

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
October 19, 2015

Select Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Ken McInerney, Mark Phelps
Others Present: Everett (Gus) Martin, Keith LaCasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Assessor – Gus Martin. A payment was missed to CAI, as they started billing quarterly. We owe CAI \$150. CAI can cancel the FY15 bill and add the amount to this year's bill.

Gus received a bill for his P.O. Box for \$76 for the year. We will not renew the post office box and Gus will get his mail at the town hall from now on.

At town meeting, the town voted to use up to \$35,000 from free cash towards the tax levy. The DOR would like a direct amount voted on in the future. By town meeting, a more specific figure will be needed.

The new software system, Patriot Properties, is up and running, the data is entered, and it's workable at this point. The cost going forward is a yearly maintenance fee. A double sided printer might be useful for a future user.

2. Road Commissioner – Keith will be patching Mallery Road as soon as possible.

He is waiting for the ok to fix the culvert on Greylock Road based on Ken's checking on the permitting, which may indicate who is responsible for that .6 mile section of the road.

KLC was charged \$70 for the salt shed's electricity. The town will make up for it on the next bill.

Keith ordered the salt. It is coming from Salt City in Westfield.

Max has inquired about gates. A business on Fenn Street in Pittsfield wanted exact sizes of the steel.

Gates and the .606 road ownership will be put on the next meeting's agenda.

The Mt. Greylock Advisory Council is meeting on October 22. New Ashford is on the agenda. Ken will attend with Harley Phelps.

3. Veteran's Officer – Jason called Dick Demyer. Dick reported that he has had problems with his computer. Jason can put a computer in the town hall for town officials to use. The town has not seen any reimbursement for the veteran's benefits. Lori will print out the report. Jason will call Dick to follow up.

4. Gas Tax Letter – The letter was sent to Representative Cariddi and Senator Downing. It will also be sent to Representatives Pignatelli and Paul Marks and one other local representative.

5. DCJIS – Mark talked to Richard Clermont, police chief, about the pistol permit fee reporting for the state. Richard does not use the computer, but is willing to continue as the police chief. One option is that someone else enters the data for him. Another option is that someone else does the job. Dick mentioned a letter from Paul Seiloff, Lanesboro town administrator, about police coverage for New Ashford. They proposed to cover Route 7 for \$5,000. Perhaps they could process pistol permits for us. We could talk to the police chief in Lanesborough for further discussion. Jason will talk to the state about the options and requirements.

6. Public Comment and Other Subjects for Consideration

Broadband – Ken attended the Wired West meeting October 17. There is a law for Hingham, MA for one year renewable notes, which could potentially save a lot of money. There could be a risk if interest rates rise. A letter needs to be signed by the board to support amending the original law to include New Ashford. Bonds cannot be paid off early. The notes can be paid off quicker. It's up to the treasurer to do the renewable notes. On November 6 there will be a meeting of Wired West for cooperative agreement. The draft of the bylaws will need to be sent to legal counsel.

Tax Rate Letter – DOR says revolving accounts need to be 1% of the prior year's levy.

Office Hours – Should the board establish office hours for any town positions? Mark made a motion to table the issue, seconded by Ken.

Mary Jane Zimmerman – Mark's aunt would like to leave money for the old schoolhouse maintenance. Mark will contact Chuck Morrone, chairman of the historical commission.

Mark noted that the fire tower road up Brodie Mountain is barely passable with the tractor. He had to fix the water bars. A person who identified himself as an AT&T worker was accessing the road. The board will ask Gus who owns the tower on Brodie Mountain and then send a letter to the owner that they are required to maintain the road when they use it.

Dsl – Verizon. Chuck let Verizon in to fix the DSL. Eddie Grosso will move the modem to the utility room from the town clerk's office. Eddie will be given key, X 13.

7. Sign Warrant – The warrant was reviewed and signed.

8. Meeting minutes from October 5, 2015 were approved as amended on a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25.