

**Town of Plainfield
Select Board Meeting
January 28, 2019
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), Patrick Healy (School Board Chair), Bram Towbin (Road Commissioner), Laura Ziegler (Resident), Kathleen Hayes (Constable), Greg Light (Resident), and Paula Ackel (Resident).

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

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Review Agenda; Public Comments/Announcements
- Town Clerk's Report; Warrants
- Consideration and Vote on Town Meeting Day Warning
- Road Report
- Discussion of School Budget with Patrick Healy, School Board Chair
- Discussion of Noise Ordinance and Animals in the Village
- Discussion of Zoning and Planning Policies; Possible Vote on Eliminating Term Limits
- School Street Apartments Discussion (Tentative)
- Discussion of Emergency Management Position
- Other Business; Minutes
- Adjourn

REVIEW AGENDA

- The School Street Apartments and Emergency Management Position items were removed from the agenda. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sneyd thanked the Road Crew for its work during the recent snow storm and for preparing for the upcoming one.
- Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells announced that school taxes are due in the Town Clerk's office on 2/13/19 by 4pm or postmarked by that date.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT/WARRANTS

- Wells presented the Town Meeting Warning for Select Board review. **Sneyd made a motion to adopt the Warning for Town Meeting as presented by Wells. The motion was approved.**
- Wells reported that the *Town Report* was nearly complete. It will go to the printer in a couple of weeks and be available to residents a week-to-10 days prior to Town Meeting.
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve warrants of 1/18/19, 1/18/19, and 1/25/19. The motion was approved.**

- **Sneyd made a motion to approve Fleet permits for Bourne’s Propane, Cardinal Logistics, and Newport Sand and Gravel. The motion was approved.**
- Wells inquired as to whether the Select Board would be considering approval of the new policies for the Development Review Board and Planning Commission at this meeting, noting that the proposed new policy for the Development Review Board. A brief discussion followed regarding the issues of eliminating term limits for the Development Review Board and Planning Commission and creating a Town Plan Advisory Committee. A question arose as to whether the Planning Commission needs to adopt the Town Plan. The issue was set to be revisited later in the meeting.

DISCUSSION OF SCHOOL BUDGET WITH PATRICK HEALY, SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

- School Board Chair Patrick Healy was present to explain the proposed school budget, noting that the total school budget totals \$6.3 million and that Plainfield’s tax rate is set to increase by \$05.5. Discussion followed regarding the factors affecting the increase and an update on Act 46 as it applies to Twinfield Union School, including the restructuring of its supervisory union.

ROAD REPORT

- Road Commissioner Bram Towbin reported on the following:
 - With the amount of snowfall so far this season, the Road Crew is using a lot of sand, which may result in an expense going toward spring.
 - As a result of the new parking regulations being enforced by Constable Hayes, plowing in the Village is going a lot smoother.
 - A second complaint was received by Towbin by phone at midnight from a resident whose car had gone off the road and was upset about the road conditions. Road Foreman Mike Nolan, who was not aware that the Town is not responsible for vehicles going off the road, was contacted by the State Police regarding the incident and subsequently pulled the car out. Towbin requested that the Select Board notify the resident not to call the Town when these problems arise. Tammy Farnham agreed to speak to the resident and asked Towbin to inform the Road Crew that it should not respond to requests to assist vehicles that have gone off the road.
 - The issue of a driveway on Route 2 where snow had piled up and was blocking the view of cars pulling out on to Route 2 from Harvey Hill has been addressed.
 - The subcontractor who removes snow from the Maplefield store parking area had dumped it in the Plainfield Park and Ride, which Towbin has addressed and assured would not happen again.

DISCUSSION OF NOISE ORDINANCE AND ANIMALS IN THE VILLAGE

- Sneyd read aloud the Town’s Noise Ordinance regarding nuisance animals in the Village. Discussion followed with Constable Kathleen Hayes about what she has done so far to address the problem raised by Village resident Greg Light regarding noise created by goats and a rooster being kept in the Village. Hayes will continue to monitor the issue and update the Select Board upon its resolution. Farnham suggested possibly revising the Noise Ordinance to prohibit the keeping of roosters in the Village.

SCHOOL STREET APARTMENTS DISCUSSION

- Constable Hayes reported that she is addressing the smoking, water, and security complaints from a resident at the School Street Apartments. Measures are currently underway by the housing manager to deal with the smoking and fire doors violations.

DISCUSSION OF ZONING AND PLANNING POLICIES; POSSIBLE VOTE ON ELIMINATING TERM LIMITS

- Sneyd noted that the Select Board has been considering eliminating the current none-year term limits for members serving on the Development Review Board and the Planning Commission due to a shortage of new volunteers to fill the vacant positions. **Sneyd made a motion to strike the words “not to exceed nine consecutive years” in the Development Review Board policy. The motion was approved.** Immediately following, **Sneyd made a motion to strike the words “not to exceed nine consecutive years” in the Planning Commission policy. The motion was approved.**
- Sneyd noted that the current Town Plan expires in mid-February. Towbin stated that without a Town Plan, municipalities are not eligible for certain funding opportunities and that zoning regulations cannot be adopted. Sneyd proposed that an Advisory Commission on the Town Plan be established as envisioned by State statute and that Towbin be appointed to the Planning Commission to create a quorum so that it can meet if needed. **Sneyd made a motion to appoint Bram Towbin to the Planning Commission through the end of March 2019. The motion was approved.** Immediately following, **Sneyd made a motion to create an Advisory Commission on the Town Plan and appoint to it Bram Towbin, Ross Sneyd, and Will Colgan. The motion was approved.**

OTHER BUSINESS

- Plainfield resident Laura Ziegler was present to discuss her outrage with the State’s opinion that there was no problem with the Main Street/Route 2 intersection because nothing serious had ever happened there. Ziegler related an incident in 2000 where she was struck by a vehicle when crossing the intersection. She noted that if the State is still maintaining that it is not a dangerous intersection, she would like the opportunity to personally recount her experience. Sneyd and Towbin noted that the State has shifted its opinion on the level of danger at the intersection and that discussions are currently underway to move forward on a plan to address it. Sneyd stated that the Town might also consider setting up an advisory committee to provide input. Sneyd will contact the involved person at the State to follow up on organizing a meeting with the Town.

MINUTES

- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/14/19 regular Select Board meeting as written. The motion was approved.**
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/14/19 special budget meeting as written. The motion was approved.**
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the 12/13/18 special budget meeting as written. The motion was approved.**

ADJOURN

- **Sneyd made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. The motion was approved.**

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff