

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Teleconference
September 2, 2020

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Richard George, Chuck Morrone, Lori Jayko, Keith Lacasse
Call-In: Anthony Welch

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve the minutes from August 17, 2020: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the August 17, 2020 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Anthony Welch described his Eagle Scout project for the New Ashford Cemetery. He will create a digital catalogue of the gravesites for the town website and organize a team of volunteers, including his troop and town residents, to clean up and remove brush from the cemetery. They will repaint the flag pole and add a flower bed with a memorial for the Veterans. Power tools will be used only by adults. Anthony will coordinate work dates with Chuck Morrone from the Cemetery Committee.

Chuck believes the \$100 reconnection fee for internet service for part-time residents is too high. It costs him \$8 a month to suspend his internet account with another company. Ken has been discussing this policy with Whip City. They are relooking at it and will get back to him.

Chuck noted that the check for his dog license has not been cashed. The Town Clerk said she turned it over to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will review her records and let Chuck know.

Three dogs, presumably unlicensed, from the Springs Motel followed and growled at a town resident as she rode her horse on the road. Ken will let the Animal Control officer know.

Dick George conducted several Title V inspections for Matt Kelly. A d-box was incorrectly installed and covered without inspection. Dick advised that the installation be redone.

3. Road Commissioner: Max Lacasse mowed the sides of the town roads. A resident on Greylock Road complained about rivulets in the road and asked when a ditch would be filled in. Keith Lacasse let him know that work will be completed before winter. Smith Road paving should be done before the end of September. Keith set a deadline of October 15 with the paving company. The state will repair the broken section on Smith Road, caused by the Route 7 paving project.

4. Tax Rate: Chris Lamarre, Assessor, is waiting for the Accountant and the Town Clerk to complete and submit their forms in Gateway. Once they do, he can hold the Tax Classification Hearing to set the tax rate. He dropped off the laptop to the Town Hall so Patriot can migrate the software to the server.

5. Any other unforeseen business: Jason talked to Whip City about Dig Safe. Dig safe is a flat fee per job and \$490 per year for the membership.

Past due internet accounts will be shut off. The MLP will be diligent about renters, making sure they are shut off promptly upon non-payment. The renter policy will be looked at to determine if a security deposit or an extra month's payment up front is an option.

Keith said he will replace the roof on the Fire Station in October.

Chuck advised that if the Fire Department has questions they should consult with Pete Rancourt, Ed Grosso, or himself. He said there is concrete in the dry hydrant on Ingraham Road.

Ostermann owns the propane tanks at the Fire Station. Mirabilto won the contract for propane with the Berkshire Purchasing Group. They will look at the tanks at the Town Hall and the Fire Station this week. Ken will lock in with them for \$1.24 a gallon.

Lori Jayko provided an update on the School Committee. The Superintendent will confirm with the Mount Greylock School Region that New Ashford's students are considered a cohort to attend school at the same days and times, with concern towards busing. The bus invoice will be negotiated with Dufour, to only pay a percentage when the bus is not used.

Ken is working on the Emergency Management Director job description.

6. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting September 14 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:35