

**Town of Plainfield
Select Board Meeting
August 27, 2018
Approved Minutes**

PRESENT: Alexandra Thayer (Select Board Member), Ross Sneyd (Select Board Chair), Tammy Farnham (Select Board Member), Linda Wells (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Keith Swann (Videographer), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), Stella James (Resident), Dana L. Woodruff (Resident), Bram Towbin (Road Commissioner), and Michael Billingsley (Hazard Mitigation Committee).

Ross Sneyd called the regular session to order at 7:05pm.

AGENDA

- Review Agenda
- Public Comment/Announcements
- Possible Appointments: Twinfield School Board; VCRD Leadership Nomination
- Town Clerk's Report/Warrants
- Road Report: Drainage around Health Center; Radar Sign
- Use of the Town Hall Opera House for Fundraising Sale for Fire Department
- Town Website Policy Consideration and Adoption
- VLCT Town Fair October 3 & 4
- Recap of PUC Pre-Trial Status Hearing 8/27/18 RE: GMP Request for Certificate of Public Good
- Other Business
- Minutes
- Adjourn

REVIEW AGENDA

- Hearing no changes, **Sneyd made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sneyd gave a reminder that Old Home Days is coming up on 9/8/18 and noted that details of the event can be found on the Town's website.
- Sneyd reported that no one has yet applied for the open Plainfield position on the Twinfield School Board and urged anyone interested to step forward.
- Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells gave a reminder that water bills are due on 9/12/18.
- Alexandra Thayer stated that those wishing to march in the Old Home Days parade need not sign up beforehand, but should show up that morning by 10:15-10:30.
- Thayer announced that long-time public servant and Plainfield resident Con Hogan had passed away. Sneyd read aloud a portion of a tribute written by *Times Argus* editor Steve Pappas and which will be published in that paper tomorrow.
- Road Commissioner Bram Towbin noted that anyone interested in volunteering to help with the building of the shelter at the Recreation Field should contact either Seth Kelley or Dan Gadd from the Recreation Committee.

- Towbin requested that anyone with construction experience help with the relocation of the old bus shelter to a site on Route 2 by the Post Office, noting that a cement pad first needs to be poured.
- Sneyd announced that the Town's old fire truck has been sold to a volunteer fire department in Wisconsin for \$24,500. Plainfield Fire Chief Patrick Martin arranged for the sale.
- Residents Stella James and Dana L. Woodruff were present to voice their opinions on the adverse effect of increased law enforcement on low-income people in the community. Discussion followed on the incidence of cars being stopped for reasons other than speeding, the Town's need to have a law enforcement patrol presence, drug abuse issues leading to increased crime, inappropriate comments and questions from law enforcement personnel during traffic stops, and the need to have the State Legislature aware of implications resulting from stricter vehicle inspections and their effect on lower-income people. Sneyd assured James and Woodruff that concerns raised tonight will be passed on when Sheriff's Department representatives next appear before the Select Board.

POSSIBLE APPOINTMENTS: TWINFIELD SCHOOL BOARD; VCRD LEADERSHIP NOMINATION

- In addition to the need for an applicant to fill the Plainfield position to the Twinfield School Board, Sneyd asked if anyone has expressed interest in attending the Vermont Council on Rural Development's Leadership Summit. Towbin noted his possible interest and Sneyd will forward to him the relevant information.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT/WARRANTS

- Wells reported that two Sheriff's Department officers will be present during the Old Home Days event on 9/8/18 for a four-hour shift from 10am to 2pm. After a brief discussion regarding how to deploy the two officers, it was decided that that would be left to the discretion of the Sheriff's Department.
- Wells requested that the Select Board review her questions related to the Recreation Field ordinance as well as her draft of a Recreation Field permit. Sneyd will reach out to the members of the Recreation Committee to review the draft ordinance.
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve warrants of 8/17/18, 8/21/18, 8/24/18, and 8/27/18. The motion was approved.**

ROAD REPORT: DRAINAGE AROUND HEALTH CENTER; RADAR SIGN

- Road Commissioner Bram Towbin reported on efforts to purchase a new phone for Road Foreman Mike Nolan, noting that it will be approximately \$320 from AT&T.
- Towbin noted that the company that services the radar sign has a new policy that it only does refurbishments and that the cost would be \$1,500. Towbin does not recommend refurbishing it. Resident Ed Hutchinson has taken the unit apart to see if he could repair it, but was unsuccessful. Towbin stated that there are two other options: a new \$3,500 lightweight battery-operated model or a new \$4,500 solar model. Thayer suggested that Hutchinson might be able to do more with the broken unit knowing that there would be no downside if he were to try something that might render it inoperable. Sneyd suggested checking the budget and deciding how to move forward at the 9/10/18 Select Board meeting.
- Towbin reported on a problem condition that runs parallel to Barre Hill Road, noting that he has been monitoring this and other areas of concern, including a gulley by the McLaren Farm that is increasing in size, because of potential adverse weather events. He is looking for resources to address these issues. Towbin noted that the old rail line by Recreation Field Road is sliding down, but he is working with the Friends of the Winooski on procuring a grant that will address that.

- Towbin presented a draft letter of support from the Select Board to the Ecosystem Restoration Program Grant Committee for review. The grant application, if successful, would fund a 30% design that would contain sediment that is coming down and causing erosion in an area behind the Plainfield Health Center. While this would come at no cost to the Town, the Town would be asked to monitor the site every three months to ensure that the area at the bottom has not clogged up. Because the Select Board would not be committing any Town funding, Towbin recommended moving forward with approving the grant support letter. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the Select Board's letter of support to the Ecosystem Restoration Program Grant Committee at the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources for the Plainfield Health Center Stormwater Mitigation Final Design proposal. The motion was approved.**
- Towbin presented a draft letter from the Select Board to Green Mountain Power (GMP) for review. The letter requests that GMP reposition and remove the pole on Main Street leading up to the Park and Ride prior to the onset of winter. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the letter to Green Mountain Power in regard to repositioning and removal of a pole on Main Street. The motion was approved.**

USE OF THE TOWN HALL OPERA HOUSE FOR FUNDRAISING SALE FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Sneyd referenced a proposal to hold a tag sale at the Town Hall Opera House that would benefit the Fire Department. The Friends of the Town Hall Opera House has referred it to the Select Board to determine if it would be considered a municipal use thus waiving the rental fee. Tammy Farnham noted that the time of year that the rental would take place would not require that the building be heated, thereby not costing the Town anything. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the use of the Town Hall Opera House for a tag sale benefiting the Fire Department. Sneyd deferred to Thayer's addition to the motion stating that the rental fee will be waived, but that the renters be required to do the necessary clean up after the event and fulfill all other conditions of the rental. The motion was approved.**

TOWN WEBSITE POLICY CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

- Sneyd noted that Webmaster Kathy Bizzoco and Thayer had been working on a Town website policy, noting that he felt that there should be a broader discussion of what it contains that included Sneyd and Farnham. Thayer assured that a draft would be presented well in advance for the Select Board's review. Sneyd put the item on the agenda for the 9/10/18 Select Board meeting.
- Hazard Mitigation Committee Secretary Michael Billingsley noted that the committee had unanimously approved of Billingsley posting minutes and agendas to the Town website three months ago, and inquired as to when he might be able to begin posting. Sneyd noted that after discovering that there was no policy in place regarding who can post to the website, the process began to draft and adopt one.

VLCT TOWN FAIR OCTOBER 3 & 4

- After a brief discussion, **Sneyd made a motion to designate Thayer as the Select Board's representative to attend the Vermont League of Cities and Towns Fair. The motion was approved.**

RECAP OF PUC PRE-TRIAL STATUS HEARING 8/27/18 RE: GMP REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD

- Thayer stated that she had attended the pre-trial status hearing and reported on some of what she learned with regard to what Green Mountain Power (GMP) expects to do in terms of the spillways at the Marshfield #6 dam and what its plans are in a storm event. Hazard Mitigation Committee member Michael Billingsley provided background on the ongoing investigation, which is focused on safety issues. Thayer explained that this new action pending before the Public Service Utility Commission is a separate docket that was initiated by GMP asking for approval of proposed physical improvements and operational protocols. Discussion followed regarding the number of entities representing the Town as interested parties in the case; concerns with the protocols of dam safety that are insufficient given new weather patterns; the Town's responsibilities/liability resulting from a dam failure; the role of the Hazard Mitigation Committee in relation to the Select Board and communications between the two; the definition of what it means to be a party to a case and the discovery process; and potential liability to the Town if someone misspeaks during proceedings. **Thayer made a motion that the Town file a motion to intervene with a cover letter articulating that Green Mountain Power does not have an objection to the Town acting as one entity. The motion was approved.**

OTHER BUSINESS

- Farnham informed the Select Board that she would not be able to attend the 9/24/18 meeting.

MINUTES

- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the 8/13/18 meeting as amended. The motion was approved.**
- **Farnham made a motion to accept the minutes from the 7/23/18 meeting as written. The motion was approved.**

ADJOURN

- **Sneyd made a motion to adjourn at 8:45pm. The motion was approved.**

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff