

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Teleconference
February 22, 2022

Select Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko, Richard George, Frank Speth, Gary Sagendorf
Call-In: Ken McInerney (MLP Manager)

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes from 2/7: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 2-7-2022 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.
2. Public Comment: Richard George, Board of Health Chair, said he is monitoring the advice about masks in public buildings and will let the Board know when there are changes to the current policy. The Board of Health had a meeting and voted to join the Berkshire Public Health Alliance.
3. Fire Department Chief: The Fire Station is hooked up to the Town Hall propane. Two Wi-Fi thermostats will be installed and monitored, with the heat set at 50 when the station is unoccupied.
According to Legal Counsel, the Fire Department business meetings are subject to Open Meeting Law. The Board gave the Fire Chief, Frank Speth, the information and reminded him that meetings need to be posted at least 48 hours in advance and the minutes from the meetings need to be filed with the Town Clerk.
Frank noted that the AFG grant for the mini- pumper is in peer review.
The Department received a \$10,500 grant for new turnout gear. The invoice needs to be paid by the town and will be fully reimbursed. The Department can request an extension. This grant is for FY22 and the allocation of funds has not been voted on by the town. The grant for FY23 comes out in December. Frank says he needs to get gear for three members. The Board advised Frank to get his turnout gear accountability sheet vetted with legal counsel and then get it approved by the Select Board.
The Department received a grant for FY21 of \$6,850, which was spent on a radio for the tanker. This invoice needs to be paid by the town and will be fully reimbursed. This was not brought up for town vote. A Special Town Meeting is necessary for the two grants. Jason will draft a STM warrant for review at the next meeting. The STM will be scheduled for Thursday, March 24th. Jason will talk to legal counsel about the FY21 grant.
The Department received a grant of \$2,500 for an AED specifically for a public safety vehicle. The \$2,500 needs to be paid in advance and will get fully reimbursed. Frank said he does not have enough money to cover it. This will be added to the STM warrant.
Frank will get Engine 2 appraised.
The Board requested that the area in the station near the heaters be cleaned out.
The Board asked for an update on getting the hummer and the tanker removed from the parking lot. The Department will get rid of the hummer if awarded the current AFG grant and DCR said the tanker is on the list for removal.

4. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse said he removed some of the concrete and a large rock that was blocking the culvert on Smith Road. The town sent a certified letter, drafted by Legal Counsel, to the resident responsible for filling in the culvert and he will be billed for the work to unblock it. Mark abstained from the discussion.

A DFG Culvert Replacement Assistance Grant is open until March 14, to replace undersized or decrepit culverts. There are two on Ingraham Road and three on Bauer Road that may meet the requirements. Ken will take pictures of the culverts and Jason will write up the grant.

5. Budgets: There will be a draft budget for review by the next meeting. Chris Wooliver looked at the Old Schoolhouse and will give quotes for the roof repair for commercial wood, a tin roof, or to repair what is there. He will look at the leaky cupola at the Town Hall. Those repairs could be added to the STM warrant.

6. ATM Warrant: Jason is compiling the information for the ATM warrant. He made a request to the state for bylaw changes going back to 2001.

7. Any other unforeseen business: Mark got an email from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission about their writing the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the MVP grant. The town has received the grant money. The work has been put out for quotes from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the group that helped with the grant application, and one more. The deadline for finishing the Hazard Mitigation Plan is June 30.

Jason is doing the paperwork for the cyber liability insurance.

The Board would like the Town Clerk to draft up a fee schedule and submit it for approval.

Keith recommended adding purchasing the tractor mower to the STM warrant.

8. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed. No veterans benefits payment request was turned in. Lori will reach out to the VSO.

Next meeting March 7, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 7:45