

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, March 28, 2017

Howard Bronstein, Leslie Rule, and Winton Pitcoff were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of February 28, 2017 and March 22, 2017 were accepted as submitted.

Highway Superintendent

Highway Superintendent Mert Taylor, Jr. spoke about his plans to use Chapter 90 funds for a new truck in FY'18. The cost of outfitting a truck with a plow, plow frame, wing plow, and hydraulics is estimated a \$16,000.00 are not eligible under Chapter 90 and would have to be purchased with town funds.

The FY'17 Winter Roads Account overdraft is estimated at \$28,000.00.

The new truck approved at the May 2016 Annual Town Meeting is expected within the next few days.

Animal Control Officer

Animal Control Officer Casey Dwyer met with the Board concerning funds for an animal control vehicle. He is confident \$5,000.00 will be sufficient for a 4 cylinder, front wheel drive station wagon.

ACO training was also discussed. The \$500.00 twelve week program is held in the eastern part of the state each spring. An additional \$150.00 per day would cover the cost of lost wages while attending classes.

Highland Ambulance

Ed Morann approached the Board with a recap of budget changes which resulted in an increase in the FY'18 Highland Ambulance Assessment (attached). Plainfield is seeing an increase in the number of aging residents which has resulted increased the number of ambulance calls. Service calls for assistance are not paid calls.

Highland Ambulance/EMS is considering a fee of \$135.00 per service call.

Highland Ambulance has also been responding to Rowe and Charlemont.

Fire Department/EMS

Assistant Fire Chief David Alvord also addressed the Board with department concerns about Plainfield's growing elderly population. He noted non-emergency calls from residents with medical issues needing assistance in getting to medical

appointments. Department volunteers have regular jobs and aren't always available; Some are leaving jobs to assist. Those needing assistance are aware of the burden placed on volunteers. David sees this situation growing. Howard is willing to reach out to the COA to see what, if any, services of this type are available to support the growing aging population so as to take the burden off emergency personnel. There seems to be a gap in services needed and what can be reasonably provided.

345/347 Main Street Property Auction

The Board scheduled a sealed bid auction of the 345/347 Main Street property for April 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Plainfield Town Hall.

Broadband/Plainfield Light & Communications Plant

Kimberly Longey has signed off on the 'readiness process' document with MBI. Per Kimberly's request Howard signed the document thereby completing the evaluation process.

The Board discussed the Broadband Committee's March 27, 2017 recommendations for the Municipal Lighting Plant at length. Winton moved to accept Leslie's resignation as MLP manager with regret and appreciation. The motion, seconded by Howard, was unanimously approved. Winton moved to accept the March 27th recommendations of the Broadband Committee #'s 1-7 as written (attached). The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved. As per item #4, the Select Board unanimously approved the appointment of Kimberly Longey as manager of the Plainfield Light & Communications Plant; As per item #7, the Select Board unanimously agreed to disband the Broadband Committee effective immediately. The Select Board retains approval authority over all contracts and hiring.

Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Articles for the following will appear on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant: Animal Control Vehicle \$5,000.00, Winter Roads Overdraft, Transfer of funds to Machinery Upkeep \$5,000.00, Town By-Law Update of Article XVI, Authorize Select Board to enter into PILOT agreements, Rescind Loan Authorization of \$490, Highway Garage Furnace \$9,000, Update Town Office Technology \$5,000.00, Plows, Frames, Wing Plow, etc. \$16,000.00. The following non-binding resolutions by voter request: State and Federal Carbon Fee and Dividend, Protection of Pollinators and Pollinator Habitat, The American Anti-Corruption Act, and Improved Medicare for All (Single Payer System).

Correspondence

The Board approved payment of KP-Law invoice #111326 in the amount of \$57.57.

PVPC is seeking an Metropolitan Planning Organization representative.

The Board received notice of the MassWorks Statewide Transportation Vision Plan.

A questionnaire concerning the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance was received.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary