

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, October 10, 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 26, 2017 were accepted as amended.

### Animal Control Officer

Animal Control Officer (ACO) Casey Dwyer met with the Board informing them of his plans to attend ACO training in 2018. Classes begin in February and continue for twelve weeks one day per week. Lost wages during the training period were discussed. Casey has been contacted by Cummington about Plainfield and Cummington sharing the position of Animal Control Officer. He will follow up on the matter and the possibility of the two towns sharing the cost of lost wages report back to the Board. Training sessions fill up quickly so Casey will have to sign up soon. He has attended two classes in September which count towards certification. When asked, Casey stated subsequent credits are needed to retain certification. Winton said he would be willing to support half of the cost.

### Highway Department

Rich Potter, Historical Commission member, approached Mert Taylor, Jr. seeking Highway Department assistance in setting a millstone and stand in the enclosed yard of the Shaw Hudson House. Mert, Jr. is willing to do it, but wants to be sure it is OK with both the Board and the trustees of the Shaw Hudson House. After discussion the Board approved the project as long as caretaker David Alvord and Shaw Hudson House trustees approve.

The article concerning the Highway Department's responsibility concerning road maintenance and related work will appear in the next edition of the Plainfield Post. Howard attended a Conservation Commission meeting and reflected on the Commission's praise of the work done by Mert, Jr. and his crew.

### HCDC News

HCDC Executive Director Dave Christopolis reported the FRTA senior van is up and running. There is an ongoing effort to increase ridership. Adding a Thursday shopping trip to Pittsfield for seniors is being promoted in addition to monthly "out of town" and "in town" social excursions. (As Plainfield's representative, Howard

will try to attend scheduled FRTA meetings.)

Dave also informed the Board of HCDC's progress on a destination map to complement, later to be included in, the Hilltown Directory. The map will detail the locations of businesses, places to stay, campgrounds, etc. and is scheduled to be published in January.

#### Community Compact Program

After signing up for the Community Compact Program, towns can participate in regional programs even if it doesn't regionalize according to Dave Christopolis. In addition to Plainfield, Cummington, Goshen, and Peru have not yet signed up. Dave Christopolis will reach out to those towns.

The Board has selected human resource projects for Community Compact Program grants. Those projects include job descriptions, salary ranges, and employee policies and procedures, etc. Winton will work on the Community Compact Program application Leslie will keep tabs on the January IT Grant application. The Massachusetts Office on Disability, even though it has accepted Plainfield's Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, recommends an updated version to be in compliance with the Department of Justice. Once Plainfield has signed up for the Community Compact Program, the town is eligible to apply for a planning grant (due on November 17, 2017) to update the town's plan.

Howard will contact Bill Adams, ADA Committee, member. Dave Chrisopolis, Howard, and Paula will meet to review the ADA file.

#### Community Solar Net-Metering Program/Energy Committee

Energy Committee members, Tim Walter and Conrad Liebenow, met with the Board for further discussion on net-metering programs that would reduce town building electric costs by 15%. Paula reported that Williamsburg is still in the start-up phase therefore there is no billing history to report. She has e-mailed Cornell Robinson at MassTech inquiring about possible effects on the calculation process used to determine the reimbursement for the electricity usage at Hathaway Hall/Police Station for the Point of Interconnection; He has yet been responded. Leslie moved to approve a six month trial period of the Community Solar Net-Metering Program, exempting Hathaway Hall/Police Station, according to the net-metering agreement with HCOG. The motion, seconded by Winton, was unanimously approved.

Tim and Conrad reported on the possibility of using the Green Communities Designation Grant for solar installation as well as additional grants for insulating the Highway Garage.

## MLP Update

Brian Hawthorne, representing MLP Manager Kimberly Longey, reported on broadband progress (document attached). A requested action item asked that Brian Hawthorne be appointed as Alternate WiredWest Delegate. Leslie moved to appoint Brian Hawthorne as Alternate WiredWest Delegate through June 30, 2018. The motion, seconded by Winton, was unanimously approved.

The Board approved a second action item to support Kimberly's recommendation that Plainfield vote "yes" in support of the anticipated (not yet published) proposed change to the WiredWest bylaws. Said change involves a devolution of voting status of towns that do not sign the MOU (or enter into a contract) to "non-voting", with the ability to return to voting status once a town is participating in the MOU (or contract).

## Other Business

Brian Hawthorne provided a draft employee computer, e-mail, internet, and social media policy. Paula will provide Brian with KP Law suggested policies for comparison.

Brian also referenced an invitation received via the website to a presentation at Sanderson Academy to tour their new, nearly completed pellet heating system. Winton is anticipating the final version of the Mass Medi-Spa Host Community Benefit Agreement from David Donseki (KP Law).

Howard plans to incorporate paragraphs he has written into the Code of Conduct draft document.

Agenda items for the November 7<sup>th</sup> All Boards Meeting will be the responsibility of budgeting proposed by the Finance Committee and a draft of the social media, e-mail policy and website government module by Brian Hawthorne.

Winton moved to appoint Sarah Stull to the Agricultural Commission through June 30, 2019. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved.

Winton moved to approve KP Law invoice #113318 in the amount of \$1,406.68.

The motion was unanimously approved after being seconded by Leslie.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King, Administrative Secretary