

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, September 12, 2017

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

### Highway Department

Chapter 90 reimbursement request documents for line painting on Rte. 116, Rte. 8A, and South Central Street were signed. Leslie reminded Mert, Jr. about having the white lines painted next year with the understanding the project would double in cost.

Mert, Jr. asked to dispose of the following items: the parts grader, an old plow, and old backhoe buckets. The Board agreed the items would be scrapped for metal. The blue pick-up and the 2008 pick-up trucks will be advertised as surplus property.

Winton followed up on the Enforcement Order issued by the Conservation Commission for filling in wetlands on the Bow Street shoulder to prevent the road from being undermined. Two options are to replicate another area which would be costly or remove the fill down to the original soil. The Conservation Commission should be notified before removing the material on Bow Street. The question remains: "How do we know where road maintenance, public safety, and protection of wetlands become entangled?" Brian Hawthorne stated the Conservation Commission should be consulted prior to work where wetlands could be an issue. As a former Conservation Commission member, Kimberly Longey noted there are established procedures for planning and emergencies. The delineation of wetlands was mentioned. The Conservation Commission is in possession of maps.

### MLP Update

Before updating the Board on MLP matters, MLP Manager Kimberly Longey stated she communicated with Select Board members separately and played for them an angry telephone message containing profanity left by Leslie Rule in regard to Kimberly's proposal to recommend abstaining on the upcoming vote on the WiredWest MOU. The Board received Leslie's subsequent resignation as Plainfield's WiredWest delegate and notice of her resignation as an MLP uncompensated employee. Leslie apologized to Kimberly both by e-mail and publicly.

Kimberly is committed to continuing with the broadband project noting she is bound to operate the MLP in accordance with the law. She stated she will not file a grievance, but will not tolerate intimidation. Kimberly asked the Board to reaffirm her appointment as MLP manager and designate either Howard or Winton as a point of contact. Additionally, she would like the Board to schedule a conflict of interest training before the year's end.

Leslie stated she has discussed the possibility of David Kramer being Plainfield's delegate to WiredWest with him during the past few months. Winton noted that conversation should have been with the Select Board. David is currently serving as alternate WiredWest delegate.

Winton moved to reaffirm Kimberly Longey's appointment as MLP manager. The motion, seconded by Howard, was unanimously approved.

Leslie moved to appoint Howard as the point of contact with the MLP manager.

The motion, seconded by Winton, was unanimously approved.

The Board agreed to discuss major MLP decisions as a group with Kimberly prior to taking action.

There is not a specific code of conduct document.

A conflict of interest training session is being planned. In 2010 when the Conflict of Interest Law was revised the first training session was led by KP Law Attorney Brian Riley. It may be prudent to have a KP Law attorney lead the proposed training session.

After reviewing the WiredWest website Kimberly found that WiredWest recommends the MLP manager serve as a town's primary delegate to WiredWest, a position she is willing to accept. Winton moved to appoint Kimberly Longey as Plainfield's primary WiredWest delegate through June 30, 2018. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved.

Kimberly asked the Board to approve abstaining from the vote on the proposed WiredWest MOU. She stated the document deals with revenue sharing, but lacks content on how to deal with loss and that other towns still have unresolved questions. Howard noted WiredWest has no background record of operations.

Winton moved to recommend that Kimberly abstain from the vote on the WiredWest MOU on behalf of Plainfield. The motion, seconded by Howard, was approved with Leslie abstaining from the vote.

Finance Committee Chair Lew Robbins stated there is a risk in going with a group without experience in operations. Leslie confirmed the town can exit at anytime by not signing a contract for broadband operations. WiredWest has not yet had an opportunity to execute operations. Lew asked if there was "all for one and one for all" language in the contract. Kimberly said Plainfield will continue its due diligence on broadband matters. Leslie reiterated Kimberly is the one to work with WiredWest.

KP Law Attorney Dave Doneski suggested several changes to the Verizon Pole Attachment Agreement which they have accepted. Kimberly plans to present the same document to Eversource.

Attached is Kimberly's complete update on MLP progress including Lew Robbins resignation as an MLP uncompensated employee.

#### Website and E-mail Options

Town e-mail options were discussed with Brian Hawthorne. Google G Suite offers multiple domains. The Board would like to have addresses so town officials can both send and receive e-mail. The Plainfield Volunteer Firefighters Association can host a G-suite at no charge due to their 501 3C status. Leslie moved to sign a letter to P.V.F.A. asking them if they would sponsor a free plainfield.ma.us domain G Suite for town officials. The motion, seconded by Winton, was unanimously approved.

Brian suggested amend the Website Guidelines to include page editors for each committee and administrators for accounts. Leslie moved to accept the revisions to the Website Guidelines as presented by Brian Hawthorne. The motion, seconded by Winton, was unanimously approved.

#### Other Business

Winton will facilitate the informational meeting with Mass Medi-Spa, Inc./Host Community Benefit Agreement planned for September 18th. Final questions have been answered by Dave Doneski concerning the Host Community Benefit Agreement with Mass Medi-Spa, Inc.

The Board discussed damage to tree roots on West Hill road in the process of cleaning ditches. It appears the property owners have legitimate concerns and should write a letter or attend a Select Board meeting. Leslie agreed to reach out to the property owners.

A call fro KP Law Attorney Jeff Blake was received. Jeff has been assigned to work with Plainfield on legal matters.

An All Boards Meeting on budget planning was scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

The Board approved payment of KP Law invoice #112930 in the amount of \$291.03.

Sylvane Stockwell's resignation from the Finance Committee was accepted with regret and appreciation for her service.

The Town of Ashfield's e-mail concerning insurance rates for Town Hall rental was discussed. It was noted Plainfield does not charge for Town Hall use.

Winton moved to sign documents for the DOER META Grant. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved.

## Correspondence

The Board received an informational update from WiredWest.

The Board received notice of the FY'18 Chapter 90 allocation of \$190,978.00.

A copy of the Town of Hawley Selectmen's letter Michael Knapik, Director of Western Massachusetts Office of the Governor, concerning state reimbursement for vocational education transportation was received.

Miscellaneous mail and meeting notices were reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary