

**Plainfield Special Select Board Meeting  
February 3, 2021  
Approved Minutes**

Present were Select Board members Tammy Farnham, Sasha Thayer (chair) and Jim Volz and Town Clerk Linda Wells. Alice Merrill (community member and Town grant writer) joined the meeting later.

The meeting commenced at 4:35 PM

**Changes/Additions to agenda** - there were none.

**Review and approve 2021-2022 budget for Town Meeting**

Paving Budget - Tammy asked about the paving budget being the same as it had been last year, \$25,000, and whether the Martin Meadow paving project has been completed. Linda said that the \$25,000 amount had been included in the budget in order to bump up the funds available for paving and there was work yet to be done on that project. Linda said that in previous years an additional amount had been put into a reserve fund each year. Tammy urged that the \$25,000 amount should be reduced because, as she understood it, the prior paving project had been completed and we've asked others, like the Conservation Commission to take a reduced amount. Linda said that at the end of the fiscal year there was \$27,000 remaining in the paving budget and there is an additional \$25,000 in the 2020-2021 FY budget.

There was a good deal of discussion relating to various needed paving projects, their status, and how to put together the funds needed to pay for paving, as well as the possibility of reducing the paving line item for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Since Road Foreman Mike Nolan was not present, it was decided to have Mike come to a select board meeting to provide further information about how much is needed to be in the budget for paving.

Budgeting for Town Share and Source of Funds of Pedestrian Bridge Project - Tammy didn't have an exact number, but suggested that the new number for that share should be \$128,000 or less. Tammy has been getting dollar information in preparation for the February 11 special meeting about the Pedestrian Bridge project, but will attempt to have that information for the February 8 regular select board meeting. Linda reported that \$61,000 remains in the Batchelder Fund. Sasha also reminded the board that while the Batchelder Fund has been used to pay for the town share of costs associated with the Pedestrian Bridge project, the Batchelder fund wasn't designated to be used for any particular project when it was received and there has not been a town vote to use the Batchelder Fund for that purpose.

Tammy also asked about the budget for painting lines. Linda stated that she'd called to get additional information, and when that hadn't come, she'd taken out the budget line item for line painting in the 2021-2022 proposed budget.

**2021-2022 Budget for approval:**

Per Linda, the budget she sent the Board earlier in the day includes all the budget decisions made earlier, but doesn't include any amount for the Pedestrian Bridge project town share costs. Linda stated that the budget as proposed, without any reduction for the paving line item or the Pedestrian Bridge project, is about a 1.5% increase over the 2020-2021 budget.

**Review and approve Select Board report for Town Report** - At an earlier Select Board Meeting it was asked that the draft Select Board Report prepared for the town report be reviewed with the possibility of being reduced in size. Jim Volz had been in favor of possibly reducing the length of the report at that time. Since then Jim reviewed the proposed Select Board Report and Select Board Reports from prior years and, observing that they are similar in length, he stated he's satisfied with the report as written. Tammy expressed that the Select Board report shouldn't be longer than one page in the Town Report. Linda also stated that other reports, like that for the Social Concerns Committee are more than one page. Jim also shared several corrections and minor edits to the Select Board report needed. There was further discussion about retaining or removing a paragraph in the Select Board Report about the Pedestrian Bridge project. With the understanding that the decision about going forward with the Pedestrian Bridge project will happen at the February 11 special meeting. Jim also noted that he'd changed his mind about the Select Board report and whether a change in length is needed and Tammy noted that her concern that the report length be consistent with what is being asked of other boards, commissions, and committees

At the conclusion of the discussion, it was agreed that the Select Board report as written was acceptable with the changes made and contemplated, but that a final vote to approve the Select Board Report for the Town Report will be made at or after the special select board meeting re the Pedestrian Bridge project on February 11.

**Review and consider possible warrant articles for Town Meeting, inc.**

There was discussion about approving the request for warrant articles for decisions for future town meetings to be made by Australian ballot for future town meetings. That approval was post-poned to a later meeting in order to receive further feedback from voters at the Select Board meeting on February 9. Sasha provided some background relating to the possibility of adding an article to the 2021 Town Meeting warning relating to approval of sale of cannabis in Town of Plainfield (would not be effective until 2022) and also explained that if this were approved an applicant would also need to obtain a license from the state

and from the town. She provided this information to the Select Board because she'd just recently learned of the need for a town vote for cannabis sales to happen in a town, not that she has a view one way or the other about whether this is something that should be approved. Tammy expressed that she feels that this shouldn't be put to a vote of the town without a good deal more preparation, not on short notice. Alice Merrill also urged that there be more discussion with the Town about approval of cannabis sales by the Town before this being put to a vote. Making a decision on whether this should be included in the 2021 Town Meeting warning was postponed to a later Select Board meeting with the topic to be included on the February 8, 2021 select board meeting agenda.

**Public Comment** - no members of the public were present, so there was no public comment other than what occurred during the meeting.

**Agenda items for future meetings:**

*February 8, 2021*

- Executive session at 6:30 PM to discuss a contract/personnel matter
- Budget, including highway department budget and paving line item with further information from Mike Nolan
- Budget, including Pedestrian Bridge project line item for 2021-2022 proposed budget and approaches to funding
- Articles for 2021 Town Meeting warning including decisions by Australian ballot for future town meetings and voter approval of cannabis sales

**Adjourn** - Tammy Farnham made a motion to adjourn which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:41 PM.