

DRAFT

Minutes of the Plainfield Finance Committee Meeting of July 11, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. in Town Hall. Present were Lew Robbins (chair), Robert Persing, Tim Walter, David Kramer. Absent were Bob Baker and Roberta Wooldridge.

1. Lew Robbins resigned the chairmanship of the committee effective at the adjournment of today's meeting. David Kramer was nominated for chair and was unanimously elected.
2. After the vote, Tim Walter left the meeting to attend a meeting of the Energy Committee. There was no longer a quorum present.
3. Bob Persing suggested that we meet at least once this year with Paula King, the tax collector, and the treasurer, the latter relative to banking funds and takings for nonpayment of taxes. We will prepare an agenda.
4. David Kramer resigned as secretary effective the beginning of the next meeting. Lew mentioned that it has been difficult in the past to find someone to take minutes. David encouraged his fellow committee members to consider standing as a candidate for secretary and offered to work with the new secretary to polish the minutes.
5. David asked that someone make a point of keeping him on topic at future meetings. Bob and Lew volunteered.
6. Lew reported that he had signed off on four withdrawals from the reserve fund.
7. Lew brought up for discussion the police department revised budget request. There are three spreadsheets: salaries, training, and administration. The amount requested in the last of these is of the same order of magnitude as in past year, while on the other hand, the amounts for training and salaries have increased significantly. David pointed out that the training budget is actually largely a salary budget, since of the \$8,395 requested, only \$2,700 is for nonsalary items, the remainder being for paying police officers' for attending training sessions.
8. The committee discussed the mechanism by which the new police chief and his subordinates were hired. In particular, the question was raised whether any agreements as to pay rate, hours of policing, and administrative costs have already been made. This is in light of the proposed large budget increase for the police department slated to be voted on at a special town meeting and in light of the fact that other proposed salary increases for Plainfield employees have been tabled pending completion of the town's ongoing employment study.
9. David will discuss the issues surrounding the police department budget with the Select Board. Included will be the finance committee's recommendation that there be no separate informational meeting about the police department budget prior to the special town meeting and that time be allocated at the special town meeting for provision of information.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m sine die.

Submitted by David Kramer, secretary