

Plainfield Special Select Board Meeting
August 12, 2020, 5 PM
Remote-Only Meeting Via Zoom
Draft Minutes

Present: Tammy Farnham (Select Board member), Sasha Thayer (Select Board chair), Jim Volz (Select Board member), Linda Wells (Town Clerk & Treasurer). Also present during all or a portion of the meeting were Keith Swann (Friends of the Town Hall-Opera House president), Rose Paul (Plainfield Coop representative and community member). and Betsy Ziegler (community member).

Agenda

Approval of/changes to agenda

Announcements

Public Comment

Town clerk/treasurer report - Linda Wells

- Approval of warrants
- Approval of minutes for 7/27 and 8/4
- Gusto's catering permit

Pedestrian Bridge project update

Update re planning for Intersection Design public meetings

Jason Cushing request re Rec Field skills & drills girls basketball program at Rec Field

Plainfield Coop re use of Rec Field for Coop Annual Meeting & request for porta potty rental assistance

Town Hall/Opera House contract with Friends of the Town Hall approval

Appointments, inc. Plainfield representative and alternate to Central Vermont Regional Planning

Commission board, constable, animal control officer

Agenda items for August 24 Select Board Meeting

- Town Clerk/Treasurer report, inc. elections update
- Approval of stray animal contracts
- Appointments

Adjourn

Recording of the Zoom meeting was started at the beginning of the meeting, but did not produce a recording following the closure of the meeting.

Review of Agenda: No changes were made to the agenda.

Public Comment: No public comment was offered.

Town Clerk & Treasurer Report - Linda Wells:

- Warrants: payroll warrants for July 31 and August 8 and a accounts payable warrant for August 6 were presented for approval. Upon motion made and approved unanimously, these warrants were approved.
- Approval of minutes for July 27 and August 4: Because select board members were still reviewing changes to the draft minutes, approval of minutes was deferred to the next Select Board meeting on August 24.
- Gusto's catering permit: Gusto's Catering requested approval of a catering permit for August 15, 2020 for a wedding at The Spruce Barn at 865 Maxfield Road in Plainfield. Sasha proposed approving the permit with an added condition that the permit recipient abide by the mask mandate for employees and patrons and social distancing and other state requirements related to the coronavirus pandemic. After discussion, Jim Volz moved that the permit be approved with the added condition that the recipient abide by state requirements related to the coronavirus pandemic. The motion was approved unanimously. Although the catering permit form provides for the Town Clerk to sign the approval, Linda Wells prefers to not be in that role. Jim moved that Select Board Chair Sasha Thayer be authorized to sign the permit.

Pedestrian Bridge project update: Tammy Farnham provided an update regarding the pedestrian bridge

project.

Update re planning for Intersection Design public meetings: Select Board member Tammy Farnham has been working closely with Clare Rock, senior planner at the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and AOT engineer Erin Parizo to develop a plan Community Conversations about the Route 2 - Main Street Intersection. The dates have been set, with in-person meetings at the Rec Field on August 24 and 26 and Community Conversations via Zoom on August 29, September 1 and September 3. A draft of a poster to provide information about the Community Conversations is nearly complete and Tammy is working with Linda Wells to include this in the tax bills going out shortly.

Jeremy Cushing request re Rec Field skills & drills girls basketball program at Rec Field - with the understanding that Jeremy Cushing's skills & drills for the girls follow the same protocols as used for the boy's program and any state recommendations, there was no objection to this proposed use of the Rec Field.

Plainfield Coop re use of Rec Field for Coop Annual Meeting & request for porta-potty rental assistance - There is a line item for a porta-potty at the Rec Field in the Town budget. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the decision was made earlier for the Town to not have a porta-potty at the Rec Field given the possibility of transmission of the coronavirus. There was discussion about the use of the Rec Field for the Plainfield Coop annual meeting being a good use of the field and a good way to meet given the coronavirus pandemic. There was also discussion about the appropriateness of providing financial assistance to the Plainfield Coop to provide a porta-potty for its meeting. No objection was raised to the Coop arranging to have a porta-potty for its meeting. However, the motion was made and unanimously approved that the town not provide financial assistance to the Coop for the porta-potty for its meeting.

Town Hall/Opera House contract with Friends of the Town Hall approval - Friends of the Town Hall-Opera House president Keith Swann requested that the Select Board approve renewal of the Friends management contract for the Town Hall-Opera House. There was discussion about the fact that the Town Hall-Opera House has not yet been opened to regular use for any purpose and that the Select Board is uncertain when that will be possible. There was further discussion of the Select Board being open to special events provided primarily by video with only a very small number of people in the Town Hall-Opera House. Two provisions in the contract requested by the Friends of the Town Hall-Opera House were of concern. One relates to a provision in the contract which would allow the Gallison House property across the road to be used for town events, but also would require the Town to plow that property every time it plows the adjacent town lot. There was concern about the cost to the town to add this additional plowing. The removal of this provision was requested. The second concern related to the contract including a provision regarding the Friends being involved in the planning for reopening Town Hall-Opera House. Further review clarified that this provision was simply an offer from the Friends to be involved with the Town in such planning, and this removed the concern regarding this provision.

Because of the uncertainty about when and under what conditions the Town Hall-Opera House would be able to open and the Friends would be able to resume presentation of events there, the Select Board declined to approve the management contract with the Friends of the Town Hall-Opera House at this time and put it on the agenda for the Select Board's October 12 meeting to consider further at that time.

Appointments, inc. Plainfield representative and alternate to Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission board, constable, animal control officer: At the current time, there is no representative to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Board for Plainfield. Paula Emery was appointed and serves as alternate for that board. The Select Board received a proposal to appoint Paula Emery as Plainfield's representative and Bob Atchison as alternate to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Board. Jim Volz moved that Paula Emery be appointed Plainfield's representative to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Board and that Bob Atchison be appointed as alternate to that board. The motion passed unanimously.

At this time the Select Board has received no applications for appointment as Town Constable or Animal

Control Officer. The Board has also not yet decided what the job description for Road Commissioner should be. As a result, no action was taken on these appointed positions.

Agenda items for future Select Board Meetings:

August 24 Select Board Meeting:

- Town Clerk/Treasurer report, inc. elections update
- Approval of Select Board minutes for July 27 and August 4
- Pedestrian Bridge Project update
- Route 2-Main Street Intersection update
- Approval of stray animal contracts
- Appointments

October 12 Select Board Meeting:

- Management contract with the Friends of the Town Hall-Opera House

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned upon motion made and unanimously approved.