

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting April 23rd, 2024

Ben Gillett and Judy Cole were in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of March 12th, 2024 were accepted as submitted after an edit was made and April 9th, 2024 were accepted as submitted.

Select Board to sign Annual Town Meeting Warrant: Ben Gillett and Judy Cole signed the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The meeting will be held on Saturday, May 4th, 2024 at the Public Safety Complex.

Finance Committee, Bob Baker: Bob presented the FY'25 Budget to the Select Board for approval. He also shared a document showing FY'25 budget changes from the original request, an Expense Summary that showed the percentage increases by line item, and a document showing Plainfield's Town Assessments. Bob mentioned one change to the budget that might be made depending on the salary that is being negotiated with the potential new Highway Supervisor, which would change the Highway Department budget. Judy Cole moved that the Board vote to approve the FY'25 budget as presented with the caveat that the Highway Department Budget might change and she seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the FY' 25 Budget with that caveat unanimously.

Buildings Committee: Peter Lapointe and Peg Keller

- Energy Committee Competitive Grant: Peter requested a formal vote to authorize the Board Chair to sign the Energy Committee Competitive Grant application upon completion. The application will be submitted by the grant deadline of May 10th, 2024, but is still being drafted. The grant would help cover the cost of replacing the heating system at Town Hall with a Geothermal System that would eliminate the use of oil to heat Town Hall. Judy Cole moved that the Board vote to authorize the Board Chair to sign the Energy Committee Competitive Grant application upon completion and she seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve unanimously.

- Request for a formal vote to create an Ad Hoc Master Plan Steering Committee and Update on the Committee: Peg Keller gave an update on the Ad Hoc Master Plan Steering Committee, which consists of Peg Keller, Peter Lapointe, Anna Hanchett, Delilah Madison, and Jack Nelson. They are currently gathering information from already existing documents as well as community members and this information will be posted on the Town Website once the information is

complete. They are ad hoc and are not bound to open meeting laws but require a formal vote from the board to create an Ad Hoc Master Plan Steering Committee. Judy Cole moved to vote to approve creating the committee and seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve.

Hilltown CDC: Ben Gillett signed the two Community Development Block Grant lien releases for two houses in Plainfield for the Hilltown CDC.

Miscellaneous Mail and Meeting Notices:

-Resignation Letter from Susan Pearson, Council on Aging. Judy Cole moved that the Board accept Susan's resignation letter with deep regret and appreciation and she seconded the motion. The board voted to accept the resignation letter unanimously.

-Resignation Letter from Alice Schertle, Conservation Commission. Judy Cole moved that the Board accept Alice's resignation letter with deep regret and appreciation and she seconded the motion. The board voted to accept the resignation letter unanimously.

-MTRSD Letter of Recertification of FY'25 Operating Budget

-Cultural Council Grant Application: Ben Gillett signed the application.

-David Alvord: Fire Chief: A Crabapple Tree has been donated in memory of Brittany Martin who passed away this winter at the age of 39 in Shelburne Falls. She was the youngest of three siblings in the Martin family. The tree will be planted near the gazebo and has already been approved by the Tree Warden. Judy Cole moved that the Board vote to approve the planting of the tree in Memory of Brittany and she seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve.

Bob Baker: Offered a thank you and a goodbye to neighbor, friend, and co-committee member, Robert Persing, who passed away over the weekend. He will be remembered by many as a teller of a good joke and will be missed.

Warrants were signed. A motion to adjourn was approved at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Dry