

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, September 26, 2017

Howard Bronstein, Leslie Rule, and Winton Pitcoff were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. The minutes of September 12, 2017 were accepted as submitted.

Swift River Land Conservation Partnership

Alain Peteroy, Franklin Land Trust (FLT), informed the Board the Department of Fish and Game and the FLT were awarded the landscape partnership grant to purchase undeveloped land currently owned by the Swift River Addiction Center and the Conservation Restriction on land owned by Jeanne Sargent and Jack Nelson. The Project Agreement for the Sargent/Nelson property to be co-held by the Town of Plainfield and FLT was signed by the Select Board Chair and was forwarded to the Plainfield Conservation Commission for signing. (It was noted real estate taxes will continue to be paid.) A co-holder's agreement will be discussed at a later date. Alain provided a copy of Hawley's co-holder agreement which has been vetted by Hawley Counsel Donna McNichol.

Highway Department/West Hill Road/Bow Street Wetlands, Etc.

Leslie spoke with Susan Flores concerning the recent work done on West Hill Road. A letter from Paul DiLeo expressing his concerns was also received. West Hill residents are meeting to discuss what has occurred and what they would like the next steps to be. Highway Superintendent Mert Taylor, Jr. stated town roads are a minimum of 2 rods (33 feet) in width. County roads are a minimum of 49.5 feet in width. He has obtained the deeds of West Hill properties. Public safety is the foremost concern when maintaining public roadways. Such maintenance includes cleaning ditches for drainage and snow removal. Roads must be wide enough for vehicles, pedestrians, horseback riders, and emergency vehicles. Keith Bohonowicz stated the work is everyday maintenance. Franklin Skaling noted there are plantings within the town's easement on West Hill Road. Leslie suggested approaching property owners prior to starting work. For the most part West Hill residents are appreciative of work done by the Highway Department, but would appreciate prior notice. Winton doesn't want to give property owners permission to override work on town owned property. Howard issued the reminder that each year the town meeting votes to leave town roads in the hands of the

Select Board. Jack Nelson suggested publishing road widths in the Plainfield Post. Howard asked about the possibility of posting a schedule of proposed work a week or two in advance, subject to change. A schedule could also be posted on the town's website. Mert, Jr. noted any schedule has to remain fluid due to other emergencies or equipment breakdowns.

Winton prepared a proposal concerning roads and the road crew to be published in the Plainfield Post and posted on the website. At Mert, Jr.'s suggestion minor changes were made.

The Bow Street wetlands issue has been taken care of. Jack Nelson, represented the Conservation Commission while the work was being done.

Howard's conversation with Police Chief Stacey Hudson concerning the placement of stop signs on North Union Street resulted in the determination it an awkward place for stop signs. Mert, Jr. agreed to purchase black arrow signs indicating the curve.

Mert, Jr. also agreed to place school bus stop signs on the dangerous curve on Rte. 116 in the vicinity of Allan Robert's. The bus stop has been moved to Hawley Street after close calls with vehicles failing to see the school bus stopped while picking up a student. However, both parent and student have to cross Rte. 116 to reach the Hawley Street stop.

Energy Committee

Energy Committee members Tim Walter and Conrad Liebenow approached the Board with information concerning Community Solar Programs also known as net-metering. Plainfield could realize a 15% savings on electric bills. Sample billing from CO-Op Power was provided. Conrad noted it would be more difficult to determine the individual building costs and usage due to lack of detailed billing from solar companies.

Paula was asked to inquire about how the billing process is working for Williamsburg.

Tim asked if the Green Communities sign could be displayed in the Town Hall dining room. It was suggested displaying it upstairs as downstairs is the polling place for Plainfield. Tim thanked the Highway Department for putting up the other signs.

Community Compact Program

Towns can apply for up to two projects under the Community Compact Program. Winton supplied a list of projects that might be of interest to Plainfield and offered to complete the application after the Board's October 10th meeting with Dave Christopolis. Possibilities of note include development of a formal wage and classification plan, including job descriptions and salary ranges and employee

policies and procedures. Also mentioned was a multi-year vehicle replacement plan. An IT grant application will be available in January.

Resignations

The Board accepted David Kramer's resignation as WiredWest Alternate Delegate and acknowledged his resignation as MLP uncompensated employee with regret and appreciation.

Other Business

MLP Up-date: Howard signed the Verizon Pole Attachment Agreement.

The Community Host Benefit Agreement with Mass Medi-Spa is in its final stages.

Winton has an additional question for Dave Doneski in paragraph 10.

Leslie reported her meeting with the ZBA was much appreciated. The ZBA suggested the Select Board liaison to the Planning Board should be the same person for purpose of coordination with the ZBA. Leslie will be the Planning Board liaison.

Tracking Select Board agenda items and projects using a Google document was discussed.

Leslie will consult Brian on a date for Conflict of Interest Training.

Roles of board and committee chairs were discussed.

Winton moved to approve the Vocational Educational Advisory Committee's booklet containing the proposed regional agreement change for vocational education. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved.

Leslie expressed concerns about the possibility of the Open Meeting Law being compromised on the weekend of September 24th relative to the MLP manager's recommendation that Plainfield abstain from voting on the proposed WiredWest MOU. Both Winton and Howard maintain there was not any discussion outside of a public meeting other than a phone call suggesting Howard check his e-mail.

WiredWest meeting attendance was also discussed. Leslie is concerned with the decision-making process around the due diligence phase of the operations of fiber-to-the-premises. She noted that all three members of the due diligence team tasked with evaluating operations models have resigned from the MLP. Leslie expressed concern that the current MLP department might not be impartial; and would like an impartial evaluator assigned to conduct due diligence on operations models. Leslie said signing with WiredWest sub-contracting with Westfield Gas & Electric for broadband operation means a monthly savings of \$10 to \$15 dollars a month for customers.

Howard restated his belief that WiredWest is a start-up organization there-by having no experience in utility operations. He also said he has attended WiredWest presentations and will continue to do so. Leslie does not want the Board to go into

the decision-making process with pre-conceived notions and asked that questions and concerns be listed so they can be specifically addressed by WiredWest in a presentation to the Board. Leslie noted that WiredWest has presented to many Selectboards over the years and would be happy to do so for Plainfield or any member town.

Correspondence

The Chapter 90 reimbursement request for line painting in the amount of \$4,519.74 has been submitted to Boston for processing.

Notice of a \$4,200.00 grant awarded through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program was received from the Baker administration and Mass DEP.

PVPC issued information on “Recommended Model Marijuana Moratorium” deadlines for 2018.KP

Law issued an e-Update entitled “Employment Implications of the Massachusetts Pregnant Workers Fairness Act”.

Miscellaneous mail and meeting notices were reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary