

**Town of Plainfield Special Select Board Meeting,  
March 13, 2023 by Zoom  
Minutes – Approved April 3, 2023**

**Agenda:**

**Changes to Agenda**

**Announcements**

**Public Comment**

**Authorize Notice for Public Hearing at 7 pm on April 3, 2023 on amended draft  
Zoning Ordinance - Will Colgan (Planning Commission)**

**Appoint Two Representatives to Capital Fire Mutual Aid Association (Regular and  
Alternate) - Fire Chief Greg Light**

**Upgrade Internet Connection at Town Hall Opera House - Keith Swann**

**Should the Town obtain a .gov domain name? - Bob Fancher (Website  
Administrator)**

**Adjourn**

**Present:** Select Board members Chairman Jim Volz, Riley Carlson, and Sasha Thayer. Also present were Kristin Brosky (Plainfield Town Administrative Assistant), Kathy and Bob Fancher, Greg Light, Keith Swann, and Eric Blaisdell (Times Argus).

**Chairman Volz called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm.**

**Changes to Agenda:** Volz suggested an addition to the agenda to discuss transfer of Thayer's responsibilities, particularly regarding making Select Board updates to the Town website, once she is no longer a Select Board member. Carlson volunteered to take over responsibility for posting on the Town website when Thayer steps down. Volz, Carlson, and Thayer agree to finalize these plans at the next regular Select Board meeting on March 20, 2023. Volz suggested another addition to the agenda, discussion of the option to hire retired Plainfield Town Clerk Linda Wells as a consultant. Volz stated that the Select Board may need to go into executive session for that discussion.

**Announcements:** Thayer shared that Town Meeting was postponed until April 15, 2023. Volz shared he may not be able to attend Town Meeting due to family plans. Thayer suggested that Volz may be able to attend via Zoom if that is an option.

**Public Comment:** Blaisdell inquired if Thayer was still on the Select Board as it seemed to him that her term had ended on Town Meeting day. He expressed his concern that Thayer may need to be appointed for the business of this meeting to be binding. Thayer responded that the statutes state that Select Board members serve until their successor is elected. Volz shared that he had asked Secretary of State's office and hasn't yet received a response. Volz states that the Rule of

Necessity applies. Blaisdell asked a point of order question, asking if decisions made in executive session during today's meeting would be binding due to it not being warned on the agenda. Volz stated that any decisions would be made in public session, not executive session.

**Volz moved to appoint Riley Carlson to continue his Select Board term until the Town Meeting day election. The motion carried unanimously, with Volz being the sole member voting. Volz then moved to appoint Sasha Thayer to stay in her Select Board position until Town meeting as well. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously, with Volz and Carlson voting.**

**Authorize Notice for Public Hearing at 7 pm on April 3, 2023 on amended draft Zoning Ordinance - Will Colgan (Planning Commission):** Thayer stated that Will Colgan had provided the Select Board with suggested language for the required public notice. She shared that Carlson had drafted the notice which requires the Select Board's approval. Volz noted a minor language change may be appropriate, changing the word "manages" to "governs". **Volz moved to change the language on the public notice, replacing "manages/managed" with "governs/governed". The motion carried unanimously. Thayer moved that the Select Board issue a notice for public hearing, as drafted by Carlson following the template of the Planning Commission, as amended, be published in the Times Argus and posted at the Town Municipal Building and other places as needed. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Appoint Two Representatives to Capital Fire Mutual Aid Association (Regular and Alternate) - Fire Chief Greg Light:** Volz shared that Greg Light had volunteered to be the regular representative to the Capital Fire Mutual Aid Association and that Light had proposed Andy Hebert be the alternate representative. **Volz moved to appoint Fire Chief Greg Light to be the representative to the Capital Fire Mutual Aid Association and appoint Andy Hebert as alternate representative. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.** Thayer stated the need to issue a letter to the Capital Fire Mutual Aid Association notifying them of Light and Hebert's appointment. Volz suggested that Town Clerk Robin Miller can be authorized to send such a letter. Thayer stated that she will contact Miller and provide the language for the letter and the Town letterhead.

**Upgrade Internet Connection at Town Hall Opera House - Keith Swann:** Swann stated that the cable company has given him a two week installation window so it's possible that high speed internet may not be installed at the Town Hall Opera House prior to Town Meeting on April 15, 2023. He stated that what's being proposed is a phone line with local and long distance calling and high speed internet with 35 Mbps upload speed which is what is needed to do high quality video either from Zoom or video streaming. He added that there is no required contract, that there's a two year price lock at \$127/month, that installation is free, and that he was told that the fiber can be run to the Town Hall Opera House. Volz clarified that the installation is needed whether or not it's installed in time for Town Meeting. Swann pointed out that without the

upgrade the current internet may not support streaming the Town Meeting on Zoom. He expressed concern that without the upgrade the current DSL internet speeds at The Town Hall Opera House will be even slower if Town Meeting attendees are using the internet on their phones. Thayer asked if faster internet will also be helpful to draw potential renters of the Town Hall Opera House in the future. Swann offered the option of broadcasting the Town Meeting through the public access system, which is free of charge, but would require the internet upgrade in order to be possible. Thayer stated her belief that it would be good to make every effort to try and offer Zoom as an option for Town Meeting. **Thayer moved that the Select Board approve Keith Swann to proceed with making arrangements to have high speed internet installed at the Town Hall Opera House by Spectrum as soon as possible. There was a brief discussion about the need to test Zoom from the Town Hall Opera House prior to Town Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Should the Town obtain a .gov domain name? - Bob Fancher (Website Administrator):**

Fancher proposed that an additional domain name be obtained for the Town's website. He shared that currently the Town uses planfieldvt.us and explained that plainfieldvt.gov could be issued by the federal government. He stated that a .gov domain name will ensure that people know they're on the Town's official website and provides increased security as the .gov domain name cannot be compromised. Fancher stated that a letter signed by the authorizing authority in the entity is required to proceed with registering for the .gov domain name and that there is no cost to register. Fancher shared that the old domain name would be kept but would be rerouted to the new page. Volz states that he and other Select Board members will review the letter provided by Fancher. Fancher states the letter will need to be printed on official Town letterhead. **Carlson moved to request the Plainfield.gov domain and that Jim Volz be authorized to sign the letter requesting registration. The motion carried unanimously.**

Thayer suggested an addition to the agenda regarding submitting a survey to Senator Welch's office for funds for fiscal year 2024. Carlson noted that the survey provided by Senator Welch's office is due by March 16, 2023 and that it requires details be provided about whichever project the Town might be hoping to use congressional funding toward. He stated his belief that the Select Board may not be prepared to have the survey completed by March 16, 2023, that it may be more realistic to consider pursuing this for a future year. Thayer suggested that applying for funds for upgrading the Water and Wastewater Departments or for repairs to multiple Town bridges would be worth the effort. She states that she will forward the information to the Water and Wastewater Departments and to Road Foreman Michael Bingham to request specific proposals from them which could be submitted with the survey.

Volz suggested that the Select Board enter into executive session to discuss the option of hiring Linda Wells as a consultant. **Volz moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter under the provision of Vermont Statute 1 V.S.A Sec 313(a)1. The motion carried unanimously.**

Upon the Select Board returning from executive session to address personnel matters and/or a contract, Thayer moved that the Select Board have a special Select Board meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at a time to be determined after Volz consults with Town Clerk Robin Miller.

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:27pm and the motion passed unanimously.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kristin Brosky, Town Administrative Assistant.