

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, January 25, 2022

Hilary Weeks, Rebecca Coletta, and Patrick Williamson were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of January 11, 2022 were accepted as submitted.

Representative Natalie Blais and Chief Alvord, members of the Fire Department, and family were in attendance to honor Ed Morann for his 55+ years of service to the Town of Plainfield with a proclamation signed by the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Ed has worn “many hats” throughout his tenure on the fire department, police department, select board, and more.

### Police Department

According to Chief Litchfield the PPD has had a busy month. An application has been submitted for the “med grant”. In reference to an email regarding the incidents of December 18, 2021, Justin noted a state police officer responded to the call on Prospect Street. He said the highway department received the call, not the police department. Five hours are allotted for weekend coverage. Those hours are randomly scheduled. A copy of the police report has been received. The chief’s administrative assistant said other area towns have limited coverage. Rebecca asked if rescheduling of hours had been considered. The chief responded most calls are Monday through Friday between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Highway Superintendent Walter Jennings reported on the December 18<sup>th</sup> incident on Prospect Street near the Cummington line. Plainfield sander turns around and backs down Prospect to sand. The Plainfield driver stopped when he saw the lights of an approaching vehicle behind him. The vehicle then proceeded to backup sliding into the concrete town line post. A state police officer responded to the call, spoke to the operator of the vehicle. The officer also spoke to Walter Jennings, Highway Superintendent, who was also on the scene stating there was no need to file an accident report as there was no accident. There is no fault as the town employee was in the right and using proper procedures. Patrick asked if the driver of the car could have driven around the truck continuing up the hill. Walter responded the road width is not sufficient for a car to pass a plow truck during winter snow conditions.

## Plainfield Police Working Group

Discussion revolved around the draft community policing survey submitted by the PPWG. Howard Bronstein, Administrative Assistant to Chief Litchfield, questioned what the data from the survey would achieve referencing the opinions of other professionals who believe “controversial” data is not useful. Hilary, while agreeing with Howard on some level, also agrees that positive feedback would be helpful to the Select Board such as employee evaluations. Having taken the online test survey, Hilary would like to see revisions in questions 2, 9, 11, and 17. The validity of numbers and other information was discussed. Kimberly expects to have a summary of survey results by the 2<sup>nd</sup> March meeting. Hilary stated that if we move forward with the survey, the data is only to be used by the Select Board. Howard referenced the time and effort over the past several years. The Select Board recognized the necessary changes to the police department when they hired Justin as chief. Hilary pointed out the data would be a useful tool for the Select Board. Patrick noted that the department’s outreach should be reflected in the survey response. He added the community response should be helpful to both the Board and the Police Department. A good response to surveys is 10-15%. Hilary requested edits prior to the next meeting. Kimberly asked that suggested edits by the Board and the Police Department be submitted to her by Sunday.

## Other Business

Hilary moved to loan the Freeman Hamelin painting to Matt Marrotte per recommendation of the Historical Commission with the condition the painting is to be returned to the Historical Society should he move. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved.

The “Buy Recycled” memo was approved and will be forwarded to HRMC.

FY’23 Budget forms were received.

IT Grant: The grant has been completed and closing requirements will be processed.

MLP: The FY’23 Enterprise Fund budget will be available for the next meeting.

Indirect costs for the fund were discussed.

Hilary reported the Building Commissioner has checked out the yurt on West Hill Road located in the Eversource easement beneath the power lines. He pointed out the issues where the premises is not in compliance and will issue a cease and desist.

The first check for the 27 Broom Street HCA has been received.

The internet outage of January 20<sup>th</sup> affected all town buildings. According to WGE, the crash late Thursday/early Friday was area wide for those using Sonic Wall. While Paula was on the telephone with WGE, Brian Hawthorne was working

with NOVUS to resolve the issue.

#### Correspondence

The Board received the December Police Log and the monthly ACO report. Plainfield meets the requirements of a single precinct and has been approved as such by the Local Election Districts Review Commission.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary