

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, April 9, 2019

Howard Bronstein, Winton Pitcoff, and Hilary Weeks were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. The minutes of March 20th and 26th were accepted as submitted.

Police Department Update

Chief Justin Litchfield updated the Board on the doings of the Plainfield Police Department. Pursuant to M.G. L. 268A (b) (1) a disclosure has been filed pertaining to the supervision of his fiancé.

Justin reported on the numerous police calls to which the department responds. According to meetings with State Police and other local police chiefs Plainfield is very active in terms of calls. There are still some police calls at the Swift River Addiction Center even though an agreement was reached between Highland Ambulance/EMS for ambulance calls. Howard noted should calls at Swift River become a burden on the department, the Board may become involved. (The ZBA Special Permit states the facility won't be a burden on Town services.)

Three cruisers have been obtained through donations, two from locally donated funds and one from the Town of Hatfield. A thank you letter will be sent to the Town of Hatfield.

New special officers have been hired for detail work.

According to David Doneski, KP Law, town meeting warrant language is not needed for local speeding fines. The Select Board may establish local fines.

Additional information is anticipated from Town Counsel.

A new breathalyzer has been obtained with grant funds.

A West Main Street resident asked that police officers not park cruisers in private driveways while on patrol and using radar. Justin will communicate the request to his officers.

Thelma Pilgrim inquired which budget Justin is being paid from while policing for the Highway Department. Justin replied he is working as a Highway Department employee.

Police officers have been trained in taser use. Tasers, helmets, and vests have been purchased with grant funds.

An active shooter policy is in the development process.

The COA storage bay in the garage at 315 Main Street has been completed. An

interview room in Hathaway Hall is in progress.

Mert Taylor, Jr., Justin, and Howard met with MassDOT District 1 officials concerning safety issues on Rte. 116. District 1 engineers offered assistance. The Highway Superintendent plans to pursue a Small Town Road Assistance (STRAP) Grant. (STRAP Grant funds can be applied for every three years.) The Town would have to work with state legislators for the state to take over the repairs, plowing, etc. of Rte. 116.

Other Business

Winton moved to renew the 2019 Club License for the Ashfield Rod & Gun Club. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved.

Wage and Salary Classification Study: Howard is following up on CORI requirements.

Copies of the Financial Policy Manual as prepared by the DLS as a part of the Community Cabinet Initiative were received.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Grant: More research and information is needed before filing an MVP Action Grant application.

MLP: New poles are needed on Maple Street.

Howard moved to pay KP Law invoice #119904 in the amount of \$119.97 a portion of which will be paid with MLP funds.

The Board is in receipt of a non-binding resolution article for the ATM warrant. Signatures of registered voters on the petitions have been verified.

A draft of the ATM warrant was reviewed and will be finalized for signing and posting at the April 23rd meeting.

The FY'20 assessment from the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Service District was received in the amount of \$1,307.13.

Eversource has issued notice of the 45 Day Yearly Operational Plan Public Notice, Review, and Comment Period.

Clean Harbors Environmental Services provided the release notification relative to the hydraulic spill on River Road on February 1, 2019.

The annual financial report for USDA was signed.

A one-year extension for the recycling contract with Dave Wickles Trucking was signed.

Notice of the MRF recycling contract expiration date was received from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Notice of the Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant Program was received.

The Board received an invitation to participate in the new 2020 Census Construction Program.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary