

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, January 22, 2019

Howard Bronstein, Winton Pitcoff, and Hilary Weeks were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of January 8, 2019 and January 9, 2019 were accepted as submitted.

As a result of sub-zero temperatures, the Town Hall was without heat and pipes were frozen. Electric space heaters were provided by Howard on Monday evening. Whiting Energy was contacted. According to Buildings Committee Chair Claude Dupont fuel in the lines was gelled and was unable to flow freely to the furnace. Once the furnace was up and running the pipes thawed

Eric Weiss, PVPC

PVPC Municipal Services Coordinator Eric Weiss presented a list of PVPC's list of municipal shared services. Eric likes working with communities and is available to work with Plainfield; he is open to additional suggestions the Board may wish to entertain. Plainfield has just applied for District Local Technical Assistance grant services to assist with needed repairs/replacement of the compactor wall. (Peter Lapointe worked with Eric on the application.)

MLP Update

Kimberly Longey, MLP Manager, submitted a Plainfield Broadband status report along with recommendations for the meeting (attached). She noted everything is going well with Westfield Gas & Electric. She has been working with the Select Board, Finance Committee, Treasurer, and Accountant.

The \$380,000 financial capital gap for the build was discussed. Since 2015 the number of route miles and the number of poles has increased. Federal CAF II (Connect America Funds) of \$443,000 are available in 2-3 years and would be released in \$43,000 increments over a ten year period. State contingency funds are currently being held until all towns have completed make ready tasks. Winton asked if sympathetic legislators might be approached in regards to an "earmark". The consensus of discussion was all avenues should be explored with results explained at the Special Town Meeting in March. Winton moved to hold a Special Town Meeting on March 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved. An article seeking approval for additional borrowing

of up to \$400,000 to enable the completion of the MLP Broadband project will appear on the warrant. The deadline for seeking a debt exclusion referendum on the May 4<sup>th</sup> ballot is March 26, 2019.

An intergovernmental agreement with Westfield Gas & Electric does not require going out to bid.

Winton moved to authorize the MLP to seek additional funding from the state for last mile contingency funds to cover some or all of the capital project gap. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved.

Kimberly also suggested Plainfield vote to drop out of WiredWest at this time. After discussion, Howard moved to formally withdraw from the WiredWest Cooperative effective immediately. The motion, seconded by Winton, was unanimously approved. Kimberly will work on the process of getting WiredWest to refund deposits from the 180 Plainfield residents who initially signed up for broadband service.

Accounting methods are being researched.

The FY'20 Broadband budget will be completed in two weeks.

#### Buildings Committee/Town Hall

As a result of sub-zero temperatures, the Town Hall was without heat and pipes were frozen. Electric space heaters were provided by Howard on Monday evening. Whiting Energy was contacted. According to Buildings Committee Chair Claude Dupont fuel in the lines was gelled and was unable to flow freely to the furnace. Once the furnace was up and running at 65 degrees the pipes thawed.

Paula will contact Electralarm and have Claude Dupont named as the contact person.

Plainfield's weights and measures cabinet, currently stored in Hathaway Hall, needs a new location due to the expansion of police department offices. Claude will consult with the librarian and the trustees about moving it to the library so it can be seen and appreciated. The Police Chief will be asked to contact the Building Commissioner to see if a permit is needed for setting up movable petitions in Hathaway Hall.

Claude asked Howard about having the Building Commissioner inspect the Town Hall prior any work on the fire escape/second floor egress.

#### Other Business

M. Shippee, Broom Street resident, is requesting copies of ZBA documents relating to the 27 Broom Street, LLC marijuana cultivation application and permitting process.

Howard is working on the job application format for the Building Commissioner/Local Inspector. The ZBA has been working on a form to be used

in conjunction with building permit applications to better track the permitting process.

A public listening session for the Hazard Mitigation Plan will take place at the Town Hall on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

A Special Town Meeting will take place on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. (See MLP discussion above for motion and vote.) The warrant will be prepared for signatures and posting on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Articles to be included are an additional \$9,400 for the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Account, additional Chapter 32B Health Insurance funding (to be calculated), rescind unused borrowing authorization of \$6,012 for the Highway Department dump truck approved at the October 30<sup>th</sup> STM, the transfer of \$11,000 from the Assessors' Expense Account to the Assessors' Salaries Account, and additional broadband borrowing as described above.

#### Correspondence

Notice of the FY'20 Highland Ambulance budget breakdown was received.

Plainfield's assessment is projected to be \$29,526.60.

The Board received information on the Senior Citizen Property Relief Circuit Breaker program for the 2018 tax year.

HCOG is in the process of applying for a Regional Human Resource Grant through the Community Compact program.

Other mail and meeting notices were reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary