

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, June 25, 2019

Howard Bronstein and Winton Pitcoff were present; Hilary Weeks was absent. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of June 11, 2019 were accepted as submitted.

### Tree Alliance/Community Wood Bank

David Perkins approached the Board seeking approval for Thatcher Road as the site for a Community Wood Bank. Research shows no evidence of Thatcher Road as having been discontinued.

Private liability insurance for volunteers to cut wood was quoted at \$675.00 per year; David stated a short-term policy is not available. He asked if the Town might agree to help with the insurance cost. Howard asked for a draft of the potential policy to be reviewed by town counsel along with the Montague Community Wood Bank plan. Winton noted there is not much room in the FY'20 budget for an additional appropriation. The Board stated Town Meeting could be asked to approve a committee as it sets budgets and priorities.

David questioned who might transport wood to the Thatcher Road site, if approved, the Highway Department or Eversource? Howard stated the Highway Department cannot be asked to take on another project due to extensive road repairs following a difficult winter.

David also asked if Eversource cuts and moves trees. They can be asked.

The Plainfield Tree Alliance applied for and received a \$2,500 grant. David is acting as the grant coordinator.

Howard will consult with Mert, Jr. and the Board of Assessors about the proposed site. He will also approach town counsel.

### Board of Health

Ellen DuPont, Board of Health Chair, informed the Board of a complaint by James Meehan, South Central Street. James, having just moved to Plainfield, stated Board of Health member, Linda Carver approached him on his property stating he could not live in the house and did not have a permit to live in the camper while the system was being repaired. Linda said her concerns were for the health of his family. The Board of Health needs know where waste from the camper is being deposited. James stated he felt intimidated by her demeanor. Ellen said a permit

was issued for the system repair and a permit to occupy the camper was not needed.

The Select Board doesn't have authority over the Board of Health as they are elected officials. Winton said the Town is run by volunteers and realizes the need for a chain of command among board members. Efforts were made to mediate the incident by Chief Litchfield, also present.

#### Police Department

The Police Department reported 537 911 calls for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 25, 2019. The Board is concerned with the eighty-one calls from the Swift River Addiction Campus totaling 324 hours of police services. Howard will consult Ed Morann and David Alvord about Swift River calls. Recurring calls from home alarms requiring a response with no trouble are also an issue. Possible solutions include a local by-law establishing written warnings and fines for home alarm calls caused by keypad code errors and other non-threatening issues. Town Counsel will be consulted to see if the Town has the authority to levy fines for town services such as those at Swift River and excessive home alarms.

Howard referenced discussion with Treasurer Allan Kidston regarding scheduling nineteen hours for part time police officer's hours for FY'20.

More information regarding monies from traffic violations being returned to the Town is being sought.

Howard and Chief Litchfield met with Russ Clark of Savoy about the possibility of an agreement between Plainfield and Savoy for shared police services.

#### Other Business

Casey Dwyer approached the Board concerning the condition of Campbell Road. He noted damages to his vehicles. Howard stated the Highway Department work is backed up due to the long hard winter and will check with Mert, Jr. when work on Campbell Road is expected to take place.

Emily Slotnick, PVPC, reviewed and rewrote a template that can be used for MVP Grant Program applications.

The new copier was delivered to the Town Offices.

#### Correspondence

Plainfield Solar, LLC has been granted permission from the ZBA to add Battery Storage to their large ground-mounted solar array with construction expected to take six to eight weeks beginning in January 2020.

An e-mail concerning the condition of West Street was received.

MassDOT District 1 will now accept FY'20 Chapter 90 Project Requests.

NCC wrote to thank the Board for their support of the 21<sup>st</sup> Tour of the Hilltowns.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary