

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom

January 6, 2025

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

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Diane George, Andy Ottoson, Susan Supranowicz, Richard George, Keith Lacasse

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes from December 16, 2024: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the December 16, 2024 New Ashford Select Board/MLP meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Public Comment: Andy Ottoson, from Berkshire Regional Planning, presented the Board with an intermunicipal agreement proposal to form an Overdose Addiction Prevention Collaborative for Northern Berkshire County, funded by pooled opioid settlement funds. The collaborative would partner with the Berkshire Health System to hire a community coordinator for the Northern Berkshire region. The collaborative will be made up of Williamstown, North Adams, Adams, Clarksburg, Savoy, Cheshire, and New Ashford (if all towns sign on) to collectively address stimulant abuse, increased alcohol misuse in older adults, and overdose reduction. The coordinator will report to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The town will sign a five-year agreement with opioid settlement funds expected through 2038. Federal and state funding will be explored. The Board reviewed the budget for the program and position. Once the agreement is signed by all towns, the position will be posted. The coordinator will focus on local harm reduction and recovery by connecting people to the services that exist, and identifying and addressing gaps in services. Mark made a motion to join the collaborative by signing the intermunicipal agreement, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously and the Board signed the agreement. Andy will send the board a pdf after it is finalized.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse received a complaint about mud on Beach Hill road. He checked and didn't find any, but spoke to the builder at the new construction about keeping mud off the road. Two loads of sand were delivered to the Salt Shed. The new sand is too close to the salt and should be moved. New salt should be here this week. A resident on Ingraham Road complained that a red alder tree was cut down and thrown on his property. Keith said he hasn't cut any trees there and doesn't know anything about it. Dave Stokes, from MassDOT said the town is going to get \$180,000 more this year for Chapter 90.

There is a culvert problem on Greylock Road, just below the a-frame, that is causing the road to cave in. The culvert replacement municipal grant statement of interest is due by January 10.

Jason will put in for three culverts on Greylock road, two 2' and one 16", and two 1' culverts on Ingraham Road. All the culverts are forty feet long.

Mark Phelps noted that the Select Board has been getting calls about road conditions and wondered if the Road Commissioner should handle these calls. Keith said someone texted him at 5am about the road being a sheet of ice. No decision was made.

The rollers on the Salt Shed doors need to be replaced.

Keith has the snow breaks for the Fire Station roof.

4. Plowing: Covered above.

5. MLP – Batteries: One battery needs to be replaced. Jason is getting an updated quote for replacement of all batteries, adding one to the hut, and two to the Fire Station. They could be paid for with CAF II funding.

Ken met with Andrew Short from Whip City last Friday. There is a \$1,013 Whip City bill from May that has not been paid. Lori will look back through the records.

A recent power outage caused the internet to go out. Jason checked the hut and found that both batteries were plugged into the same power source and fixed the problem. Eaton is doing an assessment this month.

6. Assessing Computer Replacement: Jason can get a replacement computer for less than \$350 and will pay for it from the IT budget. Mark made a motion to approve purchase of a new assessing computer for not more than \$350, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously.

7. By-laws: Susan is missing the ATM warrant for FY12. Ken may have a copy.

8. Budget: Ken will send the e-mails for budget requests. He put the MACC FY26 dues in the shared budget folder.

Susan said the pol pads need a software update that costs \$300. It will come out of the technology budget.

9. Liquor Licenses: Bondhu's outstanding taxes have been paid.

10. Old and Any Other Unforeseen Business: Ken started the conservation paperwork to file for the horizontal boring project connecting the church to the town hall's water and propane, for proximity to the river. The Board reviewed the paperwork and Jason signed it. The project will also be filed with DigSafe.

The Board discussed where to get office supplies, with the recent closing of Staples. PLT was bought out by United Rental.

11. Warrant: The warrants were reviewed and signed.

Next meeting January 22 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:52