

**Town of Plainfield, Vermont  
Select Board Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2020**

**PRESENT:** James Volz (Select Board Member), Alexandra Thayer (Select Board Chair), Tammy Farnham (Select Board Member), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), Michael Bingham (Road Crew), Greg Light (Fire Chief), Alice Merrill (Town Grants Administrator, RAMP Committee Member), Laura Zeisel (Resident), Eric Blaisdell (Times Argus), Josh Pitts (Water/Wastewater Commission), Mike Nolan (Road Foreman), Bram Towbin (Road Commissioner), Alice Dworkin (Development Review Board), Charles Cogbill (Resident), Pam DeAndrea (Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission), George Springston (Resident), and Betsy Ziegler (RAMP Committee Member).

**Alexandra Thayer called the Select Board meeting to order at 7:07pm.**

**AGENDA**

- Review Agenda
- Public Comment/Announcements
- Town Clerk's Report
  - Approval of Liquor Permit and Fleet Permits
  - Warrants
  - Review of Budget 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 RE: Continuing Filming and CCTV
  - Posting of Plainfield Select Board Meetings—Citizen Requests that Filming Be Continued
- Road Commissioner's Report
  - Loader Update and Replacement Authorization
- Pedestrian Bridge Project - Project Manager Engineer Job Change
- Route 2/Main Street Intersection
  - Appointment of Citizen Advisory Committee
  - Designation of Select Board Member as AOT Contact
- The Health Center Water Remediation Project Update
- Approval of Select Board Meeting Minutes of 1/13/2020
- Other Business
- Agenda Items for 2/24/20 Meeting
- Brook Road Bridge Update from VHB
- Adjourn

**REVIEW AGENDA**

- Thayer noted that there was an access permit to approve along with the fleet and liquor permit application requests.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- James Volz announced a number of events taking place during Transportation Week as part of the Revitalizing All Marshfield and Plainfield (RAMP) project. One focus of the transportation committee is improving transportation between St. Johnsbury and Montpelier along Route 2 by encouraging the use of public transportation. Volz will be requesting that the Select Board adopt a motion in support

of the effort and will send out information to other Select Board members in advance of taking up the issue at the next meeting.

- Thayer noted a few universal precautions that should be taken during flu season to help avoid both getting sick and transmitting the flu virus to others.
- Fire Chief Greg Light inquired if the Town is considering passing an ordinance governing compost containers to address backyard composting, which is attracting rats. Laura Zeisel, formerly the Plainfield representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD), noted that CVSWMD may be able to provide a sample ordinance. Thayer noted that she will ask the current Plainfield representative, Betsy Ziegler, to follow up on it.
- Light requested that if videotaping the Select Board meeting will no longer be done, that meetings at least be streamed as a podcast.

#### **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

##### **- APPROVAL OF LIQUOR PERMIT AND FLEET PERMITS**

##### **- WARRANTS**

##### **- REVIEW OF BUDGET 2019-2020 AND 2020-2021 RE: CONTINUING FILMING AND CCTV**

##### **- POSTING OF PLAINFIELD SELECT BOARD MEETINGS—CITIZEN REQUESTS THAT FILMING BE CONTINUED**

- Alice Merrill noted that she would prefer that there be an alternative in place before ceasing the videotape coverage and inquired as to how much the current videotaping costs. Thayer responded that the annual cost is \$2,940. Because the printing and mailing costs for the Town Report also come out of that budget line item, only \$450 is left in that line item, leaving the Town approximately \$1,000 short for videotaping for the rest of the current fiscal year. Thayer added that that budget line item for the upcoming fiscal year has been level funded, but that residents can request a budget increase at Town Meeting. Tammy Farnham noted that Select Board meeting viewership is minimal, according to the statistics provided by CCTV. Thayer read into the record several emails and postings she had received in support of continuing the videotape coverage, many of which noted that the room the Select Board meets in is too small for accommodating the number of people who would need to be physically present to follow Town business if coverage of meetings was not available. Discussion among a variety of those present followed, including: efforts being made to identify a larger space to hold Select Board meetings; how to get information, e.g., alternative options and costs for continuing to videotape, prior to Town meeting if the issue is brought up from the floor; the importance of chaptering the meeting coverage for easy access to specific agenda items; possibly involving the Town's webmaster in shooting, chaptering, and posting audio or video coverage; and transferring funds from other line items in the current fiscal budget.
- **Volz made a motion to approve fleet permit requests for 1) Hillcrest Trucking and Storage; and 2) Barrett Trucking.** Thayer noted that the stickers listing certain conditions that usually accompany the approved permits need to be included. **The motion was approved.**
- **Farnham made a motion to approve an access permit application from Timothy J. Davis for 1911 East Hill Road. The motion was approved.**
- **Volz made a motion to approve a liquor license for Plainfield Tap and Grill, LLC DBA as Positive Pie. The motion was approved.** Because the application was for the restaurant and bar only, it was suggested that Positive Pie be informed that a separate liquor permit will be needed for the outside seating area.
- **Volz made a motion to approve a liquor license for Winooski Valley Co-op DBA Plainfield Co-op. The motion was approved.**
- **Volz made a motion to approve two separate liquor licenses for BAS LLC DBA as Fairways and Greens. The motion was approved.**

- **Volz made a motion to approve warrants of 1/31/20, 2/5/20, and 2/7/20. The motion was approved.**
- **Volz made a motion to approve the Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage for the year ending 2/10/20. The motion was approved.**

## **ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

### **- LOADER UPDATE AND REPLACEMENT AUTHORIZATION**

- Road Commissioner Bram Towbin, Road Foreman Mike Nolan, and Road Crew member Michael Bingham presented three bids for the loader replacement from John Deere, Caterpillar, and Kamatsu. Discussion followed regarding costs, warranties, trade-in values, ease of use, and the possibility of leasing versus purchasing. The Select Board requested that before a decision is made, all of the options be test-driven and that more information be gathered about the advantages of each model. Thayer noted that the lack of adequate heating at the Town Garage needs to be addressed, which is affecting conditions for both those who work there and the equipment. Bingham will email copies of the bids to the Select Board. Thayer will add the issue to the agenda for the 2/24/20 Select Board meeting.
- Towbin reported that both the issue of piled-up plowed snow at the bottom of Harvey Hill and debris that was dumped into a ditch on Gray Road have been addressed.
- Thayer thanked the Road Crew for its work during the recent cold spell.

### **PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT - PROJECT MANAGER ENGINEER JOB CHANGE**

- Thayer reported that Pat Travers, project manager for the Pedestrian Bridge project that is slated to begin this year, is leaving his position at Sterling Management. Town Grants Manager Alice Merrill provided a timeline for the bid process for construction, including a question-and-answer session for those interested in bidding on the project on 2/14/20 and a review of the received bids one week later. Discussion ensued, including: the need for someone with an engineering background to be among those reviewing the proposals, which someone from the Dufresne Group may be able to provide; Merrill taking over the project manager's role prior to the arrival of the onsite engineer when construction begins; the possibility of delaying the Pedestrian Bridge project to coincide with the Main Street/Route 2 intersection work to avoid disrupting traffic two separate times; the need for a Select Board member to be present at the bid-opening meeting; what Sterling Management's plan is regarding work left to be done on the project given Travers' departure; and moving forward on the Pedestrian Bridge project to provide a walking pathway between the Village and High Street during the Main Street/Route 2 intersection construction phase.

### **THE HEALTH CENTER WATER REMEDIATION PROJECT UPDATE**

- Pam DeAndrea from Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and Road Commissioner Bram Towbin were present to provide additional information that the Select Board had requested at the 1/27/20 meeting. DeAndrea reported that Jessica Louisos from Milone and MacBroom Engineering had calculated that there would be approximately 34 cubic yards coming into the sediment catchment area, which would require it to be cleaned out once every 8.1 years. Towbin reported that the rough cost of renting an excavator would be \$700 per day with an additional fee of between \$500 and \$600 to transport the equipment to and from the work site, although the Road Crew might be able to do the transporting. Farnham noted that to clean out the 20-foot-wide pool, equipment with an extended reach beyond the typical 20-foot reach might be required to reach the bottom of the pool and may cost more to rent and be too big for the Road Crew to transport. Discussion followed, including obtaining from Louisos a cross-section view of the pond to determine its exact depth; the Town's liability when working on non-Town property; and increased costs for the Town in

maintaining the catchment pond. **Volz made a motion to approve the 90% design to go to final design for Gully Stabilization and Storm Water Mitigation at the Health Center in Plainfield. The motion was approved with Farnham abstaining.**

#### **ROUTE 2/MAIN STREET INTERSECTION**

##### **- APPOINTMENT OF CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

##### **- DESIGNATION OF SELECT BOARD MEMBER AS AOT CONTACT**

- Thayer stated that many documents pertaining to the Route 2/Main Street intersection have been posted to the website. She noted that the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VAOT) maintains that there is not an alternative to closing down Main Street during construction nor are there other locations where VAOT would pay for an alternate bridge across the Winooski River. Town Grant Administrator Alice Merrill noted that there are a lot of programs through VAOT worth investigating. Thayer stated that she saw the purpose of an advisory committee to gather information, not push an agenda. Merrill noted that the RAMP committee comprises a lot of people with past experience and history that will provide useful expertise to the Select Board. Merrill suggested that the Select Board designate RAMP as an advisory committee with Merrill and Betsy Ziegler as contacts with the Select Board, and that there be increased communication back and forth. Farnham stated that she would like to see other community members on an advisory committee besides just those who are on the RAMP committee, to which both Volz and Merrill responded that anyone is welcome to join the RAMP committee. Merrill asked that if there are others who are interested, she can add their names to her email contact list. Volz noted that he saw no harm in allowing an advisory committee to move forward and make recommendations, with the Select Board deciding whether to take the recommendations. Discussion ensued, including: estimated needs in terms of manpower for East Montpelier's fire department to cover the area that Plainfield's fire and rescue will not be able to reach during construction; the need to gather the actual facts to push back on VAOT's assertion that it can do nothing to solve some of the problems associated with the project; in addition to only fire department coverage during construction, an advisory committee needs to deal with the water issues that will impact fire suppression and drinking water quality; the need to explore the impacts concerning local businesses, water and sewer, and fire and rescue, in addition to the need for an additional bridge; recent discussions with State Representative Andy Perchlik, who sits on the State's Transportation Committee, regarding addressing some of the issues with VAOT; and the idea of holding community fora that address each of the main issues separately.

##### **APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF 1/13/2020**

- Volz made a motion to approve minutes from the 1/13/20 Select Board meeting. The motion was approved.

##### **ADJOURN**

- **Volz made a motion to adjourn at 9:50pm. The motion was approved.**

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff