

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, February 8, 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 25, 2022 were accepted as submitted.

### Plainfield Police Working Group

Revisions to the Community Policing Survey were discussed. Rebecca stated she was satisfied with the revisions; Patrick added his concerns were addressed. Hilary is OK with the wording in the revised version, but noted the wording in question eleven isn't consistent with the on-line version and that question twelve was not included. She asked if the paragraph headings for each section could be in bold type. Rebecca asked how many officers are used weekend coverage or if there is just one. There is more than one.

Hilary moved to proceed with the Community Policing Survey as revised. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved.

### Buildings Committee

The draft contract template modeled after the recommended procurement policy received from KP Law and approved by the Select Board in 2020 for municipal projects was discussed. Hilary agreed to edit typographical errors in the document and will contact Attorney Doneski about automobile liability coverages as outlined. She feels the limits, as written, would eliminate smaller contractors.

Buildings Committee Chair, Peter Lapointe inquired about hiring a handyman as an independent contractor or a town employee. The position would be on an hourly, on call basis for approximately 40-50 hours annually for small tasks and to routinely check buildings. Peter asked what other costs might be associated with hiring a town employee, the answer being the town's Medicare contribution.

Workers' Compensation was also discussed.

Hilary moved to authorize the Buildings Committee to hire a handyman as a town employee. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved.

### Other Business

The protocol for submitting budgets was discussed. Budget requests are submitted to the accountant and forwarded to the Finance Committee. The Finance

Committee has invited the Select Board to attend their zoom meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Paula will reach out to Bob Baker asking the meeting be posted as a joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Select Board to comply with the Open Meeting Law as there will be a quorum of both groups.

Building Commissioner: Rebecca reported contractors are frustrated with the Building Commissioner due to his not being at his office hours, permits not being processed in a timely manner, etc. A reporting form was discussed. Ben Gillett added he applied for a permit last February which he has not received. Hilary suggested asking Gerry to attend a Select Board meeting. Previously, Peter Lapointe indicated he was willing to take the exam for a Local Inspector, but is not always in town.

Municipal Hearing Officer: Rebecca expressed concerns of appointing the administrative assistant to the police chief as the Municipal Hearing Officer, adding the position should be posted. Howard Bronstein stated most fines are associated with illegal burning. He noted the hearing officer classes may be available in April or May. Tickets for violations have three options: pay the fine, a local hearing, or a district court hearing. The position is an annual appointment by the Select Board. Patrick referenced the possibility of shared services with one or more towns.

Ben Gillett and Claude Dupont approached the Board with concerns about the use of salt on town roads and its impact on the environment. Ben feels snow cover on public ways is OK. The state has a “black road” policy, noting that Rte. 116 should be clear, but it is not necessary on secondary roads. He did speak with the Highway Superintendent about his concerns. Patrick added the impact of salt on roadside trees. Hilary said there is a process for a place on the agenda in order to have a constructive conversation with everyone concerned at a meeting. She will look at the next agenda’s schedule.

Town Counsel has been authorized to grant the Attorney General’s request for a 45-day extension to review the speed regulation bylaw voted under Article 11 of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

#### Correspondence

Notification of the Governor’s signing of H3859, An Act changing the board of selectmen of the Town of Plainfield to select board was received from Rep. Natalie Blais.

The Board received another application for Smith Agricultural and Vocational School.

Information on the PVPC TIP program and meeting dates was received.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

A motion to adjourn was entertained and approved at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary