

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, January 28, 2020

Howard Bronstein, Winton Pitcoff, and Hilary Weeks were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of January 14, 2020 were accepted as submitted.

### School Bus Stop Ahead Signs

Brent Steele approached the Board with a \$1,923.40 donation for 24 School Bus Stop Ahead signs for Town roadways. He has consulted with Police Chief Justin Litchfield on the project; The Highway Superintendent Merton Taylor, Jr. has also been consulted. Brent said he is making the donation to enhance school bus safety and to give back to the Town. Winton moved to accept the \$1,923.40 donation for 24 signs from Brent Steele. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved.

Brent and his lawyer have also been working on “Summer’s Law”, S.2098, a safety act requiring that all Massachusetts school buses be equipped with door sensors and additional sensor technology to ensure the safety of children being picked up or dropped off at bus stops. Support for S.2098 would help.

Brent was thanked for his donation.

### Police Department

A copy of the Northampton By-Law establishing local fines was presented by Chief Litchfield. Justin noted that a CMR line printed on ticket books, when checked, would result in fines being paid directly to the Town. Local by-laws establish violations, but do not provide for fines. Possible changes to the By-laws of the Town of Plainfield were discussed.

Justin noted a new law pertaining to police department calls. All calls are to be referred to as “service calls” and cannot be enumerated or labeled by type. There has been a significant increase in the number of service calls from 2018 to 2019. Motor vehicle stops numbered 389 in 2019.

The department was awarded a \$650 grant to be used for anything considered pro-police and drug related. The 2020 award is \$1,300. A \$1,000 grant for medical supplies was also received.

Officers have completed taser and firearms training.

The Swift River Addiction Center keeps the department busy. Justin plans to meet

with Matt Love concerning calls and to suggest hiring an officer to be present during patient intake times.

Also discussed was the possibility of establishing a policy for repeat silent alarm calls.

Cruiser use during police detail is bringing in significant revenue. Out of town police detail during broadband construction will generate additional cruiser revenue for Plainfield.

Chief Litchfield is networking with local and state agencies.

Many calls for animal control are being received at the police station.

### Appointments

Winton moved to appoint Barbara Westwood to the Cultural Council through September 2023. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved.

### Other New Business

A copy of the Small Bridge Inspection Report for the Rte. 116/Mill Brook and the Lower Liberty Street Bridge was received from MassDOT.

A second Plainfield student has applied to Smith Vocational School.

The 2020 Initial Boundary Validation Program (BVP) map was examined and the accompanying form was signed by the chair.

Information on the Transportation Improvement Program was received from PVPC. Howard will consult with the Highway Superintendent.

### Old Business

IT Grant contract documents will be signed and submitted. Winton and Paula will manage the grant. NOVUS will be notified of the grant award.

There will be a meeting of the Mitigation Preparedness Group on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Howard has received the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan from Theresa Thatcher.

Job descriptions will be distributed to personnel along with a cover letter stating a Board member will meet with them soon.

The Board completed the FY'21 budget request forms. The Select Board annual report has been completed.

An update on MRF contract revisions was received. Additional language is being incorporated that the contract is to be contingent upon annual Town appropriation of funds.

### Correspondence

Howard will respond to the party inquiring about cannabis businesses in Plainfield.

Highland Ambulance/EMS is seeking an at-large representative for the board of

directors. The HAEMS annual meeting is slated for February 5, 2020 at the Goshen facility.

A letter from MTRSD School Committee Chair Martha Thurber stated Ms. Leann Loomis has been selected to serve as Interim-Superintendent of MTRSD while the School Committee seeks a new superintendent.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary