

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, February 13, 2018

Howard Bronstein, Winton Pitcoff, and Hilary Weeks were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Newly elected Select Board Member Hilary Weeks was welcomed. The minutes of January 23, 2018 were accepted as amended.

### South Central Street

Chair Howard Bronstein initiated a review of the South Central Street matter on property owned by Ed and Ann Kohn by stating the Select Board has no jurisdiction over the matter. Because members of the Select Board received calls and questions, a review was scheduled for this meeting. After a fire call at the South Central Street Quonset hut on January 25, 2018, the Building Commissioner issued a Notice of Violation on January 28, 2018 and the Board of Health issued an Order of Condemnation on February 1, 2018 (copies of documents attached as well as Howard's report on the matter) after determining the Quonset hut was outfitted as living space. The Fire Chief reported bio-diesel fuels spills to the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection as required by law. Remediation of the fuel spills has taken place under DEP supervision. Legal procedures to be followed are outlined in the Building Commissioner's order. The Building Commissioner has spoken with Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) officials as the property has APR designation. Electrical service to the Quonset hut was terminated. Animal Control Officer Casey Dwyer has responded to several incidents of the heifers escaping the fenced area, trampling and eating their way through the neighboring yard.

The Agricultural Commission was not notified of the matter according to Anna Hanchett. The Agricultural Commission is designated as mediator for farming issues. Winton suggested Anna become acquainted with Building Commissioner and the Animal Control Officer. Ellen DuPont, Board of Health Chair, noted this didn't start as a farming issue.

Ed Kohn raised concerns expressed by the Board of Health and Building Commissioner on the night of the fire call. He stated no one approached either him or Ann with concerns. He is willing to attend to the issues raised in the Building Commissioner's report.

Leslie Rule stated neighbors are trying to understand the issues. She also said going forward officials should be aware of their responsibilities.

Howard addressed how the development and implementation of an employee operations manual might enable future situations of this nature to be handled smoothly.

Ann Irvine thanked the Select Board for scheduling a review of the issue at their meeting.

#### MLP Update

Brian Hawthorne updated the Board on MLP progress. Network design and engineering has been completed. Westfield gas & Electric will begin submitting utility pole estimate applications to Verizon and Eversource. Discussion with the treasurer and accountant regarding required payments to accompany these applications has taken place.

It was noted there are new state grants available should anticipated make ready costs exceed previously awarded grants.

Work is proceeding on intergovernmental agreements with Winsdor and Cummington regarding properties with Plainfield access. (Kimberly's e-mail attached.)

#### Appointments

Per recommendation of Fire Chief Dennis Thatcher, Winton moved to appoint William Adams (of Cummington) as Chapter 148A Municipal Hearing Officer through June 30, 2018. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved.

Dudley Williams submitted his letter of interest in serving on the MTRSD School Committee. The Board also considered Leslie Rule's interest in serving until she moves out of town. Winton moved to appoint Dudley Williams to fill the vacancy on the MTRSD School Committee for the balance of the unexpired term. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved.

#### Other Business

Howard met with Police Chief Stacey Hudson who has contacted Cummington Police Chief Mike Perkins about Plainfield's lack of coverage. She has no leads on recruiting new Plainfield officers. Josh Shearer is still helping. Winton encourages Stacey to document her time on police department work.

The Board unanimously approved March 27, 2018 as the final date for the submission of articles to appear on the annual town meeting warrant.

A job description for the Building Commissioner was discussed.

It was noted the Board of Health is considering hiring a Health Agent.

Winton reported the conflict of interest training will not take place as not enough people signed up.

In conversation with Chris Roos, Winton learned Chris is no longer affiliated with MassMedi Spa, but still retains interest in 27 Broom Street LLC which is still seeking investors. Winton was told there has been a change in the business model reflecting interest in the recreational marijuana market.

Wage and Salary Classification RFP's were received from D. I. Jacobs Consulting Company and GovHRUSA, LLC. Interviews with both firms will be scheduled for March 7, 2018 at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. at the Plainfield Town Offices. (To be posted as a Select Board Meeting as all members of the Board will be in attendance.)

The IT Grant Application is due February 15, 2018. Winton and Paula met to determine IT equipment needs for the Town Offices.

The Board level funded their FY'19 budget with the exception of a \$250.00 increase in the IT Services budget in anticipation of services that may be needed if the IT equipment grant is approved.

Winton moved to pay KP Law invoice #114638 in the amount of \$87.50. The motion, unanimously approved, was seconded by Hilary.

An update on the costs related to damage to the Highway Garage overhead door was discussed.

Notice was received from the Massachusetts office on Disability that Plainfield was not selected to receive the agency's FY'18 Planning Grant for municipal ADA improvements.

The Board received a copy of MassDOT's bridge inspection report for Rt. 116/Mill Brook.

The FY'19 assessment for the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District is \$1,260.06.

The Town of Worthington has invited Plainfield to join in celebration of their 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The letter will be forwarded to the Recreation Committee and posted in the kiosks at the Town Hall and Town Offices for those who may wish to enter a float or otherwise participate in the parade on June 30, 2018.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary