

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, January 10, 2023

Patrick Williamson, Hilary Weeks, and Ben Gillett were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The minutes of December 13, 2022 were accepted as submitted.

The Board welcomed Representative Lindsay Sabadosa to Plainfield. Rep. Sabadosa opened the forum seeking to ascertain any concerns Plainfield might have that she may be able to address. Patrick listed several concerns: Vocational transportation reimbursement, firefighter's insurance coverage, the additional tax levied on ambulance services, the costs of Town employees. Though 100% vocational transportation reimbursement was promised by the state, local revenues have been minimal; The ambulance tax legislation was intended for non-public services to offset the minimal medicaid reimbursement - both Highland and Hilltown ambulance services, though municipally funded fall into that category. Legislation to remedy the problem has been written and will be filed. Grant funded positions for employees are short term. Sgt. Gibbs (PPD) noted that state legislation has destroyed small town police departments. Judy Cole added new legislation imposed by the state erodes the town's ability to provide services. She asked about the possibility of categorizing towns by size. Representative Sabadosa was elected in 2018 and has served on committees for transportation, bonding, etc. in addition to filing healthcare legislation. She has also been involved with rural initiative and the rural council and caucus.

Police Department

Weekend police coverage has been addressed by the institution of 4day on/2-day off schedule for the sergeant. Sgt. Gibbs noted the lack of back-up when requested as surrounding towns do not have coverage and the state police are overextended. He expressed the danger of responding to calls and stopping vehicles alone. Most traffic stops are not Plainfield residents. Valerie Podolak also expressed safety concerns with the limited number of officers.

Resignation

The Board accepted Brian Hawthorne's resignation from the Planning Board, Master Street Address Guide Committee, and any other positions he has been

appointed to with regret and appreciation.

Whiting Street Fund

Patrick entertained a motion to terminate the Whiting Street Fund by transferring the \$1,515.22 to the Plainfield Mutual Support Network. The motion, moved by Hilary and seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

Other Business

MIIA explained the newly created Unemployment Services program as another level of professional service to ensure the legitimacy of unemployment claims. The chair entertained a motion to pay KP Law invoice #140064 in the amount of \$288.78. The motion, moved by Hilary and seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

Patrick entertained motion requesting the Town Clerk to place a referendum question on the Annual Town Meeting Ballot seeking to exclude the bond issued for the highway pick-up truck approved at the May 1, 2022 ATM from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½. The motion, moved by Hilary and seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

Patrick entertained a motion to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to the submission of articles on March 21, 2023. The motion, moved by Hilary and seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

The chair signed the FRCOG Collective Highway Bid Participation form designating Highway Superintendent Walter Jennings as signatory.

Per request of HRMC the Board signed the Buy Recycled Product Purchasing Policy.

Action on the FY24 Budget Forms and the Animal Control Officer designation form for MDAR was postponed until January 24th.

Correspondence

Police Chief Justin Litchfield has appointed Justin Towle as Patrol Officer.

The November Police Log was received.

Two vocational school applications were received.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King, Administrative Secretary