

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, February 28, 2023

Patrick Williamson, Hilary Weeks, and Ben Gillett were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The minutes of February 14, 2023 were accepted as submitted.

PFD Chief David Alvord

Chief Alvord recognized Patrick for his work with the Town's insurance companies following the accident of November 9, 2022 in which Walter Jennings was injured. According to VFIS, injuries at fires, including mutual aid calls, are covered as long as the injured party is on the fire department roster. For many years Highway Department employees have provided essential response with trucks and assistance during working hours as most firefighters are employed out-of-town. Making it a job requirement was discussed. Hilary noted it is in the job description and expressed her concerns about required training for those on the fire department roster. David answered that CPR and First Responder training is required.

Ben feels someone should remain at the garage during mutual aid calls.

Patrick noted the following concerns: VFIS denied the claim on the basis that Highway Department employees are covered by the Town's insurance (MIIA) during working hours under Workers' Compensation. Injuries are covered under personal health insurance. David added that our coverage is not sufficient while realizing the additional costs of increased coverages. Workers' Compensation at \$600 per week is not adequate.

Mutual Aid is in use and is a necessity in the Hilltowns.

Meetings with Senator Paul Mark and Representative Lindsay Sabodosa are planned. Patrick encouraged David to contact them both.

Hilary referenced the difficulty filling positions locally. She expressed concerns about making responding to fire calls a condition of employment.

Judy Cole suggested inquiring about a rider to the policy.

Chief Alvord added he feels he can only ask firefighters on the Highway Department to respond.

Discussion ended with Howard Bronstein stating the need for rural recognition.

PPD Chief Justin Litchfield

According to Chief Litchfield, there were 145 police calls in January.

Justin informed the Board the cost of mandatory POST training for three police officers is \$18,000 which is not covered in his salary budget. Officers must be paid for the 200 hours of mandatory training. POST training is an eligible American Recovery Plan Act expense. Two officers have begun the training process. Judy Cole inquired about the number of officers to which the Chief responded, two full time and four per diem. Some have completed the training with the costs borne by their full-time employers. The POST “bridge” program was created for police officers who have already been through the Police Academy and will eventually be replaced by a new Police Academy program.

Justin was asked to get in touch with One Plainfield in order to be placed on the list for undistributed ARPA funds. He will follow up with Dalila Almquist. Patrick issued the reminder the final decision for the use of remaining ARPA funds lies with the Select Board.

Other Business

MLP Manager Lucas Suarez-Orozco and Whip City Fiber representatives were unable to attend due to the storm, but will attend the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss a ten-year contract with Whip City Fiber. In an email, Lucas asked board members to send him any questions in regard to the proposed contract.

The Special Town Meeting warrant was signed.

According to Jerry Little AEDs are now required in public buildings. Jerry was asked to contact Board of Health Chair Ellen Dupont so One Plainfield can add this request to the ARPA funding list.

The chair entertained a motion to pay KP Law invoice #140900 in the amount of \$1,953.65. The motion, moved by Hilary and seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

The Hawley Select Board voted to have both Franklin Tech and Smith Vocational as their preferred schools at their meeting of February 14, 2023. The Vocational Education Advisory Committee has indicated doing so will not adversely affect transportation costs. Following discussion, the chair entertained a motion to have both Smith Vocational and Franklin Tech as Plainfield’s preferred schools. The motion, moved by Hilary and seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

Correspondence

An email from Kimberly Longey stated the Town website is lacking in board and committee postings. Members of two committees in attendance acknowledged the reminder.

KP Law issued an eUpdate entitled “Codification of Requirements for Disposition

or Alternative Use of Property and Interests Subject to Article 97".

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary