

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom

January 22, 2025

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Mark Phelps

Absent: Ken McInerney (MLP Manager)

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Richard George, Keith Lacasse, Cindy Grosso, Ed Grosso

Zoom: None

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approval of Minutes from January 6, 2025: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the January 6, 2025 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.
2. Public Comment: None
3. Historic Commission: Ed Grosso, Historical Commission member, spoke with Steve Nielsen about the church. Steve has a foundation that has done building restoration. He will meet with the Historical Commission and the Select Board on Wednesday, February 5 at 6:00 to look at the inside of the church. He wants an architectural/engineering firm to look at the church before doing work. There may be grant opportunities available for historic buildings and revitalization of towns.
4. Fire Department – water – addition: The Fire Station’s septic tank alarm was going off and Keith Lacasse discovered that the back sink faucet in the Station was running. Sanitary Septic drained the tank for \$550. Jason spoke with the Fire Chief about making sure that the water gets turned off. It appears that nothing is running into the tank now. Keith will bring quotes for the Fire Station addition to the next meeting.
5. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse, has not heard from Cargill about the salt. Jason filled out the paper work for it last week. More salt is being used than is usual or necessary. The Board discussed how salt usage is addressed in the snow plow contract and if the bond money being posted by the plowing company is sufficient. The current bond is less than \$3,000 and the salt order is \$26,000. The Board will review the contract. Keith thinks the town should use Chapter 90 funds to repave Mallery road with a full depth reclamation of one foot. He recommends reclaiming Greylock Road to the gate and grading it. Jason is applying for the culvert grant for three culverts on Greylock Road and one on Ingraham Road. If the culverts are on different roads, but feed the same river they can be covered under one. Keith will mark the culverts. The grant money needs to be used within the fiscal year, so there is a quick turnaround time to get the work done.
6. MLP: The equipment upgrade will cost a couple of thousand dollars more than this year’s CAF II disbursement. At least one battery in the hut needs to be replaced, with its unit, for \$2,000. This will likely require a Special Town Meeting.
7. Assessing Computer Replacement: The new computer was ordered and delivered. Jason will image it and replace the old one with it.

8. By-laws: Susan needs the ATM warrant for FY12 and FY14.

9. Budget: Ken sent out the e-mail budget requests. Vadar is finishing up the chart of accounts and is almost online to use for the budget.

10. Liquor Licenses: No news.

11. Old and Any Other Unforeseen Business: Keith asked about the grant for water supply for fire suppression. Jason will check his MVP e-mail.

Keith is looking for a site to put brush from clean-up jobs. There was discussion of placing it near the salt shed or above the cemetery.

In the spring, the cemetery needs clean-up and tree work.

Jason got an e-mail from the owner of the Springs Motel. She has been assessed for false fire alarm fees: \$1,100 for 2021, \$300 2022, \$100 for 2023, \$900 for 2024. She asked that the fees for 2021 be waived. The Board noted that this problem has been going on for years and there is a by-law to address it for this reason. The Fire Department has repeatedly spent time and resources on these calls. Mark made a motion to deny the request for a reduction in fines, seconded by Jason. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Warrant: The warrants were reviewed and signed.

Next meeting February 3, 2025 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:16