can the town fill in the island where Mallery and Ingraham Roads meet to make plowing there easier? Mark suggested looking at the road plans.

Keith talked to Kathy Stevens about posting weight limits on roads. That is done by town bylaw and not the state.

Keith noted that a car was parked at the salt shed. He told them to move on.

4. Tree Work - nothing new to report.

5. Mallery Road Paving Project - covered in the Road Commissioner's report.

6. Mass Dot - covered in the Road Commissioner's report.

7. Wired West/MBI - Ken attended that last Wired West meeting. David Kulp is leading the negotiation committee for Wired West with MBI. Wired West is working on a plan for MBI to address MBI's complaint that there is not town ownership in Wired West's current model. Eric Nakajima has resigned from MBI. He will remain as an advisor through March 31. Elizabeth Copeland is acting as the interim director. The state has put a hold on the project while they look at letting the private sector come in. The next meeting is February 27.

8. Budget - Ken will e-mail the town committees to get their budget requests in.

9. Public Comment – The New Ashford Fire Department was not notified when a car hit a telephone pole in town. Wayne is making sure this doesn't happen again. He is also communicating with Williamstown about an agreement for dispatching emergency calls, due to the sheriff's department increase in 911 service fees.

Max LaCasse, the town's Emergency Management Director, went to a Northern Berkshire Regional Planning Commission meeting. Max brought paperwork from NBRPC for the board to fill out with their contact information.

The town received the updated insurance information for the old school house.

Mark Phelps is looking for information about contracting and locking in a price for electricity. He talked to John Goerlach, Lanesborough Selectman, and Paul Seiloff, Lanesborough Town Administrator. Lanesborough had a consulting firm negotiate the price of electricity for the town. Residents can opt in or opt out. North Adams has a purchasing cooperative agreement for electricity. Mark will pursue this further and bring more information to the next meeting.

Richard Demyer is meeting with Heather Poliferno from the state's Veteran's Office on Friday, February 19 to work on reimbursement for 2015. Lori Jayko, town treasurer, will also attend.

The Fire Department has asked the board to send a letter to AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) to support the grant. Mark made a motion that the board writes the letter supporting the grant, seconded by Jason.

Wayne - would the town be willing to have a truck fund, a savings account for engine replacement to support future grants? The board did not feel this necessary at this time as the town can have a town meeting to transfer funds from free cash when necessary. In this way, the money would not be unavailable if the town has other needs.

The minutes from the February 1, 2016 meeting were approved on a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken.

The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting March 7, 2016 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.