

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, November 13, 2018

Howard Bronstein and Hilary weeks were present; Winton Pitcoff was not in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. the minutes of October 23, 2018 were accepted as submitted.

Highland Ambulance EMS Contract Renewal

Highland Ambulance Representative Ed Morann presented a draft of the Highland Ambulance contract with proposed language for Plainfield first responders with respect to answering calls at the Swift River Addiction Center. If approved, Highland Ambulance will be the primary first responder to Swift River with Plainfield Fire, EMS, and Police being called/toned only for high acuity ambulance calls or by request on an “as needed basis” for mutual response. All other responses in Plainfield will remain unchanged. After acceptance by the Highland Ambulance EMS Board of Directors, the revised document will be presented to the Board for signatures. The Board commended Ed for his efforts in drafting language acceptable to the EMD, Highland Ambulance EMS, and the Town of Plainfield.

Center of Town Parking

The issue of parking in and around the church and the Town Hall during highly attended events has once again been brought to the attention of the Board. Gerry Connell and David Kramer spoke to both personal liability and public safety. Howard will speak with the police chief, representatives of the church, and the Planning Board concerning the matter. He stated that event attendees cannot continue to park illegally and inconsiderately. A number of options were noted including parking attendants, signage, parking across from the Police Station, etc. Howard will look at the Town’s files regarding previous discussion on the matter.

Buildings Committee

The Town Hall lift is now working according to Buildings Committee Claude DuPont and will be inspected by the state in the near future. Certification may or may not be held up pending the status of the Town’s appeal of the \$5,000 fine. Claude asked Howard to approach the Building Commissioner regarding safety inspections of town buildings.

Ron Weeks will be asked to look at a drainage problem behind the Town Hall.

A job application is required in order for students to obtain a work permit for snow shoveling at Town Buildings during the winter months. Claude asked if Paula might find a generic application form.

Old Business

The Board is currently reviewing a draft version of the Employee Manual submitted by Don Jacobs as part the Wage and Salary Classification study. The Finance Committee offered assistance in addressing wages. Howard stated Finance Committee assistance will be utilized during the Fiscal 2020 budget process.

On December 8,2018 a workshop will take place to address the Town's strengths and weaknesses as a part of the MVP grant. The findings will result in a FEMA/MEMA approved Hazardous Mitigation Plan for Plainfield.

The agreement with PVPC for the MVP grant was signed.

A well-attended dedication ceremony for the fiber optic hub on North Central Street took place on November 10th.

New Business

Hilary has drafted and will send an e-mail to FRTA seeking information about a FRTA rider community representative.

Paula submitted a final report for the ZBA's consultant for the NEXAMP solar project. Chris Roos asked the Board was assured this was not in any way connected to his application for 27 Broom Street.

The Board received a donation of \$165.00 from the Back to Reality group for the use of the Town Hall meeting space.

Hilary moved to appoint Samantha Davis to the Recreation Committee through June 30, 2021. The motion, seconded by Howard was approved.

Hilary moved to pay KP Law invoice #118066 in the amount of \$372.72. The motion was seconded by Howard and was approved.

Hilary moved to approve the Vocational Educational Advisory Committee's (VEAC) recommendation to award the vocational transportation portion of the MTRSD five-year contract to Kusmeskus utilizing the 3% stepped annual increases for four seven passenger vans with the provision the contractor furnish the fuel consistent with the MTRSD contract. The motion, seconded by Howard, was approved.

Howard moved to accept VEAC's recommendation to eliminate one van for the 2018/2019 school year in accordance with the thirty-day notice contract provision and establish a PATA agreement for the transportation of a 10th grade vocational student, option C+Y as described on the document provided by VEAC. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved. Following discussion on the matter Howard stated he hoped VEAC would treat Plainfield as graciously in future

compromises affecting the towns of Ashfield, Hawley, Charlemont, and Plainfield. The Board received an application to Smith Vocational School for the 2019/2020 school year.

Correspondence

Notice of an additional \$38,118 in Chapter 90 funding for FY'19 was received from MassDOT. FY'19 funds now total \$228,709.

Ashfield Police Chief Beth Bezio expressed her appreciation for the assistance of the Plainfield Police and Fire Departments at the November 1st 5K Sugar Rush. MTRSD Excess and Deficiency has been certified at \$677,300.

Eversource has officially decided to end the Municipal Brush Control Program. Eversource has made its new outage map available to customers, media, public officials, and others via Eversource.com.

The Board received notice of Westfield Watershed Discovery Meetings for FEMA. HCOG sent notice of its new regional financial management services program. Eric Weiss has been hired as PVPC's Municipal Services Coordinator.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary