

**Plainfield Special Select Board Meeting and  
Joint meeting with the Marshfield Select Board and CCSU/Twinfield School Board  
January 19, 2021  
Minutes - approved**

Present were Alexandra Thayer (Select Board Chair) and Tammy Farnham and Jim Volz Also present were Alice Merrill and George Springston for the Plainfield Select Board portion of the meeting..

The meeting commenced at 5 PM, with the plan to join the CCSU-Twinfield School Board meeting later.

**2021 Town Meeting**

The select board had tentatively agreed to delay the Plainfield Annual Meeting to April 6, 2021 at an earlier meeting. There was discussion of the requirement that an informational hearing be held in the ten days prior to town meeting and whether to have two informational hearings/meetings prior to April 6<sup>th</sup>. Also discussed were the dates and starting time for the meetings. The board was in agreement to have two informational hearings on March 18, 2021 and March 30, 2021 from 6:30 PM to 9 PM with the idea that Plainfield could be flexible and change these dates if needed. Jim moved to suspend the Plainfield Select Board Meeting until 6:15 PM and the motion passed unanimously. The Plainfield Zoom meeting was suspended at 5:17 PM to join the Marshfield Select Board in meeting with the CCSU-Twinfield School Board.

The Select Board joined the Marshfield Select Board's Zoom meeting at 5:30 PM. During this meeting there was further discussion about whether to mail ballots out to all voters on each town's checklist. Plainfield Town Clerk Linda Wells opposed this idea, saying that it added significantly to the preparation work needed for town meeting. Marshfield Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecomb had proposed sending out a postcard to each voter on the check list informing them of the changed town meeting date, dates for the informational hearings, and how to request an absentee ballot. All were in favor of that approach. Plainfield also shared that it had identified March 18 and March 30 as dates Plainfield would have informational hearings, but that Plainfield would be flexible if those dates conflicted with Marshfield needs or the Twinfield/ CCSU school board needs.

During the joint meeting, the Twinfield/CCSU board formally moved to change the date for the school vote from March 2 to April 6, 2021 and that motion passed. Bobbie Brimblecombe said she and Linda Wells have been in contact with a printer the towns plan to use for postcards letting residents know about the new vote date, how to vote via absentee ballot and when the informational meetings will be held. The Marshfield Select Board also passed a motion to move the Annual Meeting from March 2 to April 6, 2021 and that motion passed unanimously. The Marshfield Select Board moved to have just one informational hearing on March 30, 2021, rather than two informational hearings, and that motion also passed unanimously. The Marshfield Select Board also moved to pay for a postcard to be sent to all voters, and to pay for the return postage for the postcard to request an absentee ballot. That motion also passed unanimously.

The Plainfield Select Board then returned to its Select Board Meeting and reconvened at 6:15 PM. George Springston, Mary Neibling and Alice Merrill also joined this portion of the meeting.

**2021 Town Meeting - resumed**

Discussion returned to formalizing the change in the date of Plainfield's Annual Town Meeting from March 2, 2021 to April 6, 2021 and that H. 48 allowing this change in date had been signed by Governor Scott. Jim Volz moved to change the date of the Plainfield Town Meeting from March 2, 2021 to April 6, 2021 and the motion passed unanimously.

Jim Volz moved that the Plainfield Select Board hold an informational meeting on March 18, 2021 and an informational hearing on March 30, 2021 at 6:30 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Volz moved that the Board authorize Linda Wells to send out a postcard about the change in town meeting date, informational hearing dates and requesting an absentee ballot, and to pay for the postage and return postage for the absentee ballot request and to the extent that we are able to share the cost with Marshfield and the school board that we look into doing that. That motion passed unanimously.

### **Brook Road Bridge Replacement Project**

George Springston informed the Select Board that he had reviewed the plans that VHB Engineering had submitted and he views that the plans include all needed elements. He also noted that the hazard hasn't been diminished by the passage of time and he hopes that the project can go forward and is only deferred until the appropriate moment, recognizing that the Town does have two big construction projects underway.

Alice Merrill stated that VHB is interested in having the town let them know whether there are any comments by tomorrow. Alice has also reviewed the plans and had a conversation with VHB Engineer Jason Keener. She also noted that this engineering firm is very easy to work with and providing needed information. Alice also shared that she had spoken with Grace Vinson at the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and that they had discussed a tentative schedule of Alice also mentioned that she'd spoken with Susan Grimaldi who is affected by the possibility of flooding and she supports this project. Alice also mentioned that she spoke with Jason Keener relating to the amount of contingency in the budget prepared by VHB Engineering. Alice explained that the plans are at 90% completion and the contingency per cent in the current plans is now at 5% and that is because as the plans move closer to completion, the contingency percentage is reduced and that the typical contingency percentage for plans having reached this level of completion is typically 5 to 10% and she feels confident that this is a reasonable number.

There was also discussion about how to keep people in town informed of what's going on. Alice expressed that the town's website is the place to start for this project and the Rt. 2 Intersection project, and the Pedestrian Bridge Project as well. Alice also mentioned that reaching out to Vtrans has resulted in a revised project relating to the Pedestrian Bridge which has led to a revised approach which will save the town money. Sasha suggested that we add these two projects to the Plainfield website. Alice said she would be happy to comb through her electronic files and pass along files that can be posted.

Tammy said she had also reviewed the plans and that she agreed with what George Springston and Alice Merrill had to say and that she has no concerns. Jim said that he was alright with Sasha sending VHB an email letting them know that the Select Board doesn't have comments to share with VHB Engineering relating to the 95% complete plans. Sasha stated that she would do so after the meeting. Jim Volz moved to inform VHB that we don't have further questions or comments and that Sasha is authorized to inform VHB of that. The motion was approved unanimously.

There being no further business, Jim moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Minutes prepared by Sasha Thayer.