

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, March 8, 2022

Hilary Weeks, Rebecca Coletta, and Patrick Williamson were in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of February 22, 2022 were accepted as submitted.

Class II License

Hilary moved to approve the Class II License to sell used cars for Kyle Amberman d/b/a AP Automotive Sales and Service, 47 Jones Avenue with the provision that up to 7 (seven) vehicles for sale and no more than 15 (fifteen) “donor” cars are stored on the premises at one time. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved. (A Class II License for 47 Jones Avenue was previously held by James Pugliese.)

West Hill Road Beaver Remediation

Thelma Pilgrim addressed the meeting detailing the chronology of steps taken to secure the \$4,800 grant for the installation of devices on her property to keep waters flowing freely through the beaver dam so as to prevent another washout on West Hill Road. Grant terms require a contribution from the landowner. There was a misunderstanding of the landowner contribution with Thelma believing the contribution would be ½ of the \$2,000. The contract application was also discussed. Thelma added she was not aware of the discussion of the grant at the December 7, 2021 meeting. Ed Morann asked whether this would set a precedent in other situations where beaver dams are an issue. Kimberly Longey suggested a written pledge of funds from landowners in future situations. Thelma is willing to contribute the full amount. She did ask to be notified in advance when her property is to be accessed.

Building Commissioner

Due to a prior commitment Building Commissioner, Gerald Garner was unable to attend the meeting.

Hilary moved to accept Gerald Garner’s resignation as Building Commissioner as of March 1, 2022 with appreciation and regret. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved. Brian Hawthorne suggested FRCOG Building Inspection Program; Gerry Connell doesn’t think FRCOG is qualified; Peter

Lapointe's said his experience with FRCOG has been positive. Hilary will contact the state building inspector in regard to the situation and referenced the loss of permit fees with FRCOG. Peter stated his willingness to serve as Interim Local Inspector.

Community Policing Survey

The results of the Community Policing Survey (177 responses 30%) and summarized data were submitted to the Board in draft form. Patrick was delighted with the response, but not surprised at the range noting most of the respondents had no direct experience with the department. Kimberly read the executive summary aloud. Hilary was also pleased with the results and positive feedback finding negative comments due to lack of interest. Discussion about social media such as Facebook followed realizing the need to reach out to younger residents. Rebecca addressed the responsibility to get the survey results out to residents.

In response to the need for weekend coverage, Chief Litchfield reiterated the lack of funding. The five hours allotted for weekends are randomly scheduled on Saturdays. He stated the Monday through Friday schedule from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. is data driven. When asked about the volume of calls, Justin replied he has the information. He also added the computerized system set up by Chief Perkins, Cummington, has been down since September. Chief Litchfield has been working with the Western Mass. Chiefs of Police Assoc. concerning POST regulations and state mandates. "On call" response on weekends if there is a low volume of calls during the week was suggested. Howard Bronstein spoke to the amount of work involved with the transition from Chief Hudson to Chief Litchfield. He also added the "ad hoc" group was a self-motivated group. Howard suggested edits to the 84-page survey response document. Pleun Bouricius asked when the document will be published on the Town website. Hilary, while not comfortable with an 84-page document, agreed it should be edited. Gerry Connell suggested a per diem publication company. T O'Sullivan called it censorship. Sandy Morann said 84 pages is a waste of time; it should be condensed. Rebecca replied people can read what they want; the survey should be transparent. Patrick noted the expectation of privacy for respondents. Kimberly believes the results to be useful for the moment and moving forward. Hilary agreed to get Howard's and Justin's comments to Kimberly prior to the Plainfield Post deadline of March 15th. Justin acknowledged Kimberly's hard work on the survey.

Appointment

Hilary moved to appoint Kathryn Jensen to the Buildings Committee for three years. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved.

Other Business

Hilary moved to declare the 1988 Dodge pick-up truck (vin: 1B7GR14X8J5778716) and the 1998 Ford Crown Victoria (vin: 2FAFP71WHWX1307072) as junk for disposal. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved.

MLP: Hilary moved to approve up to \$51,000 in additional ARPA funds for broadband capital expenses per request of MLP Manager Kimberly Longey. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved.

Having had no response from KP Law, Hilary reached out to an insurance company regarding the auto liability coverage requirement as written in the Vendor Contract template. She is comfortable leaving the document as is.

Correspondence

The ACO February report was received.

Plainfield's FY23 Chapter 90 apportionment is \$189,614.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary