

**Town of Plainfield, Vermont
Special Select Board Meeting
March 30, 2020
APPROVED**

ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS PRESENT VIA VIDEO AND TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL: Alexandra Thayer (Select Board Chair), James Volz (Select Board Member), Tammy Farnham (Select Board Member), Baylen Slote (Town Health Officer), Dr. Bernard Bull (Goddard College), Paul Dragon (Vermont Agency of Human Services Wellness and Recovery Campus at Goddard College), Dr. John Matthew (Plainfield Health Center), Sarah Phillips (Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity), Leslie Wisdom (Agency of Human Services Attorney), Jenney Samuelson (Department of Vermont Health Access), Paul Dragon (AHS Wellness and Recovery Campus at Goddard College), Sarah Phillips (AHS) Jenney Samuelson (AHS Deputy Commissioner Dept of Health Access, Asst Attorney General Leslie Wisdom, Dr. John Matthew (The Health Center), Rick Levy (Resident), Rhea Wilson (Resident), Michael Billingsley (Hazard Mitigation Committee), Amos Meacham, Kate Spencer, and Alan Goldman (Plainfield property owner).

The Select Board meeting was held via electronic videoconferencing to conform to public health emergency restrictions in place to limit gatherings of people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alexander Thayer called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

AGENDA

- Approval of Agenda and Introductions
- Opening Words and Announcements
- Vermont Agency of Human Services Wellness and Recovery Campus at Goddard College
- Questions from Select Board
 - Questions from Members of the Public
- Preliminary Policy for Board, Committee, and Commission Meetings Using Web-Based Programs
- Approval of Letter of Intent for 2020 Economic and Infrastructure Development (EID) Grant
- Approval of Warrants
- Approval of Minutes of January 27, February 19, 24, and 27, and March 9, 13, and 17
- Plan for Next Select Board Meeting and Agenda Items
 - Appointments
 - Review/Changes to Preliminary Policy for Board, Committee, and Commission Meetings Using Web-Based Programs
 - Update on AOT Projects: Pedestrian Bridge, Route 2-Main Street Intersection
- Adjourn

OPENING WORDS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thayer asked participants to refrain from using acronyms during the discussion. Select Board members James Volz and Tammy Farnham noted that they were pleased that people were able to join together in this manner to figure out ways to move forward during this difficult time.

VERMONT AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES WELLNESS AND RECOVERY CAMPUS AT GODDARD COLLEGE

- Paul Dragon, Vermont Agency of Human Services Wellness and Recovery Campus at Goddard College, provided an overview of the new Wellness and Recovery Campus at Goddard College project. The campus will serve as a quarantine facility for individuals recovering from the virus that causes COVID-19 who are homeless, differently abled or disabled, experiencing mental health conditions, children in Department of Children and Families custody, and family units. Dragon noted that the Plainfield Health Center will be a partner in the project and detailed how the campus will be set up for the new residents coming onsite.
- Dr. John Matthew, MD, director of the Plainfield Health Center, explained the role that the Health Center will play in the project, including medical, pharmacy, counseling, and other services as necessary.
- Sarah Phillips, director of the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity, expressed her appreciation to Plainfield, the Health Center, and Goddard College for helping to meet the needs of the individuals who will temporarily reside at the Goddard College campus.

QUESTIONS FROM SELECT BOARD

- QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Discussion included: the number of recovering individuals the campus can accommodate; the effect the project will have on Goddard's immediate neighbors; the potential of recovering individuals leaving the campus and spreading the COVID-19 virus to Plainfield residents; the EarthWalk program currently placed on hold; testing staff who interact with recovering individuals and return to their homes each evening; recovering individuals who are homeless potentially staying in Plainfield; whether an order can be put in place to enforce quarantining those who have tested positive; concern over shared resources, such as the road going through the Goddard campus to the apartment complex beyond and the shared water lines; liability issues for the Town of Plainfield and/or Goddard College; the huge influx of COVID-19 positive people in one small place; onsite security at the campus; Goddard's infrastructure capacity to manage the number of recovering individuals who will be present; how the Town of Plainfield was consulted about basing the program at Goddard College; how security can be enforced to keep recovering individuals from leaving the campus; the undemocratic nature of the State's decision to house this program in Plainfield; the speed with which plans to locate the program at Goddard College has come together; the fact that siting the program at Goddard College is not contingent on Plainfield Select Board approval; the safety of the larger community beyond Plainfield being at stake; the need for a written-out rationale as to why the Goddard campus is needed for this; and objection to the need for authorities to prescribe mandatory quarantines.

APPROVAL OF LETTER OF INTENT FOR 2020 ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (EID) GRANT

- **Volz made a motion to allow Thayer to sign and send in the letter of interest for the 2020 Economic and Infrastructure Development grant on behalf of the Select Board. The motion was approved by a roll call vote with Select Board members Volz, Farnham, and Thayer voting in the affirmative.**

PRELIMINARY POLICY FOR BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND COMMISSION MEETINGS USING WEB-BASED PROGRAMS

- Thayer asked Volz and Farnham to vote on a preliminary policy for board, committee, and commission meetings using web-based programs. **Volz made a motion to approve the preliminary policy for board, committee, and commission meetings using web-based programs as drafted by**

Thayer. The motion was approved by a roll call vote with Select Board members Volz, Farnham, and Thayer voting in the affirmative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, FEBRUARY 19, 24, AND 27, AND MARCH 9, 13, AND 17

- **Volz made a motion to approve Select Board meeting minutes from January 27, February 19, 24, and 27, and March 9, 13, and 17. The motion was approved by a roll call vote with Select Board members Volz, Farnham, and Thayer voting in the affirmative.**

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

- **Noting that she did not have the warrants that need approval before her, Thayer tabled their approval to a future meeting.**

PLAN FOR NEXT SELECT BOARD MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

- APPOINTMENTS

- REVIEW/CHANGES TO PRELIMINARY POLICY FOR BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND COMMISSION MEETINGS USING WEB-BASED PROGRAMS

- UPDATE ON AOT PROJECTS: PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE, ROUTE 2-MAIN STREET INTERSECTION

- **Farnham recommended that time be set aside during upcoming special and regular Select Board meetings to check in with the community, especially neighbors of Goddard College, Goddard College, and the State regarding the Wellness and Recovery Campus at Goddard College project. Farnham made a motion to hold a special Select Board meeting on 4/6/20 at 7:00pm via conference call to follow up with Goddard College, the State, and community members regarding questions and concerns related to the Wellness and Recovery Campus at Goddard College project. The motion was approved by a roll call vote with Select Board members Volz, Farnham, and Thayer voting in the affirmative.**

ADJOURN

- **Volz made a motion to adjourn AT 8:55pm. The motion was approved by a roll call vote with Select Board members Volz, Farnham, and Thayer voting in the affirmative.**

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff