

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, May 23, 2017

Howard Bronstein, Leslie Rule, and Winton Pitcoff were present. The meeting was called to order 7:01 p.m. The minutes of May 9, 2017 were accepted as submitted.

### Animal Control Officer

Casey Dwyer, Animal Control Officer, approached the Board in regard to the procedure for purchasing the vehicle approved at the May 6, 2017 town meeting. Paula noted the town meeting special article was approved for FY'17. Casey informed the Board he would be driving the vehicle between Goshen and Plainfield making it available for calls at all times. Green Communities Coordinator Jim Barry's e-mail response to the Energy Commission's question concerning the vehicle stated that if the town proceeds with procuring the specified vehicle for the specified use, the DOER would not consider it a violation of the town's Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy.

### Planning Board Update

Planning Board Chair Brian Hawthorne provided an update of Planning Board projects (attached) which include: filling a vacant position on the Board, researching the status of town roads, reviewing the zoning by-laws of neighboring towns, and tracking the progress of the town's ongoing projects. Brian noted that a computer with ArcGIS software by ERSI would be helpful with the town roads project. Leslie asked about other software which might be useful. Brian acknowledged other software, but indicated it wouldn't be as easy to use.

### Highway Department

Chapter 90 Project Requests for the new truck were signed. Mert stated the size of the truck will be in between a 1 ton and a dump truck and may not be available until December.

Superintendent Mert Taylor, Jr. informed the Board the main seals in the 2008 1 ton truck are gone and there are problems with the turbo. Repairs are estimated at \$10,000. After consulting with mechanics, he does not recommend repairs to the truck. A used 1 ton truck is estimated at \$20,000. Winton suggested pricing a new 1 ton rather than spending money on a used vehicle that might not last. Mert, Jr. will get figures and an article will be added to the June 27<sup>th</sup> special town meeting

warrant. Purchasing under the state contract or the Greater Boston Police Council contract will eliminate the bidding process thereby shortening the time of acquiring a replacement truck.

Lew Robbins, Finance Committee Chair, suggested formulating a six-year capital plan for the Highway, Police, and Fire Departments; The inclusion of town buildings was also suggested. The Town can vote to establish and add to Stabilization Funds for specific purposes. The Select Board supports the plan.

#### Moderator/Special Town Meeting Warrant

Moderator Laurie Israel met with the Board to discuss the special town meeting warrant article to propose raising the salary accounts approved at 1.5% at the May 6, 2017 annual town meeting to 3%. After discussing the proposed language, the Board agreed to Laurie's suggested wording.

The Finance Committee recommends establishing separate accounts for all salaries. The Finance Committee voted to seek \$9,000 to fund a salary consultant. After discussing the matter, the consensus was this could be accomplished without hiring a consultant.

Winton provided a list of salaries from the Town of Buckland.

#### NEXAMP

A PILOT agreement or Personal Property Tax on the proposed 9 Union Street solar photovoltaic array was discussed. Leslie noted the numbers in the proposed PILOT agreement should not be less than what Personal Property taxes would be. Howard plans to consult KP Law Attorney David Doneski concerning the assessment of commercial solar photovoltaic arrays. Split tax rates were discussed.

NEXAMP is planning to offer "community solar" credits to Plainfield residents resulting in a 15% discount on electric bills.

#### Other Business

Action on the \$12,500 META Grant was tabled until the next meeting.

Ann Irvine asked if the town would consider supporting the Plainfield Post financially. Several options were discussed before the issue was tabled.

Howard is working on a Municipal Activity Schedule for the Select Board.

Winton reported the Franklin Land Trust has inquired about a water stop at the Hallock Building during its August bike ride. The outside faucet will be checked to see if it is in working condition. He also asked if contact information for the Waryjasz property is available.

#### Correspondence

FY'17 State Revenue Estimates of \$122,203 and Assessments \$1,561 were

received.

A letter from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development and related e-mail from Bea von Hagke, HCDC in regard to the town's ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. Contact information will be sought from Bea in order to send available documentation.

KP Law has issued an e-Update entitled "Prevailing Wage Law Violation Letters". Notice of the FY'18 Hampshire Regional Lock-Up Facility in the amount of \$616.00 was received.

MIIA participation credits of \$189.00 will be applied to the FY'18 insurance invoice.

The Board received notice of a community grant to reduce toxic chemical use was received from HCOG.

A summary of HCOG's FY'18 budget was received.

Additional mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary