

**Town of Plainfield  
Select Board Meeting  
August 12, 2019  
Approved Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Alexandra Thayer (Select Board Chair, participating by phone), James Volz (Select Board Member, Acting Chair), Tammy Farnham (Select Board Member), Linda Wells (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Keith Swann (Videographer), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), Mike Nolan (Road Foreman), Scott Stewart (Resident), Tristan MacGregor-Stewart (Resident), Kathleen Hayes (Constable), Bram Towbin (Road Commissioner), Jill Stewart (Resident), and Baylen Slote (Town Health Officer).

**Acting chair James Volz called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.**

**AGENDA**

- Review Agenda
- Public Comment/Announcements
- Town Clerk's Report
  - Warrants
- Road Commissioner's Report
- Policing Need for Old Home Days - Parade and Street Dance (Alcohol during Dance?)
- Response to Letter Regarding Tugboat, the Dog
- Policy Regarding Class 4 Roads
- Access to River by Plainfield Fire and Rescue
- Nominations for Vermont Town Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Clerk or Assistant Treasurer of the Year Award
- Approval of July 22, 2019 Minutes
- Other Business
- Agenda Items for 8/26 Meeting
- Adjourn

**REVIEW AGENDA**

- There were no changes made to the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- There were no public comment/announcements.

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

**- WARRANTS**

- Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells' report included the following:
  - Property taxes are due on 8/14/19.
  - The Town Clerk's office will be closed on 8/16/19 in observance of the Battle of Bennington Day.
  - **Tammy Farnham made a motion to approve warrants of 7/11/19, 7/15/19, 7/16/19, 7/23/19, 7/29/19, 7/31/19, 8/6/19, and 8/8/19. The motion was approved.**

- Farnham signed the contract between the Town and VHB, which the Select Board had voted to approve at its 7/22/19 meeting.
- Volz and Farnham signed a reimbursement request of \$4,460.08 for the Highway Department's work on Middle Road. The total project cost was \$5,575.11 with a local match of \$1,115.03.
- Volz signed a Better Back Roads grant that was recently awarded to the Town for a ditching project on Lower Road. The total grant amount is \$16,624.
- Wells noted that the resident of the adjacent property to the municipal building, whose tree overhangs onto Town property, is not willing to expend more than \$400 to remediate the situation. Full removal of the tree is estimated at \$900 and just trimming it will cost \$400. Both Volz and Alexandra Thayer agreed that the additional \$100 it would cost the Town to share in the \$900 removal cost was worth it. The issue was tabled until the 8/26/19 Select Board meeting.
- Wells presented copies of the Town's Class 4 Roads policy and the Ordinance for Alcoholic Beverages to help guide the Select Board's discussion regarding both matters slated for later in the agenda.

#### **ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

- Road Foreman Mike Nolan reported that the Road Crew has completed two ditching projects and is currently working on smoothing roads.
- Nolan noted that the Road Crew has begun hauling sand from Graniteville to the Town Garage.
- Farnham asked Nolan if the Road Crew was grating the entire length of roads or if it was not grating certain portions. Nolan responded that if a portion of a road is not in need of grating, that portion is left as is, but otherwise the entire length of each road is grated.
- Nolan stated that the roadside mowing has been completed and that the contractor finished the work in a short amount of time and did a good job.
- Nolan noted that the bank stabilization project on Brook Road has been completed, but the contractor will be coming back to do some blacktopping. Nolan recommended that the Town install a guardrail at the location as a safety precaution.

#### **POLICING NEED FOR OLD HOME DAYS - PARADE AND STREET DANCE (ALCOHOL DURING DANCE?)**

- Thayer gave an update on the planning for Old Home Days, noting that resident Jamie Spector has been coordinating the details this year. Events will include the Old Home Days Revue on Friday evening, the parade on Saturday morning, a chicken barbeque and various activities at the Recreation Field following the parade and throughout the afternoon, and a street dance in front of Positive Pie on Saturday evening.
- Two deputies from the Washington County Sheriff's Department will be covering the morning and afternoon events from 10am to 2pm and again from 6pm to around 11pm during the street dance where Positive Pie will be offering food and drink in a roped-in area. Coverage by the Sheriff's Department will be paid for by the Town out of its \$10,000 law enforcement budget in the amount of approximately \$350. **Farnham made a motion to allow the Town's law enforcement budget to include coverage by the Sheriff's Department of Old Home Days and the street dance. The motion was approved.**
- Regarding the permitting of alcohol during the street dance, it was decided that the Select Board would not make an exception to the Alcoholic Beverages Ordinance, but rather have Positive Pie monitor the roped-in area for serving alcohol outside the restaurant in accordance with its approved alcoholic beverages permit for the event.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- It was decided that review and approval of the contract with the Friends of the Town Hall Opera House and discussion regarding arrangements/payment for videotaping Select Board meetings will be addressed at the 8/26/19 meeting.

## **RESPONSE TO LETTER REGARDING TUGBOAT, THE DOG**

- In response to a letter received by the Select Board, it was decided that beyond sending out a copy of the decision and advising that if the dog is seen unattended to immediately contact the Animal Control Officer and possibly restrain it, there is nothing more that the Select Board can do. With agreement from Thayer, **Volz made a motion that Thayer will draft a response to the letter received regarding Tugboat. The motion was approved.**

## **POLICY REGARDING CLASS 4 ROADS**

- Prior to beginning the discussion on Class 4 Roads, Road Commissioner Bram Towbin thanked the Road Crew for its work on the ditching project on Lower Road to remediate pollution entering into the streams. In addition, a contractor replaced a very troubling culvert on Brook Road with minimal disruption. The contractor, Darrell Mathews, did an outstanding job on the project.
- Regarding Class 4 Roads, Towbin noted that he has received requests for managing these roads and that the Town's policy is somewhat vague. There are three Class 4 roads in Plainfield: a portion of Gonyeau Road, Robert Lane, and Perkins Road for a total of approximately three and a quarter miles. Discussion followed on whether the Town should maintain these roads, to any extent, given that the policy has been in place for a long time and residents on Class 4 roads are aware that the Town does not maintain them and any maintenance is the responsibility of the landowner. Thayer requested that a formal request be submitted to the Select Board by any Class 4 road resident detailing what he or she would like the Town to do in terms of road maintenance. Thayer also requested that a cost be associated with any maintenance that is requested along with whether the landowner is willing to share in any of the cost. Farnham recommended taking a look at all the Class 4 roads to understand where the Town's priority should be in general.

## **ACCESS TO RIVER BY PLAINFIELD FIRE AND RESCUE**

- Thayer explained the request made by Fire Chief Greg Light approximately one month ago regarding brush and trees in the way of where the Fire Department needs to access Winooski River water for use in fighting fires in the Village. Discussion followed on the need to let Tree Warden Nicko Rubin aware of the situation prior to removal as well as coordinate with the Conservation Commission in terms of being mindful in the future regarding tree plantings. It was decided that the Road Crew should be informed of the need to remove the tree so that it can be planned for and that the issue be raised again at the 8/26/19 meeting.
- Towbin noted another tree at issue in the Village that is outside of the Town right-of-way, but that some people feel poses a threat to the road. Towbin will contact Tree Warden Rubin as well as speak with Bob Atchinson, on whose property the tree sits.

## **NOMINATIONS FOR VERMONT TOWN CLERK, TREASURER, ASSISTANT CLERK OR ASSISTANT TREASURER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

- Due to the fact that the nomination deadline is today, it was decided that nominations for Linda Wells and Carol Smith be made for the next round of awards, possibly during Town Meeting.

#### **APPROVAL OF JULY 22, 2019 MINUTES**

- **Farnham made a motion to approve the minutes from the 7/22/19 Select Board meeting as written. The motion was approved.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS: EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE PLAINFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH**

- Town Health Officer Baylen Slote, whose presence constituted an emergency meeting of the Plainfield Board of Health, was present to update Select Board members on several issues with which he is dealing. One issue is a sewage discharge problem at 123 School Street originating from a property at 143 School Street. Slote has sought voluntary compliance, but has had no response for a year, thus asked the Select Board to approve issuing an emergency health order. Thayer recused herself from the issue stating that the 143 School Street property owners are relatives of hers. Thayer agreed to provide Slote with an email address to contact the 143 School Street property owners. **Volz made a motion to authorize Slote to issue an emergency health order to property owners at 143 School Street with regard to the leaking sewage pipe. The motion was approved, with Thayer abstaining.**
- Another issue involves a rental property at 42 Creamery Street. Because the structure was built prior to 1978, the owner is mandated to file an annual Essential Maintenance Practices that ensures that lead paint is not an issue, which Slote discovered has never been filed. **Slote made a motion to issue a health order to the property owners of 42 Creamery Street regarding compliance with the Essential Maintenance Practices. The motion was approved.**
- Other matters discussed included an agricultural trash issue on Gore Road and a septic waste issue for a large camper/motor home parked on Brook Road, the latter of which is also a zoning violation.
- It was agreed that a Plainfield Board of Health meeting take place during the 8/26/19 Select Board meeting to address additional issues.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR 8/26 MEETING**

- Adjacent Property to Municipal Building Tree Issue
- Conservation Commission
- Access to River Plan for Fire Department
- Conservation Commission Request to Select Board
- Positive Pie Alcohol License and Permission RE: September 7th Street Dance
- Friend of the Opera House Contract
- Arrangements for Videoing
- Class 4 Roads
- Jill and Scott Stewart Request
- Road Commissioner
- Board of Health Meeting

#### **ADJOURN**

- **Volz made a motion to adjourn at 7:58. The motion was approved.**

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff