

APPROVED

Plainfield Select Board Meeting

Municipal Building

Monday, August 13, 2012

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7:04 PM        Called to order – Select Board Attendance: Dave Strong, Chair, Bram Towbin, Alice Merrill. Others present: Mary Lane, Faith Brown, Sargent Major Lou Lertola and Minutes Recorder Mary Fleming

### **Hearing on the Proposed VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grant Application**

Selectperson Strong called the hearing on the proposed VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program application to order. Selectperson Merrill announced that the purpose of the hearing is to seek public input on an application the select board is preparing for submission to VTrans for a grant to fund a planning study for a sidewalk that would go from the east side of the Winooski River along the south side of Main Street the along the south side of Route 2 as far as the post office. The application is due on August 24<sup>th</sup>. The grant would fund 90% of the cost and the town would need to fund 10% of the project cost or approximately \$1200.

Since there was no member of the public present who wished to speak about the application, Selectperson Strong tabled the hearing until later on in the meeting so that the select board could hear from several invited guests.

### **7:05 PM        Veteran's Tax Exemption – Sgt. Major Lou Lertola**

Sgt. Major Lertola introduced himself and said he was campaigning statewide on behalf of Vermont veterans to get towns to adopt the maximum allowable property tax exemption for veterans.

Denise Boucher entered and asked if she could speak on the town's proposed sidewalk study application. Chairperson Strong informed her that the hearing had been tabled until later in the meeting and that she would have an opportunity to speak then.

7:06 PM        Heidi Wilson entered

Sgt. Major Lertola submitted research about the impact of veterans' tax exemptions in Plainfield to the board. Currently, there are seven veterans who take advantage of this program. He requested that the value of the property of disabled veterans in Plainfield that would be exempt from taxes be increased from \$20,000 to the maximum of \$40,000. Selectperson Strong reviewed the actions that had been taken at previous town meetings on this issue. He also said that Mr. Lertola's request would be given consideration when the Select Board decides what items should be included in the warning for next year's annual town meeting. Mr. Lertola said he would email the language for a draft resolution to be considered by the Select Board.

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7:16 PM Faith Brown exited

7:20 PM Clerk Linda Wells and Steve Howard entered

### **Creamery Street Block Party – Heidi Wilson**

Heidi Wilson introduced herself as a resident of Creamery Street who has requested permission to hold a block party on Creamery Street on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Selectperson Strong stated that he had shared an email from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns with Ms. Wilson which said there would need to be insurance in place for the block party.

Clerk Wells stated that in order to buy insurance for a one day event, the group would need to be an organization.

Selectperson Strong inquired about the details around the town expanding the town's liability coverage to cover the block party.

Clerk Wells stated she didn't recommend the town sponsor an event they aren't involved in. She went on to suggest the party be held in several joined yards and Heidi agreed.

### **Town Clerk's Report**

7:35 PM Clerk Wells submitted an amendment from the state for funding for flooding from Hurricane Irene for Selectperson Strong to sign.

Clerk Wells stated she had received a request from Carl Powden, of the Vermont Land Trust, for \$15,000.00 from the town conservation fund. She further stated this request will need to go to the Conservation Committee for consideration

She informed the board that the town is required to have an outside audit performed. This is due to the town having received over \$500,000.00 of federal grant funding in a fiscal year.

The approval of July 23<sup>rd</sup>'s minutes were tabled.

7:46 PM Heidi Wilson exited

### **PACE Program – Steve Howard, Efficiency Vermont**

7:50 PM Steve Howard, Account Manager, for Efficiency Vermont introduced himself, stating he had requested time to meet with the board as part of an overall outreach to the town.

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7:55 PM Mary Lane, Commissioner of the Water/Waste Water Commission, entered

Steve Howard went over points of efficiency lighting needs the town may possibly have. The board referred him to various point people connected with different areas of efficiency in town.

8:02 PM Steve Howard exited

Selectperson Strong reconvened the public hearing on the proposed Bike and Pedestrian Grant for a feasibility study on sidewalks and gave Denise Boucher a brief review of what it involved. Ms. Boucher stated that she has been concerned about the dangers of crossing Route 2 near the blinking light ever since a car she was driving accidentally struck a pedestrian attempting to cross at that location several years ago. She will write a letter of support for the grant.

8:10 PM Denise Boucher exited. Selectperson Strong closed the hearing on the Bike and Pedestrian grant.

#### **Water and Wastewater Commission Personnel Issue – Mary Lane**

8:20 PM Selectperson Strong stated that the Water and Wastewater Commission has requested that the Select Board approve a raise for one of its employees. Ms. Lane explained that the Water and Wastewater Commission had neglected to include the employee's raise in their warned budget which was approved at Town Meeting last March. After discussion, Ms. Lane agreed to contact the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to determine if the Select Board has legal authority over matters involving the Water and Wastewater Commission's budget and operations.

8:25 PM Mary Lane exited

#### **Report on Co-op/Fire Department Sign Requests – Bram Towbin**

Selectperson Towbin reported to the board that the Plainfield Co-op wants to update their sign and the Fire Department wants to install a four sided granite 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial.

These projects will have to go before the DRB, and the initial approach will include some requests for variances. Most importantly, the Firehouse and the Co-op will coordinate their efforts and keep one another informed before laying out the plan. The Co-op has not firmed up their design. They will approach the Select Board when they have something to present. The town has to be a party as part of the permit process, as we are owners of the plot. The Fire Department has an outline of a monument (4 sided granite with writing on each face).

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There will be time for neighbors and townspeople to comment on both the Co-op sign and the 100th anniversary memorial, as this is part of the variance process.

### **Report on the Community Facilities Study Committee Meeting – Dave Strong**

Selectperson Strong informed the board that the committee is coordinating its next meeting date with Sandy Vitzthum, so that date is to be determined.

Owen Bradley has agreed to join this committee.

### **Report on the Cutler Library Forum – Alice Merrill**

Selectperson Merrill reported that the forum was facilitated by Judy Cyprian and it was well attended. They broke into small groups to discuss the future of the library.

### **Report on the Town Hall Revitalization Committee Meeting**

Selectperson Strong stated the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board Grant request will be reduced since the Vermont Art Council will cover funding for drainage and mold remediation work.

He informed the board that on Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, the State Fire Marshall will do a walk through of the town hall at 2:00 p.m. to look for compliance with fire code issues.

He reported that the committee discussed insulating the crawl space, perimeter, and structural work.

Selectperson Merrill will contact the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board about the announcement date of grant awards.

### **Resolution to Approve the Proposal of Ernest Parrish, d/b/a Green Line Builders, to do structural repairs on the Town Hall/Opera House as part of the Town's State Historic Preservation Grant:**

Selectperson Towbin moved to accept the following resolution with a second from Selectperson Merrill and the motion passed 3-0:

'The Select Board hereby agrees to enter a contract with Ernest Parrish of Green Line Builders, East Calais, Vermont, (the lowest bidder) to perform structural repairs on Town Hall/Opera House according to the scope of work approved by the Division of Historic Preservation, to be completed no later than December 31, 2012 at a cost not to exceed \$36,105.00.

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**Resolution to Approve the Proposal of All Season's Urethane Foam to insulate the exterior walls of the crawlspace at the Town Hall/Opera House and to install a vapor barrier on the dirt floor as part of the Town's State Historic Preservation Grant:**

Selectperson Strong moved to accept the following resolution with a second from Selectperson Merrill and the motion passed 3-0:

'The Select Board hereby agrees to enter a contract with All Seasons Urethane Foam of Plainfield, VT, to insulate and apply a thermal barrier over the exterior wall of the crawlspace of the Town Hall/Opera House and to install a vapor barrier over the dirt floor at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00, to be completed no later August 31, 2012.'

**Budget explanation:**

The December 2011 State Division for Historic Preservation grant award for structural repair to Town Hall/Opera House covers 50% of the total project cost of \$39,200. The Town has received additional monies from the Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network and the CVRPC Building Energy Fund for weatherization improvements.

**Total project cost breakdown:**

Green Line Builders:	\$36,105
All Seasons Urethane Foam:	2,975
Weatherization materials:	<u>120</u>
	\$39,200

**When the work is completed to satisfaction:**

- the State of Vermont Division of Historic Preservation (under the terms of grant #HP12-023 awarded December 21, 2011, as amended) will reimburse the town 50% of total project cost (\$19,600)
- the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network will reimburse the town 100% of insulation work ((\$2,975.00), provided work is completed by August 31<sup>st</sup>)
- Central VT Regional Planning Commission Building Energy Grant will reimburse the town for \$120.00 (minimum) for weatherization materials

Total reimbursements=\$22,695.00, leaving a net expenditure for the town of \$16,505.00. This is \$1,505.00 more than the \$15,000.00 budgeted for this work. The Select Board notes that the project was awarded to the lowest bid received.

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**8:58 PM Request from the Vermont Land Trust Re: Zeigler/Klein Farm**

Selectperson Merrill will invite Carl Powden and Sandy Ross to the next board meeting to discuss the new flood map designations and how it may affect the development of the Littlewood Farm.

**Appointment of Jonathan Decker to the Conservation Commission**

9:05 PM Selectperson Merrill moved to appoint Jonathan Decker to the Conservation Commission to fill the unexpired term for Allen Clark.

**Cemetery Commission Personnel Issue**

Selectperson Strong moved that the board approve the temporary appointment of Dale Bartlett as Sexton beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup> at a monthly rate of \$852.00, mileage reimbursement, and a portion of his health insurance with a second from Selectperson Towbin and the motion passed 3-0.

9:10 PM Selectperson Towbin moved to accept the following resolution with a second from Selectperson Merrill and the motion passed 3-0:

The Select Board will submit the grant application to the VTrans Bike Ped. Program for a feasibility study for the construction of sidewalks from Mill Street Park to the south side of Route 2, potentially as far as the post office, for up to \$21,000.00 with up to \$1,800.00 of town funds.

**Access Permit**

Selectperson Strong moved to approve the access permit request from Warren Hathaway to construct an access road on his property on Middle Road in Plainfield with a second from Selectperson Towbin and the motion passed 3-0.

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9:20 PM            Selectperson Towbin moved to adjourn with a second from Selectperson  
Merrill and the motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Fleming

\_\_\_\_\_  
Select Board Chair, Dave Strong

\_\_\_\_\_  
Selectperson, Alice Merrill

\_\_\_\_\_  
Selectperson, Bram Towbin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date