

**Town of Plainfield  
Select Board Meeting  
November 26, 2018  
Draft Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Ross Sneyd (Select Board Chair), Tammy Farnham (Select Board Member), Linda Wells (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Keith Swann (Videographer), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), Janna Osman (Twinfield School Board Nominee), Jamie Spector (Twinfield School Board Nominee, participating via phone), David Strong (Main Street/Route 2 Intersection Discussion), Bram Towbin (Road Commissioner, Main Street/Route 2 Intersection Discussion), and Betsy Ziegler (Main Street/Route 2 Intersection Discussion).

**Ross Sneyd called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.**

**AGENDA**

- Call to Order
- Review Agenda; Public Comments/Announcements
- Town Clerk's Report/Warrants
- Discussion and Possible Vote Regarding Snowmobile Club Trail Crossing Town Property
- Road Report and Discussion and Possible Vote on Policy Regarding Plowing/Sanding of Roads
- Discussion and Possible Vote on Letter Regarding Main Street/Route 2 Intersection
- Emergency Management Director Position
- Meet with Janna Osman and Possible Vote to Appoint Her to Twinfield School Board
- Discussion of Property Behind School Street Apartments
- Report from Town Fair
- Other Business
- Minutes
- Adjourn

**REVIEW AGENDA**

- Sneyd noted that the item regarding meeting with Twinfield School Board candidate Janna Osman will be moved up to earlier in the agenda; the Road Report and discussion on the Policy Regarding Plowing/Sanding of Roads will be tabled due to Road Commissioner Bram Towbin not being able to be present; discussions regarding the Emergency Management Director position and report from the Town Fair will be tabled due to Alexandra Thayer not being able to be present; and a phone conversation with Jamie Spector, who has expressed interest in serving on the Twinfield School Board, will be added to the agenda. **Sneyd made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was approved.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Sneyd announced that there were still openings on various boards and commissions, including the Planning Commission, the Development Review Board, and the Conservation Commission; that the search continues to fill the Emergency Management Director position; and that preparations are beginning for Town Meeting in March, including running for Select Board and including items on the Warning.

- Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells noted that the deadlines for submitting proposals to the Social Concerns Committee and petitioning for office are in January. Exact dates will be posted on the Town's website.
- Sneyd stated that the Select Board has begun going through the budget for next year and that there will be a budget meeting on 11/29/18.

#### **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT/WARRANTS**

- Wells reviewed the approval status of several past special Select Board meeting minutes. Sneyd noted that those not yet approved will be voted on later in the meeting.
- Wells presented a renewal proposal from Town Webmaster Kathy Bizzoco for her work on the website and the Weebly annual site hosting fee. **Sneyd made a motion to approve a two-year contract with Kathy Bizzoco for the next two years at an annual rate of \$3,266. The motion was approved.** Tammy Farnham requested that Wells verify with Bizzoco that the cost will be the same for the second year.
- Noting that Road Foreman Mike Nolan had no issues with the application, **Sneyd made a motion to approve the application for an access permit by William and Vicki Kirtley on East Hill Road. The motion was approved.**
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve a single-vehicle permit for Jeff Moran. The motion was approved.**
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve warrants for 10/26/18, 10/26/18, 11/2/18, 11/9/18, 11/16/18, 11/16/18, 11/23/18, and 11/26/18. The motion was approved.**

#### **MEET WITH JANNA OSMAN AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPOINT HER TO TWINFIELD SCHOOL BOARD**

- Janna Osman reviewed her educational background and experience. Wells explained that the appointment would run between now and Town Meeting Day in March 2019, at which time the appointee, if interested in continuing, would need to petition to be put on the ballot to complete the term of the person who is being replaced. After a brief discussion, Sneyd thanked Osman for her interest and stated that he will let her know what the Select Board decides.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE REGARDING SNOWMOBILE CLUB TRAIL CROSSING TOWN PROPERTY**

- Sneyd stated that the East Montpelier Gully Jumpers have requested permission to use a snowmobile trail that traverses Town property by the Paupers Cemetery across from the Plainfield Hardware store on Route 2. After noting that the permission can be withdrawn at any time for any reason, **Sneyd made a motion to grant permanent access to the East Montpelier Gully Jumpers for the snow machine trail across from the Plainmont Cemetery. The motion was approved.**

#### **POLICY REGARDING PLOWING/SANDING OF ROADS**

- Stating that more in-depth discussion needs to take place when Road Commissioner Bram Towbin and Road Foreman Mike Nolan are present, Sneyd confirmed that sand is routinely applied to the Town roads during plowing. Sneyd noted that this is the plowing policy going forward; however, there may be more discussion regarding the hours that snow plowing will occur during or after a storm.

### **PHONE INTERVIEW WITH JAMIE SPECTOR AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPOINT HER TO TWINFIELD SCHOOL BOARD**

- Jamie Spector provided a summary of her interest in the position and the experience she would bring to it. Sneyd explained that the appointment would run between now and Town Meeting Day in March 2019, at which time the appointee, if interested in continuing, would need to petition to be put on the ballot to complete the term of the person who is being replaced. After a brief discussion, Sneyd thanked Spector for her interest and stated that he will let her know what the Select Board decides.

### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON LETTER REGARDING MAIN STREET/ROUTE 2 INTERSECTION**

- Sneyd provided a brief background on the history of the Main Street/Route 2 intersection issue. Both Bram Towbin and David Strong summarized the recent meeting with VTRANS officials that explored a number of possible alternatives to remediate the dangerous intersection. After some discussion, it was decided that Sneyd would draft a letter on behalf of the Select Board to VTRANS and copied to the meeting participants, Plainfield's State Legislative delegation, and the Governor in order to help keep the issue in the forefront, to ensure that the Town is apprised of any movement toward the choice of an alternative or funding request, and to make clear the Town's point of view. Betsy Ziegler noted that the intersection has been a major issue for the entire 31 years she has lived in Plainfield and that the condition of the stretch of Route 2 in Plainfield is extremely poor and reflects badly on the Town. It was also decided that at the next Select Board meeting, when the draft letter is considered, a stakeholders group also be formed to focus on the issue going forward.

### **DISCUSSION OF PROPERTY BEHIND SCHOOL STREET APARTMENTS**

- Strong explained the issue of encroachment by residents of the School Street Apartments on the Town-owned parcel of land behind the building's parking lot. The Barre Housing Authority manages the property. While it is a pleasant amenity for the apartment residents, the property should be purchased from the Town of Plainfield if it continues to be used by the residents. Sneyd suggested that as part of upcoming budget considerations, the Select Board reach out to the Barre Housing Authority and let it know that the Town would be willing to entertain an offer for the purchase of the property. Sneyd agreed to draft the letter for consideration at the next Select Board meeting. Farnham asked if there was any reason, specifically in terms of additional security in the event of flooding, for the Town to retain the property. The issue will be further discussed at the next meeting.

### **CONSIDERATION AND VOTE ON THE APPOINTMENT TO TWINFIELD SCHOOL BOARD**

- Noting that both candidates for the Twinfield School Board were perfectly qualified, a brief discussion took place on which to appoint to the position. **Sneyd made a motion to appoint Janna Osman to the vacancy on the Twinfield School Board through Town Meeting Day in March 2019. The motion was approved.**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Sneyd and Farnham noted that because the date of the second regular Select Board meeting falls on Christmas eve, the Select Board will meet only once in December on 12/10/18.

#### **MINUTES**

- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the 10/2/18 special meeting minutes as written, the 11/1/18 special meeting minutes as written, and the 11/19/18 special budget meeting minutes as amended. The motion was approved.**
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the 10/22/18 regular meeting minutes as written. The motion was approved.**

#### **ADJOURN**

- **Sneyd made a motion to adjourn at 8:17pm. The motion was approved.**

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff