

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, August 28, 2018

Howard Bronstein, Winton Pitcoff, and Hilary Weeks were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of August 14, 2018 were accepted as submitted.

There will be no Select Board meeting on September 11th. The date for the Special Town Meeting was changed to October 30, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Pole Hearing

Pole hearings for Eversource petitions 6A820699 Bow Street and 6A821001 West Hill Road commenced at 7:15 p.m. Karla Cacho, representing Eversource, stated the two new poles slated for Bow Street will shorten the span between poles. The current pole span is over 150' making those lines less reliable. The Bow Street petition is part of a larger project to shorten pole spans along Bow Street.

MLP Manager Kimberly Longey declared Plainfield Light and Telecommunication's interest in attaching fiber optic network equipment to these and any new poles. Karla noted the Bow Street poles would be 40' in height. The West Hill pole located near 200 West Hill Road is to replace a pole bowed due to lack of support. The pole location was moved across the street due to the existing pole's proximity to the road. Abutter Corey Powers is satisfied with Karla's explanation of the new pole support.

Kimberly noted Plainfield Light and Telecommunication has no interest in attaching to this pole.

Winton moved to close the hearing as there were no additional questions. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved. Winton moved to approve Eversource petitions 6A820699 Bow Street and 6A821001 West Hill Road. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved.

MLP Update

According to MLP Manager Kimberly Longey the August 23rd meeting with Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito was a success. Howard noted Kimberly did an excellent job presenting Plainfield's need for additional state funding to complete Plainfield's fiber optic network. She spoke with Senator Hinds and Representative Kulik concerning the need for additional funding. Senator Hinds said that is the reason for the contingency funds.

A meeting to discuss strategy will take place Wednesday evening in addition to a meeting with the Finance Committee about closing the financial gap

Buildings Committee

Claude DuPont, Buildings Committee chair, reported on a lengthy discussion with the engineer in regard to the Highway Garage. The garage would not support both a new roof and insulation. Bringing the garage up to code would cost twice as much as a new building. Claude mentioned planning to replace the building in 5-8 years making the \$4,000 to \$5,000 minor repairs necessary in the interim. Options will be discussed at the next meeting of the Buildings Committee with a follow-up report to the Select Board.

David Kramer, Finance Committee Chair, asked if a new building would be energy efficient meeting the requirements of the Energy Committee grants.

The Town Hall upstairs has not been closed. COA members Ann Irvine and Elaine Sidney noted the stairs as being a mobility issue for seniors. The lift cannot be used until it is repaired.

Claude stated the west bay at Hathaway Hall needs to be closed off before it can be used for COA storage.

MVP

The Town has been awarded an additional \$5,000 (reimbursable funds) for the MVP Grant earmarked for the creation of the Town's Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

Other Business

The Board extends its appreciation to Ron Weeks for repairing the ramp to the Town Hall kitchen door.

In response to Cory Power's question, Winton stated property owners should call him if they want the trees cut by Eversource removed from their property.

Job descriptions for a COA coordinator were discussed. The one provided by Don Jacobs is not relevant to Plainfield needs according to COA Chair Ann Irvine. The Board asked the COA to mark-up Don's document and complete their version of a job description which can then be transformed into the same format as those provided by Don Jacobs. There was discussion as to whether or not a COA coordinator is considered a Town employee. Paula stated any paid position, whether by Town and/or grant funds, is considered an employee. David Kramer asked if the COA coordinator position would fall under the Finance Committee's recommendations for increases.

Plainfield has been awarded a Recycling Dividends Program grant of \$4,200 through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program.

The 242 South Central Street property has not been totally cleaned up; Howard has

been assured it will be.

The Board has submitted documents to and anticipates a response from David Doneski, KP Law, concerning the stalled variance application for 63 South Central Street. Abutters have been notified of their right to appeal on August 20, 2018 and have until September 10, 2018 to file in court. The Town can also appeal. Howard recommended, and the Board agreed, that filing an appeal would not be in the best interest of the Town. ZBA member Ann Irvine was asked to confirm the form to be used for filing variances and special permits; she said the form with the town seal is the correct one until a new form is adopted by the ZBA.

Howard will look into the Community Compact IT Grant.

In response to her e-mail, Paula Bilodeau, HCDC Housing Rehab Program Manager, will be notified the owner of 91 Summit Street does not meet the eligibility requirements for the Plainfield Septic System Repair Program as his property across the street does not have an existing failed system.

A copy of the Highland Ambulance EMS quarterly report was received.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary