

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, November 10, 2020

Hilary Weeks, Rebecca Coletta, and Patrick Williamson were present. Also, in attendance were Paula King, Gina Papineau, Claude Dupont, Ron Weeks, Helene Tamarin, David Kramer, Bob Baker, Matt Stowell, Lily Thompson, Anne Irvine, and Katherine Irvine. 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 27, 2020 were accepted as amended, Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

7:00 p.m. Tax Classification Hearing

Assistant Assessor Gina Papineau stated the Board of Assessors recommends the Town adopt a single tax rate for FY'21. A split rate for Personal Property, Commercial, and Industrial was discussed. Gina stated Plainfield is not big enough for a split rate. Finance Committee Chair David Kramer stated an industrial rate would leave out small businesses and would reduce the residential rate. Assessors Chair Claude Dupont stated a split rate only redistributes the percentage of the tax burden without increasing revenues. If a split rate were to be approved statute allows for a small business exemption which must be accepted by town meeting. Gina noted all three classes would be affected by a split rate according to the Department of Revenue. Eversource is the only business classified as industrial and is the town's largest payer. Eversource has also increased the town's value significantly with improvements to their infrastructure. Claude added Eversource would pass the increase on to customers. David Kramer suggested the Finance Committee would be willing to research the matter for future years. Ron Weeks added the Assessors will research the 351 cities and towns to see which ones have a split rate. Paula King referenced the Zoning By-Law amendments of two years ago which were adopted to make Plainfield business friendly.

Hilary move to adopt a single tax rate for FY'21 per recommendation of the Board of Assessors. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved as follows: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

New Business

Patrick Williams was welcomed to the Select Board.

Plainfield has been awarded a Recycling Program grant of \$4,500 through the

Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. Hilary moved to accept the Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant funds and to sign the contract. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved as follows: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes. Hilary moved to pay KP Law invoice #128079 in the amount of \$37.00. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved as follows: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

IT Grant Update: NOVUS will be contacted concerning progress made on behalf of Plainfield. Patrick asked if meeting recording was a part of Microsoft Team or if additional software is required.

MLP Update: Rebecca reported MLP Manager Kimberly Longey is seeking to reconcile Broadband revenues with the treasurer.

Correspondence

A copy of the September 30, 2020 Highland Ambulance EMS Quarterly Report was received.

The Board received a copy of the Annual MassDEP 3rd Party Inspection of the transfer station. "The area around the entrance gate, perimeter fencing and adjacent to the Bulky C&D open top container is overgrown." Corrective action consisting of trimming weeds and brush has been taken.

MTRSD School Committee Chair Martha Thurber notified member towns that Business Manager Melissa Dunnet has resigned. TMSolution, Inc. has been retained to take over for Melissa.

An email update from David Newell, VEAC Clerk, regarding vocational transportation and COVID-19 was received.

ABCC issued advisories entitled "Happy Hour/Holiday Advisory/COVID-19" and "Advisory Regarding Mandatory Period for Licensees and Easing of Certain Renewal Requirements".

KP Law issued an eUpdate entitled "Governor Signs New Executive Orders Relative to COVID-19".

Miscellaneous mail was reviewed.

Hilary moved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. The motion, seconded by Patrick, was approved as follows: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary