

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, June 27, 2023

Patrick Williamson, Hilary Weeks, and Ben Gillett were present. The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of June 13, 2023 were accepted as submitted.

Highway Department & Emergency Management

Walter Jennings notified the Board of a logging project on between West Hill with logs to be loaded from River Road. Logging trucks will be using South Union Street due to the posted weight limit for the River Road bridge. Message boards and cones will be set up to notify drivers that trucks will be accessing Rte. 116 at the South Union Street/Rte. 116 intersection. Walter will meet with the logging company and forester on June 29th. The lower end of River Road to Cummington is not an option.

A 1990 utility truck has been acquired through the military surplus program. The truck is being outfitted with a generator (purchased with Emergency Management funds), cones, medical kits. etc. and will be ready to be dispatched if needed.

Fire Truck Contract

The Board reviewed the contract for the new fire truck approved at the May 6, 2023 annual town meeting. Patrick noted the document listed the Fire Department as owner instead of the Town of Plainfield. The company representative, reached by phone, sanctioned a hand-written change in the agreement with an updated version to follow. The chair entertained a motion to sign the agreement with the noted change. The motion, moved by Hilary and seconded by Ben, was approved.

Firefighter/Police Insurance

Two concerns in regard to coverage expressed by Chief Alvord are: MIA does not cover anyone over 70 while VFIS covers anyone as long as they are on the roster. Secondly, the weekly \$600 benefit and the \$150,000 medical limits are not sufficient. Cummington has increased coverage to \$900 and \$500,000 respectively. Chief Alvord would like to do the same. After discussion, the chair entertained a motion to approve coverage with VFIS if the cost of the proposed increases is not substantial. The motion, moved by Hilary and seconded by Ben, was unanimously

approved.

FY23 Year End Transfers

The Board agreed to approve the accountant's request for FY23 transfers pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44:33B. The transfers were approved by the Finance Committee on June 26, 2023.

Other Business

In reference to the FY24 Managed Technology Services proposal from Novus Insight, Inc. discussion centered around IT services. The Novus agreement of \$286.00 per month supports the Wide Area Network patching and maintaining the firewall, switches, and wireless access points, etc. Additional technology support is available on a time and materials basis. Judy Cole asked about combining IT with Broadband and brought up IT issues from office personnel. The Board agreed to sign with Novus and asked Judy to look into other IT providers.

A letter from the Board in support of the Council on Aging's transportation grant application was signed.

The chair entertained a motion to pay KP Law invoices through June 15, 2023 in the amounts of \$595.00 (#142865) and \$1,092.50 (#143016). The motion, moved by Hilary and seconded by Ben, was approved by Ben and Hilary with Patrick voting no.

Donald Shelton is interested in being appointed to the Planning Board. The Board approved a provisional appointment pending a letter of interest from Donald with Judy Cole's appointment as alternate. Appointments will be made in July.

Correspondence

Notice of the Bridge Academy Training Reimbursement Program was received. Chief Litchfield stated reimbursement requests become eligible after the 2,400 hours of training have been completed. Two officers have completed the training. Two officers were interviewed for the sergeant's position. Dan Thibault will start in July.

One Plainfield has requested to meet with the Board on the July 11th. Dalila Almquist stated the polling process for the Town's ARPA funds is complete and is excited about sharing more about the results and proposals with the Board.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary