

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
May 2, 2016

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps

Absent: Ken McInerney

Others Present: Everett Martin, Dick DeMyer, Keith LaCasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Annual Town Meeting: May 17, 2016

- a. Town Warrant – Legal counsel provided feedback on the warrant and suggested changing the word “fees” to “funds” on the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th articles. Counsel provided wording for the 17th article to give the Select Board authority to act if the article passes. Mark moved to adopt the lawyer’s wording changes, seconded by Jason.
- b. Tax Rate – Fifteenth article. Everett Martin, assessor, reported that \$13,500 was used from free cash last year to reduce the tax rate. This year to keep the tax rate the same, the town would need to use \$63,500 from free cash. If no money is used from free cash, the tax rate will go up by approximately \$0.14-\$0.15 to approximately \$8.01, residential. The tax rate for last year was \$7.86 residential, \$11.19 commercial. The new tax system calculates tax values slightly differently than Everett’s system, therefore taxes may be different than in the past regardless of the tax rate. Mark recommended changing the warrant article pertaining to the fire truck grant, so that the money will come out of the stabilization fund instead of the general fund. Everett will e-mail the board with proposition 2 ½ information and how using different amounts from free cash will affect the tax rate. This discussion will be continued on May 3, 2016, 6:30.
- c. Town Report – Copies of the town report are available.

2. Greylock Road: The notice to bid will be in the Berkshire Eagle on May 4, 2016. Jason will put the bid information on the town website. Keith and Ken attended a meeting with DCR.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith removed the ash tree on Beach Hill Road and the branch near Grossos’. Keith estimates it would cost \$100,000 for milling and paving Beach Hill Road, being 347 feet longer than Mallery Road.

The road to the cemetery will be open later this week.

Public Comment and any other subjects for consideration: Mike Kennedy donated Veteran’s markers and flags for the cemetery.

The Board received a letter from the Girl Scouts that a town resident is receiving her Silver Award. Mark made a motion to place an 1/8th page congratulatory ad in the award ceremony’s program book, seconded by Jason.

Mark would like to know much each hotel in town contributes to the quarterly room tax. Are taxes being collected from the efficiencies? Lori Jayko will look into this.

Residents can now sign up on the town website to receive e-mail notices when there are updates to the website.

Jason will consult legal counsel about when e-mails can be deleted from municipal e-mail accounts.

Sign Warrant. Warrant was reviewed and signed.

Approve the Select Board Minutes for April 26, 2016. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes were approved.

Mark made a motion to continue the Select Board meeting for the purpose of unfinished business on May 3, 2016 at 6:30, seconded by Jason.