

**Town of Plainfield
Select Board Meeting
August 13, 2018
Approved Minutes**

PRESENT: Alexandra Thayer (Select Board Member), Ross Sneyd (Select Board Chair), Tammy Farnham (Select Board Member), Keith Swann (Videographer), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), Patrick Martin (Fire Chief), Steven Light (Friends of the Plainfield Town Hall Opera House), David Strong (Friends of the Plainfield Town Hall Opera House), and Kathleen Hayes (Constable).

Ross Sneyd called the regular session to order at 7:10pm.

AGENDA

- Motion to Meet in Executive Session Pursuant to 1 VSA §313 (a)(4) Relating to Confidential Communications regarding Personnel
- Review Agenda
- Public Comment/Announcements
- Recreation Commission Appointment; School Board Vacancy, VCRD Leadership Nomination, CVRPC Winooski Basin
- Town Clerk's Report/Warrants
- Road Report
- Town Hall Opera House Management Contract
- Recreation Field Ordinance Proposal
- Other Business
- Minutes
- Adjourn

MOTION TO MEET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO 1 VSA §313 (A)(4) RELATING TO CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING PERSONNEL

- Sneyd reported that the Select Board had met in executive session starting at 6:50pm pursuant to 1 VSA §313 (a)(4) relating to confidential communications regarding personnel. No action was taken.

REVIEW AGENDA

- Noting that the agenda that was posted to Front Porch Forum was not the updated one, Sneyd amended it to reflect that Fire Chief Patrick Martin would be present to discuss the sale of the old fire truck at 7:15pm and that an item on Plainfield's Appearance Before the Public Utilities Commission regarding the Marshfield Dam be taken up following that. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sneyd announced that primary election voting will take place in the Town Office building tomorrow, 8/14/18, from 9am to 7pm.

- Sneyd announced that there is a meeting of the Old Home Days committee tomorrow, 8/14/18, from 4:30-6:00pm at the Town Office building.
- Sneyd announced that property taxes are due on 8/15/18.
- Alexandra Thayer noted that she learned from Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells that it was a little less work for the Town Clerk's office if voters cast their ballots on election day rather than during the days leading up to the election.

SALE OF THE TOWN'S OLD FIRE TRUCK

- Fire Chief Patrick Martin was present to discuss the sale of the Town's old fire truck, noting that he had received an offer on it. The fire truck is currently posted on a Randolph, Vermont-based used fire truck dealer's website and advertising streams for \$36,000. The dealer's fee is 10% of the truck's sale price when sold. Discussion followed on the current \$20,000 offer and the amount Martin should quote as a counter offer. **Sneyd made a motion to authorize Chief Martin to negotiate with the potential buyer on behalf of the Select Board and enter into an agreement for \$24,000 or more. The motion was approved.** Martin will keep the Select Board apprised of the result of this negotiation. Martin further stated that the new truck is now in service.

RECREATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENT; SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY, VCRD LEADERSHIP NOMINATION, CVRPC WINOOSKI BASIN

- **Thayer made a motion to appoint Ben Youngbaer to the Recreation Committee. The motion was approved.**
- Sneyd noted that there is still an open position for a Plainfield representative to serve on the Twinfield School Board and encouraged people to apply for it.
- Sneyd reported that the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) is holding a day-long leadership summit in October and is looking for a nominee from every town to attend. Attendance would be free of charge for these individuals. VCRD would like to hear back from towns by the end of August. Sneyd will add this item to the agenda for the 8/27/18 Select Board meeting.
- Sneyd noted that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission is proposing a three-town meeting with Plainfield, Marshfield, and Cabot regarding Winooski River Basin Planning and is trying to set a date for the meeting. Sneyd proposed possibly meeting on 8/27/18 in lieu of the regularly scheduled Select Board meeting on that date, which both Thayer and Tammy Farnham supported; however, it was decided that members of the Select Board would respond with their availability to the various dates proposed for the three-town meeting.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

- Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells was not present.
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve warrants of 7/25/18, 7/27/18, 7/27/18, 8/3/18, 8/3/18, 8/8/18, 8/10/18, and 8/17/18. The motion was approved.**
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve a single-vehicle truck permit for Farnham Excavating and Landscaping. The motion was approved.**

PLAINFIELD'S ROLE IN A PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION'S CASE REGARDING THE MARSHFIELD DAM

- Sneyd noted that Michael Billingsley from the Hazard Mitigation Committee had approached Town Attorney James Jamele regarding Jamele representing Plainfield in the case regarding the Marshfield Dam in front of the Public Utilities Commission. Sneyd noted that it would cost a lot of money, that Jamele doesn't necessarily have expertise in this area, and that the decision should be made by the Select Board. Thayer agreed, noting that that a protocol needs to be established regardless of what

committee might be approaching the Town Attorney. Sneyd stated that he would write back to Jamele letting him know that the Select Board does not approve of him going to the Public Utilities Commission. Sneyd also suggested inviting Amos Meacham, chair of the Hazard Mitigation Committee, to brief the Select Board at its next meeting about what activity Meacham's committee is embarking on in the name of the Town. Sneyd will contact Meacham. Thayer suggested maintaining a file at the Town Clerk's office on the issue so that interested parties could familiarize themselves with the case before the Public Utilities Commission.

ROAD REPORT

- Road Commissioner Bram Towbin was not present.
- Sneyd reported that the new Town truck had arrived and was in service.
- Sneyd noted that roadside mowing was underway.

TOWN HALL OPERA HOUSE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

- David Strong and Steven Light were present from the Friends of the Plainfield Town Hall Opera House (Friends) to discuss the proposed management contract. Discussion followed, including the additional cost to heat the building during winter rentals; installing a Nest thermostat to be able to heat various zones within the building and that could be controlled remotely via WIFI; annual heating costs; and the rental fee structure. Sneyd recommended moving forward with approving the proposed management contract and that a member of the Select Board work with the Friends to devise a plan to address some of the issues being discussed that would be reflected in the Town's 2019-2020 budget. Discussion continued, including the timeframe and process for renters cleaning after events, returning building keys, and returning/withholding the deposit fee; the reasoning behind the cost increase of the management contract; and rental fee discounts. Farnham volunteered to work with the Friends to address the issues discussed. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the \$3,000 management contract between the Town of Plainfield and the Friends of the Plainfield Town Hall Opera House for one year, ending on 6/30/19. The motion was approved.**

RECREATION FIELD ORDINANCE PROPOSAL

- Sneyd reported that he had recommended that Constable Kathleen Hayes attend a training regarding animal control. With regard to the draft Recreation Field ordinance proposal, Sneyd suggested that before the Select Board votes, it be posted to the Town website for review by the public and members of the Recreation Committee. Discussion followed on various points in the draft, including animal waste; the times that the Recreation Field is closed; leaving lights on at night; whether to open the shelter to private rentals; the ability to enforce rules; nefarious uses of the parking lot and woods by the river after dark; and installing a light in the parking lot. Sneyd noted that he will put the Recreation Field ordinance proposal on the agenda for the 9/10/18 Select Board meeting, which will give the public and Recreation Committee time to review it.

MINUTES

- Approval of the minutes from the 7/23/18 Select Board meeting was tabled until the next meeting.

ADJOURN

- **Sneyd made a motion to adjourn at 8:58pm. The motion was approved.**

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff