

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, February 14, 2017

Howard Bronstein, Leslie Rule, and Winton Pitcoff were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of January 24, 2017 were accepted as amended.

Broadband Discussion

Members of the Broadband Committee and Bill Ennen, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development Last Mile Liaison, met with the Board concerning the Town's progress towards the construction and operation of the last mile broadband network. Bill Ennen has attended over 60 local meetings relaying information on the progress between western Massachusetts towns and MBI. Leslie opened the discussion seeking clarity of MBI's view of state funding and funding allocations, MBI's rationale for changes, clarity on Plainfield's allocation of \$300,000.00 for special services and \$350,000.00 for construction, regionalization, MBI's recommendations for making the last mile less expensive for communities, etc. It was noted Crocker Communications' response to MBI's RFP referenced 70% coverage for Plainfield, a solution not acceptable to the Broadband Committee.

Bill Ennen recommended a letter from the Select Board to Peter Larkin, Special Advisor to the Secretary of EOHED & MBI Board Chair, stating Plainfield expects to receive all of the funds allocated for Plainfield.

Kimberly Longey stated Plainfield is at a "choice point". The question being asked is how Plainfield will own, build, and later operate a fiber optic network. The options are: to issue an RFP to design and build with MBI special services and construction funds in addition to the loan authorization approved at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting or to partner with a company such as Westfield Gas & Electric/Whip City Fiber for design and build using the same funding sources. Bill Ennen's response to widespread recognition of the need for additional funding on the state level argued that current funds need to be used before seeking additional funds.

Plainfield is ready to begin the pole survey which will be paid for with MBI special services funds. Westfield Gas & Electric pricing is \$12.00 per pole.

The Broadband Committee distributed its recommendation to partner with Westfield Gas & Electric for design and construction (attached). The Select Board

will act on the Broadband Committee's recommendation at the February 28th meeting.

27 Broom Street

Christopher Roos, Chris Roos, and Jeff Roos have agreed to purchase the 27 Broom Street property by March 10, 2017; they met with the Board to introduce themselves and let the town know of their plans for the property. They have been looking for property in Massachusetts to produce both medical and recreational marijuana and solar. (They have facilities in Norwell and on Nantucket.) There are no plans to develop the wooded area of the property. The Roos' do plan to reside on the property. An informational meeting will be scheduled once details of the proposed project have been ascertained. Mr. Roos would like the Board to send a letter to the state supporting the proposed project subsequent to the informational meeting. Anyone with questions may contact Mr. Roos at (860) 836-8725.

Other Business

Leslie moved to allow Winter Roads expenditures in excess of the FY'17 appropriation. The motion, seconded by Winton, was approved.

The Highway Department has located a box of sand for public use between the gas pumps and the garage.

Contracts for the Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant and the Council on Aging Formula Grant were signed.

The court date for unlicensed dogs has been scheduled for February 21, 2017.

David Alvord has been appointed to the Buildings Committee by the moderator.

A \$500.00 donation for the use of Hathaway Hall was received.

Action on the FY'18 budgets was tabled pending additional information.

Job descriptions and other information is being compiled for an updated Plainfield Operations Manual.

Plainfield has been designated a Green Community. The Buildings Committee and the Energy Committee will work together on project approval for Plainfield's \$137,575.00 grant.

Access to the Town Offices for the purpose of doing town business was discussed. Office space is limited. Adding a printer to the Select Board's room in the Town Hall was also discussed. Don Hall will be consulted concerning a central printer connected to all of the computers in the Town Office.

Winton agreed to act as Plainfield's liaison to the Ethics Commission.

Ann Irvine asked about posting the Select Board agenda on the website.

Correspondence

Information regarding the 2018 to 2022 Transportation Improvement Program

(TIP) and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was received from PVPC.

The Hampshire County Regional Lock-Up Facility assessment for FY'18 is \$616.00. The amount is included in the FY'18 Police Department Expense Appropriation.

A number of KP Law eUpdates, MMA annual meeting hand-outs, were e-mailed to the Board. The Denial of Licenses for Non-Payment of Certain Municipal Charges - Amendment to G.L. c.40, Sec. 57 requires a revision to the Town's By-Laws.

Miscellaneous mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary