

Plainfield Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2020

Present: Selectboard members Tammy Farnham, Sasha Thayer and Jim Volz. Also present were Alice Merrill, Elizabeth Zeigler, David Strong and Jon Copans, Vermont Council on Rural Development. The meeting was called to order a 3:03 pm.

The Pedestrian Bridge Project was the first item of business. Alice Merrill, who is acting project manager for the project with former Project Manager Pat Travers no longer serving in that capacity, provided an update relating to this project. The appointment of additional members to the committee reviewing the bids for Construction Inspection Services engineer received on February 21, 2020 was discussed. No decision was made to appoint additional members to that committee. The time-frame for the completion of the review of the Construction Inspection Services engineer and the process for providing the committee's recommendation to the selectboard. The construction bids will be received on February 28, 2020, and they will be forwarded to Dufresne engineer Andrea Day for review, then, in consultation with Ross Gouin of the Agency of Transportation a recommendation will be made to the selectboard regarding bid selection.

Expenditures made to date for the Pedestrian Bridge Project were also discussed, with particular focus on the engineering line item. There is a maximum of \$100,000 allowable for engineering costs for which reimbursement can be sought from the Agency of Transportation. Anything over the \$100,000 amount is the Town's responsibility dollar for dollar. Figures provided by Town Treasurer Linda Wells show payments through January 20, 2020 to Dufresne for engineering in the amount of \$91,579.82 and an additional invoice dated February 13, 2020 in the amount of \$12,360, for a total of \$103,939.92. The February 13, 2020 invoice included no details as regarding the services billed for.

Tammy Farnham raised questions as to the reason for the overage, as well as questioning what the details are for the \$12,360 bill submitted in February 2020, and what the additional costs will be for Dufresne Group's review of the construction bids. Jim Volz moved that Tammy Farnham inquire of Dufresne to obtain information regarding what is the reason for the overage for engineering services, the details regarding the \$12,360 bill from Dufresne Group, and the cost for Dufresne's review of the construction bids. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The Rte 2-Main Street intersection project was discussed, including coordination with the RAMP (Revitalizing All Marshfield and Plainfield) subcommittee which has been focusing on the Rte 2-Main Street intersection proposal provided to the Town by the Vermont Agency of Transportation. In addition to the Selectboard members, Alice Merrill, David Strong, and Elizabeth Zeigler shared various thoughts about what the relationship between RAMP and the Selectboard could be. Alice Merrill raised the issue of more than one selectboard member being at RAMP meetings and the need to comply with Vermont's Open Meeting law regarding the warning of a selectboard meeting in such instances. Betsy Zeigler expressed the concern that if a RAMP meeting relating to the Rte 2-Main Street intersection project were noticed as a selectboard meeting that the RAMP meeting would lose its informality and her hope that a

RAMP meeting were also a selectboard meeting that it would be informal and allow someone else to chair the RAMP meeting.

After a great deal of discussion, Tammy Farnham proposed taking a different approach than has been the case previously, considering an approach based on supporting the Agency of Transportation design, inquiring of the community, “do you want to move forward with the design?”, then, if so, proceeding from there re how to address the problems relating to construction/executing the design. Farnham proposed having a community forum to present the question of whether townspeople support the project design, if one could wave a magic wand and have the project completed, would they support the actual design? And, if that’s the case, that could be communicated to the Agency of Transportation, and then we could work with AOT on addressing the issues that prevent being able to move forward to complete the design. The idea of having a community forum with this focus was broadly supported. No motion was made and no date was set for such a forum. This will be on the agenda for the next selectboard meeting on March 9, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.