

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, May 10, 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 April 28, 2022 were accepted as submitted; Rebecca asked to have the report of the Plainfield Police Working Group included on the Town website.

Highway Department

MassDOT has announced statewide funding for the Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) for improvements to transportation networks in response to this past winter's harsh weather. Plainfield's apportionment is \$158,215.74. Highway Superintendent Walter Jennings plans to pave the section of Jones Avenue from Rte. 116 and Pleasant Street with a shim coat and pave South Street to the Cummington line.

Plainfield has also received ARPA funding of \$11,910 for infrastructure. A key fob system for the gasoline/diesel fuel pumps will be purchased. This system will allow for automated tracking of fuel usage for the highway, police, and fire departments.

Walter reported the loss of 40 gallons of diesel fuel from one of the trucks this past week.

Painting of the yellow lines will take place overnight on May 17th.

MassDOT has inspected the River Road/Mill River Bridge determining the maximum load which the bridge may safely carry. The bridge is to be posted for 13 tons (2 axles), 17 tons (3 axles), 25 tons (5 axles) within 30 days of the May 5, 2022 letter. Weight limit signs will be ordered. The Highway Department will remove gravel from the bridge deck.

The lawn mower approved at the May 7, 2022 town meeting has been ordered. A loaner will be provided by Bacon's Equipment until the mower is received.

Board of Health

Board of Health Chair Ellen Dupont addressed the Board on the status of the proposed disposal agreement with Republic Services for May 31, 2022 through June 30, 2025. Hilary moved to sign the new MSW Disposal Agreement pending its approval by Republic Services. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved.

Energy Committee

Conrad Liebenow, Energy Committee, reported on the status of the Green Community Grant with projects completed to date and those to be completed. Agreements with Energy Resources for heat pumps and insulation for the Hallock Building and the Town Hall were discussed. The installation of heat pumps at the Hallock Building are anticipated to save 12 ½ % in heating costs. Hilary move to approve the use of Green Community funding for the Hallock Building heating system and insulation. The motion, seconded by Patrick, was unanimously approved. The agreements with Energy Resources were signed. Hilary moved to approve the use of Green Community funding for the Town Hall upgrades pending approval from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The motion, seconded by Patrick, was unanimously approved. The agreements with Energy Resources for the Town Hall will be signed once approval for the use of funds is received from Green Communities.

Other Business

Hilary moved to pay KP Law invoice #136529 in the amount of \$97.50. The motion was seconded by Rebecca and was unanimously approved.

Jerry Little, representing an ad hoc group established under the Plainfield COA, asked the Board to review and subsequently approve a brochure detailing 10 walking trails in Plainfield to be funded by a Mass in Motion Grant received by the Collaborative for Educational Services. This program will be placed on the May 24th agenda.

Chris Stockman expressed her concerns with the lack of information prior to the May 7th town meeting. She also urged support of Zoom meeting legislation as many people are still hesitant to attend in-person meetings due to the rise in COVID cases. Hilary stated the Board held one hybrid meeting at the end of March, but has not continued hybrid meetings due to lack of coordination. The Town does not have the technology or volunteers. Rebecca, having participated in the hybrid meeting, added hearing was difficult. Chris indicated her willingness to help. Chris stated that following the vote on the Police Salaries budget at town meeting she was disturbed by an intimidating comment from behind her. She also noticed everyone did not vote and asked about a paper ballot for controversial issues. Rebecca said a lot of information is available on the Town's website. It was also noted the Finance Committee held an informational meeting on the budget and the Conservation Commission and MLP manager held informational public meetings on proposed town bylaws prior to Town Meeting. All meeting notices and agendas were properly posted. It was noted we all have to take responsibility for ourselves.

There were questions about the debt exclusion ballot questions. In the future an explanation of ballot questions will be provided.

Correspondence

The April Animal Control officer's report was received.

An email from Phoebe Westwood concerning West Street was received.

Miscellaneous mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King

Administrative Secretary