

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, October 27, 2020

Howard Bronstein, Hilary Weeks, and Rebecca Coletta were present. Other attendees were Paula King, Chief David Alvord, Chief Justin Litchfield, Sgt. Matt Miazga, Gerry Connell, Peter Lapointe, David Kramer, Tim Walter, Lily Thompson, and Patrick Williamson. The meeting held via conference call, consistent with Governor Baker's temporary modifications to the Open Meeting Law, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and was not recorded. The minutes of October 13, 2020 were accepted as submitted, Howard, yes; Hilary, yes, Rebecca, yes.

Procurement

KP Law Attorney David Doneski's answers to procurement questions was discussed. Attorney Doneski also provided a standard contract which covers projects up to \$50,000. A contract for projects \$50,000 and over is available upon request. It was stated that sound "business practice" pursuant to Chapter 30B is for expenditures up to \$10,000 and contracts are used for independent contractors. Howard moved to adopt the procurement policy and the standard contract provided by KP Law for independent contractors. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved as follows: Howard, yes; Hilary, yes, Rebecca, yes.

Building Committee Chair Peter Lapointe joined the meeting later stating the contract provided by KP Law is a good example. He added FRCOG will provide advertising service for \$600 per contract. Paula suggested the fee be included in the funding for each project to which Peter agreed. Prevailing wage was discussed and decided the procurement officer would be the one to set up an account with the state with password given to those who need to access the information.

Road Sign Concerns

The Board addressed an email from Gerry Connell reiterating concerns about the legal posting of 25 mph speed limit signs on South Central Street where the distance between structures is does not meet statutory criteria and questioned whether a traffic study has been done. Gerry also expressed concerns about the future of Chapter 90 funding. Sgt. Matt Miazga's email of October 27,2020 referred to the Select Board vote to accept a town-wide speed limit of 25 mph, unless otherwise posted and MassDOT approval of the measure on

August 18, 2019 (MassDOT did not notify Plainfield of the acceptance.) Highway Superintendent Mert Taylor, Jr. Consulted MassDOT District 1 and was assured with the Select Board vote the town can post the signs and Chapter 90 funding is not at risk.

Gerry added Boston has no record of a survey or speed zone study. Sgt. Miazga noted Chapter 17C cites the authority over signs. Plainfield is on the list of acceptance. Gerry will continue his consultation with Boston.

Halloween

Due to COVID-19 routine Halloween events, parade, bonfire, costume contest, refreshments, and trick or treating will not take place this year. Instead the Recreation Committee, Board of Health, and Fire Department creatively planned a drive-by Halloween event on Saturday, October 31st. Plainfield residents are invited to bring their children via vehicle, no walk-ins, to the Public Safety Complex from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Firefighters will be waiting at the entrance in full PPE protective gear, including masks and gloves to free pre-created individual gift bags created by Recreation Committee members and firefighters, also in full protective gear. This event is for town residents only. A Blackboard announcement has gone out to residents and will be followed by a second announcement. Howard moved to designate October 31, 2020 as Halloween in Plainfield with activities to be held as described by Chief Alvord. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved as follows: Howard, yes; Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes. Mert, Jr. was complimented on his great job with the announcement.

Select Board Transition

Howard stepped down as chair and nominated Hilary Weeks as Select Board Chair. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved as follows: Howard, yes; Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes.

Police Department

Chief Justin Litchfield reported the department is being kept busy. Officers have been in court on active cases.

A 2014 Ford Interceptor has been donated to the Plainfield Police Department from the Town of Greenfield. The only cost to the Town was \$1,000 for the lights on the cruiser. Justin suggested a letter of thanks be sent to Greenfield. He noted the 2003 Ford Explorer is being used by the Highway Department.

The Hawley Select Board would like to meet with the Plainfield Board about sharing police departmental services and may have organizational information. Hilary asked if finances are being researched. Howard noted Eric Weiss at PVPC is working on regional public safety. Peter Lapointe will contact Eric in his role as

PVPC Commissioner.

Peter noted the Buildings Committee is working on funding for Police department renovations.

Fire Department

The Fire Department is experiencing an increase in call with the onset of cold weather. The volunteers are updating their required training and five EMTs are working on biannual refresher courses. Three officers are taking the Basic 6 training in Hadley. Both Chief Alvord and Ellen Dupont are continually being updated on COVID-19 protocols.

Other Business

Howard moved to pay KP Law invoice #127386 in the amount of \$18.83. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved as follows: Howard, yes; Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes.

IT Grant: Howard moved to sign the revised agreement with NOVUS. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved as follows: Howard, yes; Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes.

MVP Action Grant: The grant has been completed and the reimbursement request has been submitted.

Job Descriptions: Howard will finish this weekend; Hilary has completed her tasks; Rebecca will complete her task following the election.

A Pole Hearing for Verizon Petition #1A4F9HE was scheduled for November 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Members of the Board and Paula expressed appreciation to Howard for his work and support during his tenure on the Board over the past four years.

Correspondence

The Board received a memo from the owners of Pub 116 in regard to the extension of the outdoor license.

An ABCC advisory entitled “Indoor Table and Bar Service” was received.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m. Howard, yes; Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes.

Other mail was reviewed.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary