

Town of Plainfield, Vermont
Special Select Board Meeting
September 18, 2020
Remote-Only Meeting Via Zoom
Draft Minutes

Electronic Participants: Tammy Farnham (Select Board Member), Jim Volz (Select Board member). Sasha Thayer (Select Board Chair), Alice Merrill (resident), Linda Wells (Town Clerk/Town Treasurer), Mike Nolan (Road Foreman)

Meeting started 7:30am

Approval of/changes to agenda: No changes

Public Announcements: No announcements were made

Public Comment: No public comment was offered

Pedestrian Bridge Project Update:

Tammy met with Ross – he feels like it might be sensible to do a phase process which might save money long-term. If the “major project” is done for the intersection there would need to be a lot redone from the pedestrian bridge project. If the two projects are combined (pedestrian bridge & “major” intersection), then there would be savings of \$100,000 (\$20,000 for the town of Plainfield). The town of Plainfield has taken out 3 grants that have endorsed this project, and are currently 6 years into the project. With all of the unknowns Ross suggested to apply/move forward with the grant so that the money is there when the town is ready to proceed. In the first of October, the town will know which route 2 project to move forward with (major or minor) and the decision for the pedestrian bridge can come from that. If we go forward with the grant, the grant does not need to be accepted if the project is turned down by the voters. Tammy suggested to apply for the grant, understand the verdict of the route 2 project (first week of October), tailor the project, put out to bid, then put the project out to vote.

Alice indicated that the Pedestrian Bridge Project grant would be a request of \$441,936.

Sasha, Jim & Tammy agreed that it makes sense to move forward and request the grant.

Jim moved that the Town of Plainfield apply for additional funding from the VTRANS bicycle and pedestrian program to bring the main street pedestrian bridge project to completion, with a unanimous approval of all Select Board members.

Tammy suggested to set up a special meeting before authorizing someone to sign the letter of support. The special meeting will be held on September 22, 2020 at 7:30 am to review and finalize the grant.

Route 2 Main Street Intersection Project Update:

Tammy indicated that the survey is not finalize yet (like she had hoped for it to be). Sasha suggested to add the topic to the meeting on Tuesday.

Sasha suggested to send out emails, put the link on the website/facebook/front porch forum, in addition to a postcard mailing. Tammy mentioned a phone survey for those who would rather not use Survey Monkey to help accommodate all community members, Sasha & Jim agreed.

There will be several different committees that will fall under this project, one of the survey questions will include: do you have any interest in serving on one of the project committees? A bulk email will go out afterward to all those that expressed interest in serving on a committee.

Tammy, Sasha & Jim agreed to utilize their phone numbers & email addresses as a contact method for community members pertaining to this project.

The project will be followed up at the Special Select Board meeting at 7:30 am on Tuesday, September 22.

Resolution regarding Elections:

COVID-19 has been trying for the town clerk's office, so if absentee ballots were used for everyone then there would be significantly less pressure on election day.

Sasha felt that it would be helpful to develop a statement and position that indicates that the town of Plainfield is in support.

Jim indicated that he agrees with the effect on Linda and Carol, so he is in support of it. Tammy agreed with most of the letter that Sasha developed, however she felt like it was a little more "wordier" than necessary.

Jim suggested to circulate recommendations for the letter via email. Tammy just indicated that adding details takes away from the support "statement".

Jim moved that they approve the resolution with a unanimous approval of the select board.

All select board members agreed to sign the letter.

Executive Session: 1 VSA 313, subsection 1B, 3 & 4 – Employee performance matter of concern.

Sasha moved to proceed into executive session, with a unanimous approval of the select board. At the end of the executive session the board returned to open meeting. No decisions were made in the executive session which required a voted in open meeting.

Adjournment:

Tammy moved to adjourn at 9:20am, with a unanimous approval of all select board members.