

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, April 11, 2017

Howard Bronstein, Leslie Rule, and Winton Pitcoff were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of March 28 and 29, 2017 were accepted as submitted.

### Plainfield Light & Communications Department

MLP Manager Kimberly Longey advised the Board that she has hired the following people to serve as non-compensated employees of the MLP: Brian Hawthorne, David Kramer, Rebecca Coletta, Leslie Rule, Sally Silberberg, and Michal Lumsden. Per Kimberly's request Winton moved to classify the unpaid positions within the Plainfield Light & Telecommunications Department as Special Municipal Employees under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 268 A. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved.

Leslie moved to authorize MLP Manager Kimberly Longey to engage town counsel to review the Intermunicipal Agreement with Westfield Gas and Electric. The motion, seconded by Winton, was unanimously approved. Kimberly noted the legal fees will be reimbursed by WiredWest through the \$5,000 "planning grant" Plainfield turned over to WiredWest.

Winton moved to authorize the Town of Plainfield to accept \$650,000.00 in grant funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) for the purposes of planning, designing, and constructing a municipally-owned broadband network. The motion was seconded by Leslie and was unanimously approved.

Winton moved to authorize Kimberly Longey, in her capacity of MLP Manager, to submit the grant application to EOHED and to serve as the Select Board's designee to interact with representatives of the Executive office of Housing and Economic Development through out the grant application and administration process. The motion was seconded by Howard and was unanimously approved.

### FY'18 Budget

Lew Robbins, Finance Committee Chair, and other Finance Committee members presented an overview of the FY'18 budget. The committee has met with several board and committee chairs and department officials concerning budget requests. It was noted some expenditures have been averaging less than appropriated amounts.

The Finance Committee has once again recommended 1 ½% salary increases. Lew suggested taking an innovative look at what we are doing and seeing if we can do it differently.

The Board will ask Police Chief Stacey Hudson, Town Clerk Ruth Osgood, and Highway Superintendent Merton Taylor, Jr. to attend the next meeting to discuss FY'18 budget proposals.

The MLP requested appropriation of \$30,000.00 was discussed. Lew will meet with MLP Manager Kimberly Longey, Treasurer Allan Kidston, and Accountant Paula King to discuss MLP temporary borrowing and the timing of interest payments.

Action on the FY'18 budget was tabled until the next meeting.

A debt exclusion question will appear on the Annual Election Ballot seeking to exclude the debt for the new dump truck authorized at the May 7, 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

#### Other Business

The Board received a Notice of Intent to convert land from Chapter 61A and Chapter 61B to residential from Edward and Sandra Morann. The Assessors have no problem with this request; there will be no rollback tax. Leslie moved not to exercise the Town's right of first refusal. The motion, seconded by Winton, was unanimously approved. Howard was authorized to sign the required letter.

The Board received a notice of bankruptcy for KCST USA, Inc., fka Axia NG Networks USA, Inc. Paula has e-mailed Cornell Robinson at Mass Tech concerning the status of the rental payment and utility reimbursement from Axia for the Point of Interconnection located at 315 Main Street. Leslie will make follow-up contact with Cornell and MBI concerning the matter.

Information from the Northampton Cycle Club regarding the proposed Tour of the Hilltowns was received and will be discussed with the police chief at the next meeting.

Howard Bronstein signed the Green Communities Grant Application for LED lighting upgrades to the Town Hall and Hallock and Public Safety Buildings. Plainfield's Chapter 90 allocation for FY'18 is \$190,978.00, pending final legislative approval.

Winton moved to pay the 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly HCOG assessment of \$100.57. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved.

The Town received a payment of \$6,650.00 from MIIA for damages sustained to the siding of the Public Safety Building.

Highway Superintendent Merton Taylor, Jr. is on vacation the week of April 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### Correspondence

Notice of 2017 ACO Core Competencies Training was received and has been forwarded to Animal Control Officer Casey Dwyer.

Information on the Healthy Hampshire Program was received.

Notice of the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program was received. Winton agreed to look into grant program.

Miscellaneous mail and meeting notices were read.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary