

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, November 29, 2022

Patrick Williamson, Hilary Weeks, and Ben Gillett were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of November 8<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup> were accepted as submitted.

### Tax Classification Hearing/Assessors

Assistant Assessor Gina Papineau presented the Board of Assessors recommendation of a single tax rate for FY23. If approved, the tax rate will be \$20.72 per \$1,000 of valuation. Questions regarding the budget voted at the annual town meeting and the valuation process were discussed. Patrick entertained a motion to adopt a single tax rate for FY23 per recommendation of the Board of Assessors. The motion, moved by Hilary and seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

Point Software, used by both the Assessors and the Tax Collector, was purchased by Quality Data Service (QDS). By agreeing to the transition before December 31, 2022 a minimal upgrade fee will apply. The FY24 Collector fee is \$6,300; Assessors fee is \$1,600. The \$1,100 fee for cloud hosting will be shared by the collector and assessors. Patrick entertained a motion to sign the QDS agreement. The motion, moved by Hilary and seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

### Fire Chief

David Alvord reported on the November 9<sup>th</sup> mutual aid fire call from Ashfield and Plainfield's response with the brush truck and two firefighters. Highway Superintendent Walter Jennings responded and was seriously injured when a burning tree fell the wrong way while being cut. Members of the Highway Department have responded to emergency calls during the day when needed as most firefighters have out-of-town jobs. MIIA, Plainfield's insurance provider, has denied the workers' comp claim for Walter, as he is not on the firefighter roster and he was being paid as a Highway Department at the time of the accident. (Walter has experience as a firefighter.) The Board is awaiting the decision on the claim filed with VFIS. Chief Alvord brought up questions that need to be resolved in regard to who can respond to future emergencies and whether there will be enough firefighters/EMS to respond. The Board plans to seek clarification for

police and firefighter/EMS coverage, review/amend job descriptions. Training was discussed.

The Plainfield Volunteer Firefighters Association has set up a fund through Florence Savings Bank in Williamsburg where donations can be made to assist Walter and his family.

#### Highway Department

Superintendent Walter Jennings has been in contact and working with Duane Meehan daily throughout his recovery. A Highway Department employee submitted his two-week notice this morning. Superintendent Jennings will begin the process of hiring a replacement.

#### Bow Street

The Board is proceeding with enforcement. The process will not be short. There has been a response, but no indication of compliance. Discussion on the matter will be postponed until it can be discussed in public.

#### Other Business

Discussion on the Police Staffing Plan was postponed.

The Department of Energy Resources has approved two additional projects for the use of Green Communities Funds: \$12,772.85 to insulate the Police Station and \$10,828.95 for the installation of a split system heat pump. Hilary moved to sign the agreements with Advanced Energy Group for the Police Station insulation and for a mini split system with heat pump for the Highway Garage. The motion, seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

Hilary moved to sign the Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) contract in the amount of \$5,950. The motion, seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

Hilary moved to pay KP Law invoice #139579 in the amount of \$392.80. The motion, seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

The Board received an application for Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School for the fall of 2023.

#### Correspondence

David Alvord, Interim EMD, emailed the Board of his intent to purchase multiple clip on Single Gas Monitors for Plainfield public safety (15 Fire/EMS, 2 Police, 2 Highway) with a 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant. He has been working with MEMA's Chris Marsden.

Representative Lindsay Sabadosa sent congratulations on the RDP grant award.

An email from Kurt Thibault stated Wolf Tree Farm ceased using noise deterrents in early August.

The Board received an email from Chris Roos concerning trespassing at 27 Broom Street.

Notification was received from Tighe & Bond of the submittal of their Release Notification Form and Permanent Solution with No Conditions Statement for the hydraulic oil release 138 East Main Street to MassDEP.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary