

**Town of Plainfield, Vermont
Select Board Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2022**

Minutes-Approved

Present via Zoom or telephone: Jim Volz, Select Board Chair; Tammy Farnham, Select Board member; Linda Wells, Town Clerk and Treasurer; Betsy Ziegler; Mike Nolan, Road Foreman; Eric Blaisdell, *The Times Argus*; George Cushing; Rose Paul

Present in person: Sasha Thayer, Select Board member; Paula Emery, Administrative Assistant to the Select Board.

Agenda:

Changes to Agenda

Announcements

Road Foreman report – Mike Nolan

approval of description of Road Foreman position

Town Clerk/Town Treasurer Report - Linda Wells

- Update on filling current and upcoming open positions

- Approval of fleet permits

- Fred Vance Trucking, Hardwick, VT

- GW Tatro Construction, Inc., Jeffersonville, VT

- Kelley-Valley View Farm, Newport, VT

- Kirk Fenoff & Son Excavating, Danville, VT

- Limlaw Chipping and Land Clearing, Topsam, VT

- Trono Oil & Gas, Inc, Barre, VT

- Approval of warrants

- Approval of minutes

Public comment

Old Home Days 2022 – Approval of September 10, 2022 date

Update on Main Street bridge problems and repairs and funding options - Linda Wells and Tammy Farnham

Update re Pedestrian Bridge construction - Tammy Farnham

Appointments

- Clarification of staggering of Conservation Commissions appointments

- Emergency Management Director

- Central Vermont State Police Advisory Committee

ARPA funds report filing authorization

Gully Remediation project maintenance agreement approval - Sasha Thayer

Other business

Agenda items for upcoming meetings

Chairman Jim Volz called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Changes to Agenda

Add parking along roadsides; move Main Street Bridge to the end of the Town Clerk's Report; return Public Comment to the beginning of the meeting in future meetings. Add Farnham Excavating and Landscaping, LLC to fleet permits.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Road Foreman report – Mike Nolan

Nolan reported that the roads are improving slowly, but some of them degrade from one day to the next.

Approval of Description of Road Foreman Position

Farnham reported that she searched websites from other towns for Road Foreman job descriptions. She will circulate them to the Select Board and Mike Nolan. **Farnham requested a special meeting to review the job descriptions and the motion carried. The special meeting will take place on Thursday, April 21 at 7:15AM.**

Thayer raised the issue of roadside parking at local businesses. Nolan reported five to six cars parked on the travel portion of the road at one business earlier in the day. **Volz moved to authorize Thayer to speak to the property/business owner in person to request that employees and customers do not park on the road and the motion carried.**

Gully Remediation Project Maintenance Agreement Approval - Sasha Thayer

There was extensive review of information contained in the Maintenance Agreement, also covered in previous meetings. Thayer suggested that the town could ask for a volunteer to check the gully for the town and proposed asking George Springston to do it.

Thayer moved that, in response to the email that Christian Meyer (CVRPC) received from Karen Bates of Department of Environmental Conservation outlining and clarifying what the limitations of the town's responsibilities will be, that we let them know that's okay and we or they come up with some language to make the addition to what was already sent to them. Thayer and Volz voted for the motion and Farnham voted against.

Thayer noted that the town is expected to sign the agreement in April. **Thayer will have the document ready for the Thursday, April 21 Special Meeting.**

Betsy Ziegler stated that the gully is visible from her farm and that it is very wide and is the height of the entire bluff. The soil is completely bare, which is a recent development. She will send a photo to the Select Board.

Town Clerk/Town Treasurer Report - Linda Wells

Update on Filling Current and Upcoming Open Positions

Wells stated that she placed ads in the local papers. **Volz moved to give Farnham authorization to post the ads on internet sites and the motion carried.**

Approval of Fleet Permits

Fred Vance Trucking, Hardwick, VT
GW Tatro Construction, Inc., Jeffersonville, VT
Kelley-Valley View Farm, Newport, VT
Kirk Fenoff & Son Excavating, Danville, VT
Limlaw Chipping and Land Clearing, Topsam, VT
Trono Oil & Gas, Inc, Barre, VT
Farnham Excavating and Landscaping, LLC, Plainfield, VT

Volz moved to approve the fleet permits and the motion carried.

Approval of Warrants

Accounts Payable April 7; Payroll April 8 and 15. Farnham moved to approve the warrants and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Farnham moved to approve the Select Board minutes for March 23 and the motion carried. Thayer noted that the minutes from April 5 contained the entire chart of appointments which included some positions that are not appointed by the Select Board, such as the Assistant Clerk. Also, the appointment of Bob Atchinson as Energy Coordinator was on this meeting's agenda, but he was appointed in the April 5 minutes. Thayer has not reviewed the Conservation Commission terms yet, so this will item be moved to a future meeting's agenda. **Volz moved to approve the April 5 meeting minutes. Volz and Thayer approved the minutes and Farnham abstained because she was not present.**

Update on Main Street bridge problems and repairs and funding options - Linda Wells and Tammy Farnham

Wells stated that at budget time the Main Street Bridge repairs were discussed and the Select Board approved a \$225,000.00 Structures Grant from the State with a 10% town match of \$22,000.00. She submitted that grant application and another for \$13,000.00 for engineering for the East Hill Culvert Project.

Wells requested clarification about whether the Select Board intends to accept the grant for the Main Street Bridge repairs. Her concern is that the Select Board did not budget the full \$60,000.00 needed if they decide to go with the higher grant amount suggested by VHB Engineering and Ross Gouin of VTrans.

Farnham stated that the town's share of the larger grant is 20%, which will be \$75,000.00. At issue is whether the town will pay more to keep the bridge open for one lane traffic. Closing the bridge to do the repairs will save \$150,000.00 by eliminating the cost of traffic control, but the townspeople have expressed clearly that closing the bridge is not an option. The Structures Grant is not going to be enough to fund the bridge repairs. VHB Engineering found \$375,000.00 in funding that will cover completion of the entire project, \$75,000.00 of which is the town's share. There is no need to use the entire grant if the project comes in under that amount.

There were no decisions made on this item and will be revisited in a future meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of September 10, 2022 for Old Home Day 2022

Thayer spoke with Greg Light, Fire Chief, who approved the date of Old Home Day for the Fire Department. **Thayer moved to approve September 10, 2022 as the date for Old Home Days and the motion carried.**

Update on Pedestrian Bridge Construction - Tammy Farnham

George Cushing inquired about the progress of the project and about the 8-10' gap at the end of the bridge. Farnham reported that the project work continues and that the gap will be covered by a handrail.

Clarification of staggering of Conservation Commissions appointments & Emergency Management Director Appointment

Thayer requested to continue as Emergency Management Director and to be appointed to represent the town on the Central Vermont State Police Advisory Committee. **Volz moved to appoint Sasha Thayer as Emergency Management Director, and the motion carried.** The appointment of a representative to the State Police Advisory Committee was tabled to the May 3 meeting.

ARPA funds report filing authorization

Farnham asked about ARPA Committee conflict of interest and requested that the Select Board re-open it to people who those who were turned away due to conflict of interest, such as a representative from the Water and Wastewater Commission.

Volz requested that Thayer and Farnham review the materials on ARPA filing as soon as possible. The town's decision must be filed by April 30.

There was discussion about the role of Account Administrator and Contact for Reporting for ARPA. **Farnham moved to appoint the Town Treasurer Contact for Reporting for the ARPA funding, and the motion carried.**

The appointments will be revisited at the April 21 meeting.

Thayer moved that Plainfield take the approach of the Standard Option for the ARPA funding and the motion carried.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Agenda items for upcoming meetings

April 21, 7:15AM

- ARPA Reporting Decisions
- Gully Remediation Maintenance Agreement
- Road Foreman Job Description

May 3, 2022 Agenda items

- Central Vermont State Police Advisory Committee Appointment

May 17, 2022 Agenda items

Thayer moved to adjourn at 8:59 and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02PM.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Emery.