

Draft

Minutes of the Plainfield Finance Committee Meeting of September 19, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. in Town Hall. Present were David Kramer (chair), Lew Robbins, Robert Persing, Bob Baker, Tim Walter, and Roberta Wooldridge.

1. Appointment of a Finance Committee secretary was deferred to the next meeting.
2. The minutes of the August 29, 2018, meeting were approved.
3. A letter from Peter Lapointe expressing interest in an appointment to the Buildings Committee by the Finance Committee was read. A motion was made to appoint Peter to the Buildings Committee. A discussion ensued as to whether no appointment should be made until further explanation and discussion could be had with the Buildings Committee regarding the process. The motion to appoint Peter Lapointe was tabled.
4. Town e-mail addresses are working well for most members. Several members still need to complete their ethics training. Several members still need to be sworn in.
5. Robert Persing attended the most recent Buildings Committee meeting and reported that no money will be requested at the special town meeting to restore service to the Town Hall lift because they have sufficient funds in their account. The Buildings Committee is hoping that the potential fine for not renewing the lift permit without legally decommissioning the lift will be waived, but if any fines are due, it is expected that they could be paid from the stabilization fund or the Buildings Committee account.
6. Bob Baker met with Police Chief Justin Litchfield and his assistant Danielle Erb. The chief is requesting an additional \$51,186 for the remainder of the fiscal year. The requested 16 hours per week for patrol was discussed as potentially an optional form of community policing. A motion to approve the request of \$43,651 for police department salaries \$7,536 for the administrative budget and send the recommendation to the Select Board as a warrant item for the upcoming special town meeting passed on a vote of 5 to 1.
7. Roberta Wooldridge reported on her meeting with highway superintendant Merton Taylor, Jr. He would like the Highway Department to purchase a truck that is customized to fit the needs of the department and is reliable, making buying new a better option than buying used. A motion was made to recommend a warrant article for the upcoming special town meeting to authorize the purchase of a new truck for up to \$220,000, in particular, a withdrawal from the stabilization fund of up to \$45,000 with the balance to be borrowed. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. The review of mechanisms for fund transfers between and within accounts was deferred to a future meeting.

9. Lew Robbins reported on the current balance in the stabilization fund and free cash. Currently there is no free cash and there is over \$600,000 in the stabilization fund. More discussion about these figures was deferred to a future meeting.

10. A motion was made to authorize funds from stabilization to pay for a fine of up to \$5,000 in relation to the chair lift. The motion passed unanimously.

11. No other business was discussed

12. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on October 11, at 6:30 P.M. in Town Hall. At 7:30 P.M., same date and location, the Finance Committee will hold a public hearing to discuss the special town meeting articles.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Submitted by Roberta Wooldridge, acting secretary.