Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, March 10, 2020

Howard Bronstein, Winton Pitcoff, and Hilary Weeks were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of February 25, 2020 were accepted as corrected.

Historical Commission

Members of the Historical Commission approached the Board seeking the acquisition of the Lena Dyer 2-acre lot on River Road, the former “pound lot” and the Alice Barry .7-acre lot on Hill Street for the Town. Both parcels have been in tax title since the 1940’s. Winton asked why the Town should keep versus the Historical Society. It was stated the site is a Town historical site. Both parcels have been in tax title since the 1940’s. The treasurer will be asked about the foreclosure process.

27 Broom Street, LLC

Chris Roos updated the Board stating everything is going well. His contractor is working with the Building Commissioner in regards to greenhouse construction. Chris is also working with the ZBA on a means to measure the smells related to growing, outdoor fencing, etc.

The Board accepted a donation to the Police Department for cruiser repairs from Chris in addition to a donation to the PVFA which was given to David Alvord. Chris was thanked for his generosity.

Fire Department

Chief Alvord reported on the status of the Class II ambulance re-licensing. After the establishment of Highland Ambulance/EMS in 2005 the Town was concerned about the response time when Highland Ambulance was dispatched to Plainfield. Due to Plainfield’s numerous EMT’s and a Class II ambulance Plainfield was in a position to transport when necessary. Plainfield’s first ambulance was acquired by fund raising with a new ambulance acquired with grant funds in 2008. For fifteen years Plainfield has operated a Class II ambulance. With changes to the state certification process, digital reporting requirements, and fewer EMTs’ the Fire Department has decided to change from Class II certification to a Rescue Truck. The change means Plainfield will no longer be able to transport, but will still be the first to respond to emergency calls in town. It was noted there were no transports in the last year. The state has a de-licensing procedure which will be followed. The quality of care by Plainfield EMT’s will not change.

There is a plan in place for Swift River which is working well.

Assistant Chief Duane Meehan has been asked by the Hampshire County Fire Defense Training Committee to be an instructor at the Basic 6 Fire Course Burn Building training in Sunderland. Duane’s extensive training includes Firefighter 1 and years of training while with the Hatfield FD.

Five Plainfield firefighters have signed up for the Basic 6 course for the next six Sundays in Charlemont.

MLP Update

MLP Manager Kimberly Longey discussed a draft for the FY’21 Broadband Enterprise Fund Budget with the Board. Following discussion of level funding the $6,000 salary line item and proposing $15,000 for the Extra/Unforeseen line item, Winton moved to support the proposed FY’21 Broadband Enterprise Fund Budget.

The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved.

WG&E is in the last four weeks of network construction. Police Detail is over budget. There are several residents waiting to be connected due to MLP and discussion with utility companies. Kimberly is also in contact with Bill Ennen who is negotiating pole fees with utilities. She would like to re-coup some of those fees.

Kimberly asked about going forward with scheduled information sessions for subscriber’s technical questions due to COVID 19 concerns. The consensus to proceed with the first session at this time.

Other Business

Howard met with engineers regarding the Culvert Study as a part of the MVP Action grant and plans to attend a meeting for the next round of MVP Grants hosted by Berkshire Community College.

Proposed changes to the By-Laws of the Town of Plainfield