

Select Board Meeting

October 5, 2015

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

Others Present: Eric Nakajima (MBI), Everett (Gus) Martin, Max LaCasse, Keith LaCasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Mallery Road Paving Contract Bid opening. No bids were received. Keith will patch the road for the winter. The job will either be put out to bid again in late fall or late winter for spring work.

2. Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) – Director of MBI, Eric Nakajima, offered congratulations to the town for committing to the last mile. Governor Baker put 19 million dollars in his FY16 budget for the last mile. MBI is taking steps towards building out the last mile. They have issued an RFQ for pole work to identify where the poles are and submit applications to the utility companies to make adjustments for fiber placement. They have an RFP for design and engineering for making ready, final route design, and help preparing final bid documents. They are organizing contracts (i.e. between MBI and Wired West concerning roles and responsibilities). Towns will be grouped in clusters. If the town were not part of Wired West, MBI would help get the project organized and handle the construction end. It would be difficult for a small town to administer and maintain its own internet long term, on its own.

In terms of the money deadlines, MBI advises that the town talk to a financial advisor and get a legal opinion to make sure the town has taken the appropriate steps. There is likely no need to borrow in fy16, maybe in fy17. Clear schedules of when money will be required will happen well in advance. The financial advisor's cost will come out of the issuance. Statehouse notes are a flat fee of \$500 for administrating. Ten year draw down schedule costs \$1000, \$3000 legal costs with that. \$6000 state house notes. MBI will likely require some demonstration that the town has thought out the financial situation.

Fy 16 planning for New Ashford – no money needed. For FY 17, pay out of free cash the interest on the first year and work from there.

MBI will continue to be in contact.

3. Road Commissioner – The mowing of the sides of the roads is complete. There were a couple of resident complaints about bushes being cut down. However, it was done to increase visibility for drivers and for general maintenance. A resident on White Road would not allow mowing and is not maintaining the area himself. A resident on Ingraham Road is stacking brush on the side of the road so mowing there was not possible. Also that resident's car is parked on the road which is a concern for snow plowing season. Max widened Bauer Road as much as possible. The board thanked Max for his mowing.

White Road has been paved.

EJ Prescott looked at the culvert on Greylock Road and gave an estimate of \$8,563.81 for a slip lining. The estimate does not include permits or removal of trees, traffic control, cleaning the existing culvert, dewatering the site, or the cost of an excavator with an operator. The town would also need to repair the road surface and rebuild the retaining wall. To replace the culvert, it will cost around \$10,000. Ken is going to research this issue of who owns this portion of Greylock Road as recorded in a 2008 permit for a multi-town NOI. The board would prefer to just replace the culvert.

3-4 tons of material will be needed to patch Mallery, costing less than \$3,000.

Max reported that the process for the mpg grant has been simplified. The application is due at the end of the month. We can use the money to buy gates. Max found a company online from CA that sells

gates for \$1400 plus shipping. The grant money is \$2200. It might be better to order more than one gate in order to combine shipping costs. The town needs two 20 foot gates at \$1400 each, made out of galvanized steel with a locking end. Investing in the gates now will make closing the road and road maintenance easier. Max can get more information on shipping. Is there anywhere closer that can fabricate a gate? Will the state reimburse for materials or just the product? Max will research this issue and call Bruce Agosti to find out what is allowable in order to fill out the application. Overall the town needs – one 20 footer for Greylock Road, two 16 footers for Ingraham Road, and two 12 foot gates for Roys Road for a total of 5 gates. That would be \$6,000 plus shipping and installation, with \$2200 being reimbursable.

There is a culvert on Ingraham Road, and a culvert on White road which need attention to prevent icing over the top of the road. It will cost approximately \$1700 to replace both culverts.

Keith has put a call in to get sand and is waiting to get a call back.

Ken noticed a tree near telephone wires on Roys Road. The power company has already removed the tree. Max noticed it while he was mowing and called it in. The potholes on Roys Road will be filled.

4. Gas Tax Letter –The select board is sending a letter to local representatives and the senator to the effect that our town will not benefit from the proposed gas tax, as we have no gas stations in town.

5. Public consideration –

At the next meeting, Ken would like to discuss an email from the DOR about the tax rate.

Trick or treat hours will be 5 PM-7PM on Halloween.

Lori Jayko attended the MMA breakfast with the town clerk, Lori Trottier.

Firearm licensing fees –Mark will call Police Chief, Dick Clermont, and Jason will call the state to discuss the process for the state's collecting their portion of the firearm licensing fees.

Jason will check in with the Veteran's Officer, Dick Demyer, to inquire about when the town will see reimbursement, and how this year's reporting is going.

Ken – Verizon update. Verizon was called to the town hall for DSL repair. However, the work was not done. Ken will contact Verizon again.

Office hours for select town officials will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. Motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2015 Select Board meeting was made by Ken and seconded by Mark.

7. Sign warrant – warrant was reviewed and signed. The town should stay with the Berkshire Regional Purchasing Group – they get us a better price on salt.

Next meeting October 19, 2015 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10