

**Town of Plainfield
Select Board Meeting
September 10, 2018
Approved Minutes**

PRESENT: Alexandra Thayer (Select Board Member), Ross Sneyd (Select Board Chair), Tammy Farnham (Select Board Member), Keith Swann (Videographer), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), Bram Towbin (Road Commissioner), Kathy Bizzoco (Town Webmaster), and Amos Meacham (Hazard Mitigation Committee).

Ross Sneyd called the regular session to order at 7:04pm.

AGENDA

- Call to Order; Review Agenda
- Public Comments/Announcements
- Possible Appointments: Twinfield School Board
- Town Clerk's Report/Warrants
- Road Report/VTrans Alternatives Grants
- Report on Radar Sign, Possible Purchase of Replacement
- Review and Adopt Proposed Town Website Policy
- Review Marshfield Dam Case
- Other Business
- Minutes
- Adjourn

REVIEW AGENDA

- Alexandra Thayer requested the addition of the following items: appointing deputies to back up the Town Health Officer; Central Vermont Solid Waste District Management Grant opportunity; and crosswalk painting. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sneyd thanked both those who attended and helped organize Old Home Days.
- Noting that Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells was not able to attend tonight's meeting, Sneyd stated that water bills are due by 9/12/18.
- Sneyd reported that the Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan is up for review and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission is organizing a three-town meeting with Marshfield, Cabot, and Plainfield. The meeting is set for 9/17/18 from 6pm to 8pm at Marshfield's School House Common.
- Thayer noted the upcoming Community Tag Sale to benefit the Plainfield Fire Department on 10/6/18 from 10am to 3pm at the Town Hall Opera House.
- Road Commissioner Bram Towbin noted that the Macedonia Baptist Church has a new pastor.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT/WARRANTS

- Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells was not present.
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve a warrant of 9/10/18. The motion was approved.**

POSSIBLE APPOINTMENTS: TWINFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

- Sneyd reported that there is still an opening for a Plainfield representative on the Twinfield School Board and encouraged applications for the position.
- Thayer raised the issue of appointing formal deputies to the Town Health Officer position. Constable and Animal Control Officer Kathleen Hayes and former Town Health Officer Justine Gadd have offered to serve as deputies. Because neither Sneyd nor Tammy Farnham had read the email regarding the issue and that open meeting law dictates that such items be warned on the agenda, Sneyd tabled discussion on it until the 9/24/18 Select Board meeting. Thayer noted that the Town Health Officer will provide a report to the Select Board on Town health matters at one of the two regularly scheduled meetings in October.

ROAD REPORT/VTRANS ALTERNATIVES GRANTS

- Sneyd noted the presence of the new Highway Department truck and the new fire truck at the Old Home Days parade.
- Road Commissioner Bram Towbin reported that manhole covers were recently replaced on Creamery Street. Because the paving company likely will not be paving until the end of September, the Town Road Crew has had to fill in the areas around the manholes. Towbin noted the need for more formal communication between the Road Department and the Water & Wastewater Department, and will reach out to Chief System Operator Greg Chamberlin.
- Towbin noted that Road Foreman Mike Nolan's new cell phone is now up and running. Nolan will be taking photos that will be added to a map of Plainfield depicting where road work is taking place, the documentation of which is key to getting funding. Towbin stated that the Road Crew is prepared for the upcoming hurricane.
- Thayer raised the issue of debris she has noticed in the river and asked if that was something that could be cleaned up. Towbin responded that there are strict State regulations regarding the removal of debris out of rivers. A brief discussion ensued regarding Barre's use of river racks.
- Sneyd asked Towbin about the VTRANS Alternatives Grant. Due a power failure at Towbin's residence, he was not able to review it, but will respond to the Select Board about it tomorrow as well as his possible participation in the Vermont Council on Rural Development meeting.
- Towbin noted an area of concern in terms of an eroding culvert on Brook Road, which he will be contacting VTRANS about to follow up on previous discussions.
- Towbin asked if Green Mountain Power had yet responded to the letter sent regarding removal of the pole on Main Street leading up to the Park and Ride. Sneyd responded that it had not.

REPORT ON RADAR SIGN, POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT

- Regarding the possible replacement of a traffic radar sign, Sneyd noted that there is \$8,000 in the Traffic Control Devices line item in the current year's budget. Towbin stated that, not including shipping, the cost of a solar model is roughly \$4,500 and a lighter version of the Town's current portable battery-operated model is roughly \$3,500. Thayer noted that Ed Hutchinson could further work on trying to fix the Town's broken radar sign as long as there were no issues regarding voiding the warranty or a possible second-hand market for it. After discussing which device to purchase, members of the Select Board agreed with Farnham that the portable battery-operated model, which can be moved around to different locations, was preferable. **Sneyd made a motion to authorize**

Towbin to spend up to \$5,000 for the cost of the portable battery-operated radar sign plus shipping. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND ADOPT PROPOSED TOWN WEBSITE POLICY

- Town Webmaster Kathy Bizzoco was present to discuss the proposed Town Website Policy draft. Discussion followed regarding whether it should be a single member or the entire Select Board that would settle disputes between the Webmaster and an authorized person posting to the website. After amending the existing language under the Disputes section to state that “the webmaster will consult with the Select Board, which will resolve the dispute,” **Sneyd made a motion to approve the Plainfield Website Posting Requirements and Procedures policy as amended. The motion was approved with Thayer abstaining.**

MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

- Thayer noted that there is an opportunity for the Town to apply for a Municipal Services Grant through the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District. Former Select Board chair Betsy Ziegler had proposed to Thayer that the Town apply for it to fund waste sets for Mill Street Park and the Recreation Field to help address waste being dumped in those areas. Discussion ensued regarding whether to ask Town Grant Administrator Alice Merrill to complete the application at her hourly fee or if Ziegler can complete it herself at no cost to the Town. Sneyd stated that, assuming it is pursued, he would put the item on the agenda for the 9/24/18 Select Board meeting, which will provide enough time to submit the application before the 10/1/18 deadline.

REVIEW MARSHFIELD DAM CASE

- Thayer stated that she had filed the request for Plainfield to have intervenor party status, which was granted. Hazard Mitigation Committee member Michael Billingsley will also be filing to be one of the people representing the Town. Thayer and Billingsley are discussing what they want to ask as part of the discovery process. Sneyd requested that if any issues arise related to policy, the Select Board be able to weigh in on them. Thayer noted that she is inquiring as to what Green Mountain Power’s protocol is in terms of communicating with the Town in the event of a problem.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Thayer noted that Ziegler had expressed concerns about the crosswalks not having been painted. Sneyd will check if money had been put in the budget for that, and if so, move forward on getting the painting completed.
- Thayer reported on Green Mountain Power recently fixing three street lights and noted that if anyone has issues with street lights, they should contact Town Clerk Linda Wells, not Energy Coordinator Bob Atchinson.

MINUTES

- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the 8/27/18 regular Select Board meeting as written and the 7/30/18 special Select Board meeting as written. The motion was approved.**

ADJOURN

- **Sneyd made a motion to adjourn at 8:20pm. The motion was approved.**

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff