

**Town of Plainfield, Vermont**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**February 8, 2021**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Electronic Participants:** Tammy Farnham (Select Board Member), Jim Volz (Select Board Member), and Sasha Thayer (Select Board Chair), Mike Nolan (Road Foreman), Linda Wells (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Rose (Conservation Committee), Sarah Albert (Conservation Committee), Anne Gilbert (Director of Central Vermont New Directions Coalition), Keith Swann (community member and Friends of the Town Hall-Opera House), & Betsy Zeigler (community member).

Jim moved to go into executive session to discuss a contract and personal matter (under 1 VSA 313), with a unanimous approval of the select board.

At 7:06 PM the Select Board returned to public session and Jim identified that there were no decisions were made during the executive session, there was nothing to report.

**Approval of/changes to agenda:**

No changes.

**Announcements:**

No announcements.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**Road Foreman Update – Mike Nolan**

***Problem with vehicles parked on village and town roads during snow parking ban times***

Mike indicated that there are vehicles parked in the village (across from Positive Pie and Creamery St.) and town roads (Spruce Mountain Rd) during snow parking ban times, Mike stated that they have distributed written warnings. Sasha suggested to change the road signs on Spruce Mountain Rd to say no parking in the traveled portion of the road at any time, violators will be towed. Tammy suggested to distribute a notice instead of paying for signs and tow the car if the behavior continues. Sasha said that she would work on the language for the notice.

***Consideration of adjustment to 2021-2022 budget regarding the paving line item of \$25,000***

Mike mentioned that there are several areas needing paving, such as Martin Meadows Rd and Main St extension. Tammy indicated that a few years ago the paving line item was increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000 and it was intended to be temporary for a specific project. Tammy suggested making a realistic budget for the line item instead of the huge increase. Linda added that there are approximately \$52,000 in the current paving fund and that there is another line item called “Hot Mix” for \$10,000. Tammy’s recommendation was to change the paving project line item to \$10,000, as well as the \$10,000 hot mix line. Sasha suggested that the Paving line item get changed to \$15,000 instead of \$10,000. Linda suggested to review the bids that Bram received previously on the projects to establish an approximate cost for the Martin Meadows Rd

paving project. Linda said that a decision needs to be made as soon as possible as all the reports need to get prepared. Tammy suggested to compromise to \$12,500, Sasha expressed that she feels firm about \$15,000 as there are projects in the pipeline. A decision will be made on 2/22, Mike will get additional information and circulate it to the select board.

#### ***Gonyeau Road Class 4 Road Improvement Request from Conservation Commission***

The conservation commission requested for the select board to reconsider repairing Gonyeau road (approximately ½ mile, the really bad part is about ¼ mile) so that the road is passable and community members can use the parking lot to access the town forest. Mike advised that the road will need ditching, brush cutting, culvert replacement, gravel (largest expense). Sasha reminded that there is an accessible parking lot on the other side of the town forest on Maxfield rd., which is plowed in the winter. Sarah highlighted numerous factors that makes the Gonyeau road more preferable. Tammy asked if the Conservation Commission would consider using their budget funds for to upgrade the road. Sarah reminded that the Conservation Commission has a very small budget. Mike indicated that he would need at least 30 loads of gravel, and there isn't money in the current road budget to cover this additional expense to make the improvements to Gonyeau road. Mike stated that it might be possible to use ditching material to fill in some of the wheel tracks/washout. Jim suggested to have the road crew do some ditching and level out some of the unpassable areas of the road without spending any money on material, Tammy agreed. Tammy mentioned the possibility of the Conservation Committee to create a GoFundMe page so that people who use the road can contribute funding without it coming directly from the town budget.

#### **Town Clerk/Town Treasurer Report - Linda Wells:**

Town meeting update – the school will vote tomorrow on if the ballots will be co-mingled. This will allow Linda to finalize ballots and send everything to the tabulator company.

The town has spent a total of \$136,121, reimbursed \$115,038 for a balance of \$21,083 (through June 2020) on the Main Street Pedestrian Bridge project. Tammy mentioned that there are additional funds that can be reimbursed, according to Ross, Tammy suggested for Linda to submit another reimbursement request.

***Approval of warrants will wait until next meeting.***

#### ***Approval of meeting minutes***

March 3, 2020 town meeting minutes

Jim moved to approve the March 3, 2020 meeting minutes with a unanimous approval of the select board.

#### ***Repair to Municipal Building roof ridge cap***

According to Greg Light the roof ridge cap needs repair so this is something that should be attended to prevent further damage.

#### ***Fleet Permit Approval: Bourne's Inc. & Bourne's Propane***

Jim moved to approve the fleet permit for Bourne's Inc. & Bourne's Propane, with a unanimous approval of the select board. Sasha stated that she would sign the fleet permit.

***Consideration of addition of articles to Town Meeting Warning:***

Articles approving or disapproving changing Town Meeting decision-making to Australian ballot from in-person for budget items and for public questions

Tammy said that she is in favor of putting article 6&7 it on the ballot to encourage people to vote on those things, Jim & Sasha agreed.

Article approving or disapproving retail sale of cannabis and/or integrated licensees in Plainfield in anticipation October 2022 date for start of retail sale of cannabis in Vermont towns.

This does not grant permit or licensure, this simply allows the town to proceed if passed, otherwise there is no further action needed. Anne Gilbert, Director of Central Vermont New Directions Coalition joined to discuss the topic further. Anne mentioned that putting this topic on the ballot can be delayed until next year, as retail will not begin until October 2022. Establishing guidelines, signage requirements, public education, prior to allowing this to be approved or disapproved by the town would help to understand the full picture. Anne stressed the importance of substance abuse and public health. Anne expressed her willingness to be a resource for the town. Tammy indicated that she doesn't feel like Plainfield is prepared to put this on the warning this year, as there has been very little research on behalf of the select board.

**Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Company suit against Plainfield update**

The suit was withdrawn on the first day of the hearing.

**Town Hall/Opera House Proposal**

Keith stated that the Friends of the Opera House intend to start outdoor concerts in the spring and will continue building maintenance. The membership fees have gone down as the Friends of the Opera House are not having concerts/performances. Jim moved to approve the \$1,500 budget. Jim added that he believes the Town Hall Opera House brings community value to the Town of Plainfield and there is benefit to supporting the Friends of the Opera House. Betsy added that she believes the Town Hall/Opera House is an asset to the town and she wants to see it grow. Jim and Sasha voted in favor of the motion, Tammy opposed. Tammy added that her opposition was due to her belief that the town should not pay for services not rendered, she supports all that the Friends of the Opera House and all that they offer the community.

Jim moved to approve the contract with Friends of the Plainfield Town Hall/Opera House for 1/1/ 2021 to 6/30/2021, Jim and Sasha voted in favor of the motion, Tammy opposed.

**Pedestrian Bridge Update will be on Thursday (2/11/2021)**

**Route 2 Intersection Project** – Tammy had nothing new to report – she will be meeting with the Department of Water & Wastewater on 2/17.

**Agenda Items for upcoming meetings:**

*February 11, 2021* – Special Meeting (Pedestrian Bridge)

*February 22, 2021*

Town Plan Hearing (6:30pm)

Consideration of adjustment to 2021-2022 budget regarding the paving line item of \$25,000

Jim moved to adjourn at 8:57pm, with a unanimous approval of the Select Board.