

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
November 6, 2017

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps

Absent: Ken McInerney

Others Present: Hedy Lipez Burbank, Erwin Stuebner, Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Public Comment: None.

2. Village Ambulance: Erwin Stuebner, President of the Board of Directors of Village Ambulance Service, provided an update on the merger with North Adams. Due to the Service's losing money, they formed a group of town, college, fire, and ambulance members and hired a consultant. They considered the options of using town subsidies per capita, joining with Bennington (crossing state lines proved to be problematic), and joining with North Adams. A merger with North Adams was considered the best option and boards from both towns approved. They are working on a merger agreement, to be approved early in the new year. The new service will likely be called Northern Berkshire EMS, and will provide the same coverage with a base in Williamstown, with two paramedic-staffed ambulances 24/7. North Adams will automatically provide coverage when these ambulances are out. The town and the college are going to help with the transition cost of \$300,000. There will be no further town subsidy. An EMS service plan will be done with the towns yearly. The town can contract with another service if it prefers. Hedy says the town uses the ambulance service around 17 times a year. The service does about 4,000 calls a year. The Board thank Erwin for the update and Village Ambulance for its services.

3. Veterans: Richard Demyer, Veterans Services Officer, not present. Jason talked to Richard who reported that there was a break-in at the Springs Motel.

4. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse, put down 2 ½ ton of patch and needs about a quarter of a ton more to finish the job. Weather permitting, he will finish next week. He cleaned out leaves on Ingraham Road that were damning up a culvert. Next week, he will get a wheeled excavator to clean out the rest of the culverts. He suggested checking to see if DCR is going to blow the leaves off of Greylock Road. There is a lot of wood being cut on Greylock Road. Keith cut down a dead tree across from the Fire Station. The trucks are ready for snow plowing season. Mark made a motion to close Greylock Road, Ingraham Road, Bauer Road, Cemetery Road, and part of Roys Road on November 18th or sooner if necessary. Jason will put a notice on the website about the road closings. The gate on Greylock Road will be moved past the new residence. Keith will buy a gate at Tractor Supply, with an estimated cost of \$150. Cement blocks will be placed on the side of the gate to try to keep traffic off the sides. The snow mobile club will be asked to buy a gate for Bauer Road.

5. Board of Health: Jason received a phone call from a new resident in town who asked the Board of Health to conduct an inspection, due to concerns about mold and rodents. The Chair of the Board of Health said he could not do the inspection and referred the resident to the Building Inspector. It was then referred to the state, which will conduct the inspection. Jason spoke with the resident and updated them. The resident and the state complained about their interactions with the Board of Health.

The Board of Health has not met to reorganize in a long time. Adams uses The Berkshire County Board of Health for Title V inspections at the owner's expense.

6. Broadband: Jason has a standing phone call on Wednesdays with Westfield Gas and Electric, for project updates. There is also a website that shows the progress of the project. The estimate now on the site for the total cost is \$598,000 with an estimated date of completion of October 2018. The town will not make any payments until after the first of the year. The engineers will be done with the design document soon. Ken is working on the surety bonds for the pole agreements.

7. Colonial Power: Jason got an email from Colonial and spoke with them on the phone. Eversource has filed its proposed service rates effective January 1, 2018 of \$0.10641 residential, \$0.11559 Small C & I, \$0.12368 Med – Large C&I, and \$0.07514 streetlight. On November 13, the indicative pricing is due, with no action necessary from the town. There will be a conference call that day. Final pricing is due November 20, 2018 with a town signature needed by 3:00 pm that day.

8. Any other board subjects for consideration: Jason asked Lori Trottier, Town Clerk, to have the license paperwork for the businesses in town for the next meeting.

Jason let Don Torrico, Building Inspector, know that there may be a violation at the Carriage House Motel of the housing usage being more than 90 days. Don would like a copy of the special permit. Jason asked the Town Clerk for bylaws and zoning bylaws changes from 2006. He also asked Flavia Mastelone, Chair of the Planning Board, for a copy.

Mark will call Paul Seiloff, Lanesborough Town Manager, about the possibility of working together to try to get an emergency management grant to fix the road to the fire tower. The road is in New Ashford and Lanesborough.

There was a MEMA meeting about getting passwords and the website address for reporting problems to the state. Max will get these and update the Board.

9. Approve the minutes from October 16, 2017. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from October 16, 2017 were approved.

10. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting November 20, 2017 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03