

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, November 14, 2017

Howard Bronstein, Leslie Rule, and Winton Pitcoff were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Merton Taylor, Jr. informed the Board trucks were ready for winter. He also said the new pick-up will be rolling off the assembly line at the end of November and is expected to be in service in January. In the event of snowstorms prior to the arrival of the truck, the crew may be slow in clearing Town parking areas.

The department plans to install a culvert at the base of a West Hill driveway.

Board of Health

Board of Health Chair Ellen DuPont approached the Board concerning the addition of a second compactor attendant for three hours per week on Saturdays. The Compactor Salaries appropriation lacks funding for an additional employee. The Board suggested a Special Town Meeting in January for funding for January through June and to seek funding in the FY'19 budget request.

There is a need for locking filing cabinets. Ellen noted items in the Town Hall have been moved and a digital camera stored with Board of Health equipment is missing.

It was also noted the gate at the Highway Garage/Compactor has been occasionally left unlocked.

Buildings Committee

Claude DuPont, Buildings Committee Chair, received a complaint the elevator in the Town Hall wasn't working properly. He explained sensors in the shaft cause a problem when the building shifts due to wind velocity. He estimated fixing the problem might cost \$15,000. Building Commissioner Gerry Garner will be asked to inspect the elevator.

The Buildings Committee has been seeking estimates on replacing the Town Hall fire escape which is not up to code. Both metal and pressure treated wood estimates are in the \$9,000 range. Claude suggested having Fire Chief Dennis Thatcher inspect the fire escape. Claude recommended closing the Town Hall

upstairs due to these safety issues. He will report on the findings.

The new oil furnace will be installed in the Highway Garage within the next two weeks.

MLP Update

Kimberly Longey provided an update on MLP happenings. The following action items were addressed: 1. Winton moved to change the official name of the MLP to the Plainfield Light and Telecommunications Department. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved. 2. The Board approved the use of volunteers to clear brush and trees from the Public Safety Building property for the prefab MLP utility hub. Waivers of liability were discussed and volunteers will be required to sign. 3. The Board approved the request for highway department equipment and time to create the access road for the hub off North Central Street. Paula stated gravel and materials for the access road should be purchased by the MLP for proper accounting. 4. The Board authorized Kimberly to amend Plainfield's agreement with Westfield Gas & Electric to include a scope of work the installation of 8 town-owned utility poles in 3 locations. The cost, estimated at \$22,000, will be covered by the EOHED grant. 5. The Board authorized Kimberly to negotiate an easement for the Town and Plainfield MLP on property owned by Bruce and Heather Davis for the installation of one utility pole on the corner of East Main and South Central Streets. 6. The Board affirmed Kimberly's request to vote "yes" on proposed changes to WiredWest's "excess revenue" sharing agreement with member towns and clarify how operational costs will be factored in to the calculation of excess revenue on a per town basis. 7. The Board affirmed Kimberly's planned "yes" vote on proposed changes to the WiredWest "Memorandum of Understanding" document. Kimberly's complete report is attached. Winton asked about "subsequent changes to the document vs. hammering out details". Kimberly stated she prefers a final version before signing, but indicated that wasn't going to happen. She also noted the MOU is non-binding.

Other Business

Winton moved to accept the most recent draft of the Code of Conduct as prepared by Howard. The motion was seconded by Leslie and unanimously approved. Howard has been working with HCDC on the ADA grant application due on November 17th. Town buildings will be assessed for ADA compliance. Kimberly Longey expressed her willingness to assist with ADA grant applications. The Board is still awaiting for information on the costs of ACO schooling. Howard stated Cumington is willing to share an ACO with Plainfield.

Resignations

Phil Alessio's resignation from the COA effective January 2018 was accepted with regret and appreciation.

Leslie informed the Board she will be moving at the end of January and will therefore resign her positions from the Select Board and School Committee as of January 30, 2018. Caucus and Special Election dates were discussed. A January 23, 2018 date was proposed as follows: Select Board 6:00 p.m., Special Town Meeting 7:00 p.m. with Caucus to immediately follow. The Special Election will take place in early February. Town Clerk Ruth Osgood will be consulted. (The Board will meet as scheduled on December 12th and December 26th.)

Correspondence

A copy of the bridge inspection report was received from MassDOT. Mert, Jr. has been provided with a copy.

KP Law invoices #113318 in the amount of \$1,406.68 and #113717 in the amount of \$917.14 were approved for payment.

Leslie signed the FY'18 Cultural Council Grant Contract.

The MTRSD's Excess and Deficiency Fund as of July 1, 2017 has been certified at \$917,893.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary