

**Town of Plainfield, Vermont**  
**2020 Town Plan Hearing/Select Board Meeting**  
**February 22, 2021**  
**Remote-Only Meeting Via Zoom**  
**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), Sarah Albert (community member and Conservation Committee), Alice Merrill (community member and town grant writer), Paula Emery, Will Cohan (community member and Planning Commission), Jesse Cooper (community member and Planning Commission), Rod Bridges (community member), Baylen Sky (community member and Town Health Officer), David Strong (community member), and Donna Pettersen (community member)

**2020 Town Plan Hearing:**

The Town Plan hearing commenced at 6:34pm via Zoom. Paula highlighted a few errors/grammatical changes, including Coop vs. Co-op, verbiage in relation to Goddard College to ensure it's politically correct, wildlife corridors, 1-year terms.

Rob Bridges commented on page 113, in which he encourages the town to consider the individuals who are paying taxes on the land.

Sarah Albert mentioned that the conservation commission looked at the section for zoning and referenced Act 171 that protects forested land in Vermont for forestry, ecology and wildlife habitat – she encourages land development to consider these aspects/ideas. Zoning regulations pertaining to this topic are suggestions/recommendations in the town plan and are not mandates. Sarah and Sasha agreed that zoning requirements should correspond with the town plan.

Baylen Sky suggested to change the verbiage to be simplified within the plan regarding this topic. Will Colgan mentioned that the state has requirements for town plans which necessitates certain topics to go into further detail.

Sasha expressed consideration for changing the word “should” to seem less mandatory – Will mentioned that “should” is a recommendation, whereas the term “shall” is mandatory.

Tammy suggested to have another Town Plan Hearing as a lot of great discussion was had from this conversation.

Jim moved to suspend the meeting until March 8, 2021 at 6pm and this was approved unanimously.

The Select Board meeting, commenced at 7:21pm using the same Zoom meeting connection.

## **Select Board Meeting:**

### **Approval of/changes to agenda**

Sasha mentioned adding an update to the litigation case. It was agreed this will be added to the next meeting.

### **Pedestrian Bridge Project**

Alice suggested to consider continuing to draw from the Batchelder fund in the interim while figuring out a longer-term funding option. Linda indicated there is currently \$61,075 in the Batchelder fund, so the remaining funds will need to be funded from somewhere else. The town portion of the project is estimated to be \$126,847 (includes 10% overrun and current project site estimate which was based on the previous project). Linda reminded that if a loan of \$65,000 was funded for longer than 5 years (approximately \$12,000/year) than it would need to be taken to the voters.

David mentioned that the Town Hall Opera House repairs (\$5,000/year) will be been paid off in 2 years, so in it might allocate an additional \$5,000 toward the 5-year annual \$11,000 loan cost. Alice suggested to consider the revolving loan fund, of which Sasha indicated that the Town of Plainfield would fit the eligibility. David mentioned that he believes there is a \$50,000 cap on the loan, Linda added that she thought the cap was \$20,000. The drawing funding from the revolving loan fund would be prime + 1%. Tammy suggested to add \$15,000 to the budget for the Pedestrian Bridge project and explore various lending opportunities and go from there.

### **Road Foreman Update – Mike Nolan**

#### ***Road Department budget line item for paving remaining at \$25,000***

Mike sent an estimate from Pike Industries to the select board regarding a few areas of concern (Martin Meadows & Walker Lane). However, Mike still expressed concern for repairing a section on Main Street (which is estimated to cost \$100,000) which seems worse than Martin Meadows & Walker Lane. Sasha indicated that there is \$27,212 in a fund that could be used for paving, in addition to the \$25,000 from this year. Linda mentioned that \$41,741.68 was spent last year. Mike stated that he believes the \$25,000 budget line should be left as is. Tammy stated that at this point she is pretty taken back that other committees are being asked to take budget cuts for an increase this line item that was intended to be temporary two years ago. Sasha added that reducing the line item will not help in the long run, as these three projects need to be completed. Linda mentioned that the \$25,000 paving line item is necessary to maintaining the class 2 roads moving forward. For this years budget

Jim moved to approve the \$25,000 paving line item for the 2021-22 budget, Sasha and Jim voted in favor, Tammy voted nay.

### **Town Clerk/Town Treasurer Report**

Small typos/wording was fixed, no changes were made to change the narrative.

Jim moved to approve the Town Clerk/Town Treasurer Report, with a unanimous approval of the select board.

### **Approve warning for April 6, 2021 Town Meeting including all Town Meeting articles**

Jim suggested to add additional information to the warnings; Linda reminded that the Treasures Report goes in more depth. Sasha also mentioned that these topics could be discussed in the Zoom meetings held in place of Town Meeting, and outlined in a post on Plainfield People. Article 10 - The budget total for 2021/22 is 1,041,789 (approximately 1.5% higher than 2020/21) which includes the \$15,000 line item for the pedestrian bridge project loan. Jim suggested to add an additional sentence that states “if you aren’t able to register before April 6<sup>th</sup>, you may register at the polls at the Town Clerk Office”. Linda stated that the verbiage pertaining to the absentee ballot request is from the secretary of state’s office. Jim mentioned that the wording is confusing. The wording agreed upon is as follows: “If you authorize another person, who is not a family member, to request an absentee ballot for you, that person must make a written application for an absentee ballot for you.”

Jim moved to approve the warning with the changes made today, with a unanimous approval of the select board.

### **Approval of Warrants:**

Payroll: 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19

Accounts Payable: 1/21, 2/1 2/10

Jim moved to approve the warrants, with a unanimous approval of the select board.

### **Excess weight/Fleet permits:**

Lajuensee Construction, Inc., East Barre, VT

New England Quality Service, Inc., Rutland, VT

Hillcrest Trucking and Storage/Chris Barkyoumb, Saratoga Springs, NY

Suburban Propane, Morrisville, VT

Roland and Ronald Vigneault DBA R & R Vigneault Timber

Jim moved to approve the fleet permits with a unanimous approval of the select board.

### **Approval of renewal of Plainfield Cooperative liquor permit**

Tammy moved to approve the of renewal of Plainfield Cooperative liquor permit with a unanimous approval of the select board.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes will be approved at the next select board meeting.

**Route 2 Intersection Project** – Tammy met with the Department of Water & Wastewater on 2/17, they discussed what the project would look like for their department. They voiced concerns and ideas – many of their concerns were in relation to monetary factors. There was discussion regarding moving waterlines from the intersection all together, which may be a long-term improvement for the town. A design has been made, but there will likely be changes. There are no results from the soil sample at this point.

**Executive session pursuant to 1 VSA 313**

At 8:18pm, Jim moved to go into executive session with a unanimous approval of the select board.

The Board returned to public session at 8:57pm and Jim reported that a contract matter was discussed, there is nothing to report.

*Tammy moved to adjourn at 8:58pm, with a unanimous approval of the select board.*