

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, September 26, 2023

Ben Gillett, Hilary Weeks, and Judy Cole were in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of September 12, 2023 were accepted as submitted.

Highway Superintendent

Walter Jennings reported on the success of the Highway Internship Program adding that Hunter Menard has been hired as a full-time employee.

The grant for resurfacing Rte. 116 and Rte. 8A initially approved at \$1.6 million may increase before the four-week project is complete. Construction signs have been placed at all intersections indicating double fines during construction.

Pavement milling is scheduled to begin October 11th and is expected to last four days. There are ninety-nine structures to be raised with polymer base layer of pavement to follow. Plans are for 3" of pavement to be removed during the milling process with 2" inches of blacktop to be applied. In the vicinity of Shearer's property 3" inches of milling is planned to start with another 2" to follow. Test pits will determine whether or not the sub-base is sufficient in that area. Double yellow lines will be applied with white fog lines; Fog lines will not be applied in the center of town due to insufficient road width.

Parts for the boom mower will not be available until February 2024.

Fire Chief

The need for a Municipal Hearing Officer was raised by Chief David Alvord. As a strong chief he is authorized to issued fines for illegal burning, etc. A trained Municipal Hearing Officer would be able to enforce or mediate contested local fines issued by the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and the Animal Control Officer.

Training is mandatory and is available online. Notification of the position will be published in the Plainfield Post. A list of other vacancies will be compiled and published, as well.

ARPA Funds

Judy Ferber's email on behalf of the Friends of Plainfield Pond requesting the allocation of \$12,500 of ARPA funds was put on hold as Judy was unable to attend the meeting. It was noted the Town owns the beach while the State has jurisdiction

over the water.

Other Business

Judy Cole reported on the pre-screening of two applicants for the Executive Assistant position. Two other applicants declined due to finding another job or a change in situation. Hilary is not in favor of working remotely for the first year as the position was advertised as hourly and not salaried. October 3, 4, and 5 were discussed for interviews beginning at 9:00 a.m. contingent on the applicants' availability.

There is a UMASS graduate program for students interested in internships in learning public policy. A Federal grant for which we would have to qualify would fund 75% of a student intern sponsored by their graduate program and the town would need to pay 25% of the stipend or hourly rate. This program may be a viable way to get grant writing support.

An All Boards Meeting date was selected for October 23rd dependent on the availability of the Public Safety Building. Boards and committees will be asked to provide a 2-3-year outlook, how they envision the future of the Town and how to plan for the future. (The All Boards Meeting may be discussed on October 3rd, 4th, or 5th.)

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

A motion to adjourn was approved at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King