

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, January 8, 2019

Howard Bronstein, Winton Pitcoff, and Hilary Weeks were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of November 28, 2018 and December 11, 2018 were accepted as submitted.

An e-mail from Cummington Fire Chief Bernie Forgea praising the professionalism of Plainfield, Cummington, and Worthington firefighters at an early morning structure fire on Prospect Street in Plainfield was read.

Board of Health

Board of Health Chair Ellen Dupont discussed participation in the Small Town Environmental Partnership (STEP) program with the Board. The DEP partners with small towns to identify and propose solutions for environmental challenges. Ellen noted the compactor and its surroundings is already required to be inspected each year. After discussion of the program, Plainfield will not sign up for the program this year, but will consult other towns about their experience with the program.

Replacement of the concrete wall at the compactor was discussed. Peter Lapointe, new member of the Buildings Committee, stated the wall has moved two degrees within the past two months. There are cracks in the wall due to weather conditions. Solutions include a temporary site for the compactor while removing and rebuilding the wall or an entirely new site. The condition of the wall will be monitored until spring. Other improvements to the surrounding area to mitigate water and ice were noted. Handing the project over to the Buildings Committee or an ad hoc committee was discussed. In either case, Peter will supervise the research. The Highway Superintendent will be consulted. The project may cost up to \$25,000.

Gerry Connell mentioned a town in Maine willing to share their transfer station plans.

Ellen asked whether or not the Board had signed the contract renewal with Highland Ambulance/EMS. The contract was signed at the last meeting, but the other member towns have to sign according to Ed Morann, Plainfield Representative to Highland Ambulance/EMS.

Town Hall/Church Parking

In reference to previous plans, Planning Board member Peter Lapointe stated closing the upper segment of Church Lane and grading the area behind the church would result in 23-25 parking spaces. Peter did mention that Church Lane allows the safest access on to Rte. 116. Closing and reconfiguring Church Lane could enhance church and town parking. Peter will work on a suitable parking plan acceptable to abutters. Funding would have to be approved at a Special or Annual Town Meeting. Parking for largely attended events would still be an issue.

2019 Class II and class III License Renewals

Winton moved to renew Class II and Class III licenses for Ed Morann and Robert Sadowski and the Class II license for Jamie Wooldridge for 2019. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved.

Other Business

In conjunction with the Wage and Salary Classification Study, the Board discussed how to coordinate hours worked with the salaries of employees. Howard stated job descriptions will contain that information.

The first invoice from PVPC for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Grant was approved. A Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is in the draft phase. A public listening session on March 6th will allow the completion of the HMP.

In response to the question of liability coverage for volunteers, MIIA, the Town's insurance provider, responded by e-mail stating Community Wood Bank volunteers would not be covered by the Town's insurance if working on town property. Volunteers should be asked to obtain and provide certificates of insurance if working on Town-owned property. Howard will notify the Plainfield Tree Alliance of MIIA's response to the liability question.

Winton moved to sign the required letter to the Town Clerk requesting a referendum question on the May Town Election ballot to exclude the debt for the truck authorized at the October 30, 2019 Special Town Meeting. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved.

Winton moved to re-appoint Warren Kirkpatrick as Certified ACO and Casey Dwyer as Assistant ACO for the ensuing period beginning April 1, 2019 and ending March 31, 2020. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved.

A Smith Vocational student is anticipated to become a resident of Plainfield this month.

A Special Town Meeting will be scheduled sometime in March for the following: additional funding for Ch32B Insurance and the Self-Contained Breathing

Apparatus accounts, transfer of funds from the Assessors' Expense Account to the Assessors' Salaries Account, and an article to authorize additional borrowing for the installation of Plainfield's fiber optic network. (The state won't release additional funds until the "make ready process has been completed".)

The Board will begin to compile a list of items for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Howard has begun draft of the Select Board's annual report.

The Board received notice of Public Hearings for Eversource Vegetation Management from MDAR.

Howard noted Chris Clark has requested a certified copy of the Town's non-exercise of its right of first refusal letter for the 29 Union Street property on which the NEXAMP solar array is located.

Miscellaneous mail was received.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary