

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, August 13, 2019

Howard Bronstein and Winton Pitcoff were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of July 23, 2019 were accepted with a punctuation correction.

Speed Limit Postings

Police Chief Justin Litchfield, Highway Superintendent Merton Taylor, Jr. and Gerry Connell were in attendance.

The 25 mph speed limit signs on North Central and South Central streets were placed as a result of a June meeting with MassDOT District One Director Francisca Heming, also attended by Howard, Chief Litchfield, and Highway Superintendent Taylor.

Howard moved to accept the provisions of Chapter 90, Section 17C. The motion, seconded by Winton, was approved.

Chief Litchfield has been in contact with Ms. Heming and Pat Tierney to discuss the requirements of establishing reduced speeds in thickly settled areas. A letter requesting 25 mph limit postings will be sent to Ms. Heming who will forward it to Boston for approval. Once approved, Mr. Tierney will conduct a site visit to determine the placement and type of signs required.

Gerry Connell stated Chapter 90, Section 18 requires a traffic study before changing speed limits. Howard responded the Town's motivation is to slow motorists down and the Town's responsibility is to work with public safety officials and MassDOT.

Gerry noted Chapter 90 funding could be at risk if statutory procedures are not followed. His research resulted in Plainfield traffic studies conducted in 1992/1993 and 2012.

Chief Litchfield said a traffic study is not required under Chapter 90, 17C.

Gerry would like to see the signs removed until MassDOT approval is granted and suggested cautionary signs. Chief Litchfield has no problem removing the signs until MassDOT has granted permission.

Police officers are just slowing traffic. Chief Litchfield has also been in contact with the court magistrate who is willing to attend a Select Board meeting.

PVPC IT

Howard presented information on the Pioneer Valley Municipal IT Collaborative after attending a meeting at PVPC. For an annual membership fee of \$250 (Town's with a population less than 2,000), PVPC will serve as entry point and backbone for municipal IT services gathering information on IT challenges, etc. and will do an assessment of Plainfield's computers. PVPC contracts with a third-party vendor providing IT services to member towns as needed. Winton inquired about the fee schedule. It was noted there will be charges for IT for service calls. Winton moved to enter into an agreement with the Pioneer Valley Municipal IT Collaborative. The motion, seconded by Howard, was approved.

Other Business

The police department has responded to 12 calls at the Swift River Addiction Campus since the July 23rd Select Board meeting.

Final FY'20 state revenue figures were received; Revenues are \$123,222 and assessments are \$1,267.

A meeting of the Hazard Mitigation team will take place on August 28th. Howard will later attend the Conservation Commission meeting in regard to an engineering study on Bow Street in conjunction with the MVP grant application. The PVPC Local Technical Assistance program may be utilized to assist with the application process. Howard noted that Gina Papineau, Assistant Assessor, has been a great resource. Fire Chief Dennis Thatcher is finalizing updates to the Town's Emergency Procedures Manual.

The second amended WG&E contract has been signed.

The Board will not join the Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources program at this time.

MassDOT has approved FY'20 Chapter 90 Project Requests for Bow Street and West Hill Road and for Line Painting.

Correspondence

An e-mail concerning damage to West Street by large trucks was received from a West Street resident.

Notice of the ADA Improvement Grant Program was received.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula J. King, Administrative Secretary