

Town of Plainfield Special Select Board Meeting
October 6, 2022, 7pm
Via Zoom
Minutes - Approved

Agenda:

- Changes to the Agenda
- Announcements
- Public Comment
- Town Clerk/Town Treasurer report, including: (Linda Wells, Town Clerk/Town Treasurer)
 - Transition
 - Approval of warrants
 - Approval of minutes
- Select Board Member appointment: Interview with applicant Riley Carlson and appointment decision
- Brook Road Bridge replacement: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application - Review of additional information from Stephanie Smith, Vermont Emergency Management and Alice Merrill
 - Possible additional information from Road Foreman Michael Bingham
 - Status
 - Further consideration of:
 - Fiscal implications of reduced match and increased cost
 - Cost estimates including Right-of-Way acquisition
 - Consideration of ARPA funds for Town match
 - Potential effect of Brook Road Bridge replacement on downstream bridges
 - Should the project be put to vote by the Town?
- Update on Main Street Bridge Repair and Pedestrian Bridge Project
 - Schedule
 - Progress in assisting with challenges during construction for Town departments and for businesses
 - Community initiatives
 - Financial support for Town departments and Town businesses
 - What you can do to help
- Other business
- Agenda items for upcoming Select Board meetings
 - October 18, 2022
 - Update on Main Street Bridge Repair and Pedestrian Bridge Project
 - November 2, 2022

- Adjourn

Present: Select Board members Jim Volz (Chair) and Sasha Thayer. Also present were Susan Grimaldi, Riley Carlson, Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells, Dawn Fancher, Main St. Bridge Repair Project Manager Tammy Farnham, Kristie Farnham and Project Engineer Jason Keener of VHB, Lucy Blue, and ARPA Committee members George Cushing, Jane Bradley, and Arion Thiboumery.

Chair Volz called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Changes to the Agenda:

Volz suggested the addition of discussion of the old firehouse under the announcements item of the agenda. Thayer agreed to this addition.

Volz suggested the addition of an ARPA Committee Report following discussion of the Brook Rd. Bridge replacement. Thayer agreed to this addition.

Announcements:

Volz announced that contractor Kai Walker had completed taking down the old firehouse on Rt. 2. Thayer encouraged people to get the Covid-19 vaccine and boosters.

Public Comment:

Volz opened the floor to public comment. Susan Grimaldi stated her opinion that that the Brook Rd. Bridge 21 project go forward.

Town Clerk/Town Treasurer report, including: (Linda Wells, Town Clerk/Town Treasurer):

Wells stated that the State has mailed absentee ballots so voters should have received them. She also mentioned that the Town has a Lister vacancy. Thayer stated the Town is also looking for new members of the Planning Commission, a maintenance person, Town Constable, Town Animal Control Officer, and Auditors.

Transition – Wells reported feeling confident about the progress of training Assistant Town Clerk Robin Miller to take on responsibilities of the Town Clerk and Treasurer upon Wells upcoming retirement.

Approval of warrants – Wells presented payroll warrants dated September 17 and 30 and October 7, 2022 for approval. **Thayer moved for approval of payroll warrants dated September 17 and 30 and October 7, 2022, the motion carried unanimously.** Wells presented accounts payable warrants dated September 12, 20, and 27, 2022 for approval. **Thayer moved for approval of accounts payable warrants dated September 12, 20, and 27, 2022, the motion carried unanimously.**

Approval of minutes- There were no minutes presented for approval.

Select Board member appointment: Interview with applicant Riley Carlson and appointment decision:

Carlson provided information on his background. **Thayer moved to appoint Riley Carlson to the Plainfield Select Board for a term ending at the next Town Meeting, the motion passed unanimously.**

Brook Road Bridge replacement: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application - Review of additional information from Stephanie Smith of Vermont Emergency Management and Alice Merrill:

Alice Merrill shared that she has worked with Stephanie Smith of Vermont Emergency Management, who is in charge of FEMA projects for the State in Hazard Mitigation, and the engineer to work out a preliminary budget and a rough timeline for the project. She requested that the Select Board vote to approve submission of the Hazard Mitigation grant application. **Volz moved to approve the submission of the application to FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Program for the construction of the replacement bridge at Brook Rd. Bridge 21, Thayer challenged the motion, Volz withdrew the motion.** Thayer suggested holding a special Select Board meeting on October 12, 2022 to discuss approval of the application submission once the finalized budget proposal is available, Volz agreed.

Possible additional information from Road Foreman Michael Bingham – This item was not discussed.

Status – This item was not discussed.

Further consideration of:

Fiscal implications of reduced match and increased cost – This item was not discussed.

Cost estimates including Right-of-Way acquisition – This item was not discussed.

Consideration of ARPA funds for Town match – This item was not discussed.

Potential effect of Brook Road Bridge replacement on downstream bridges – This item was not discussed.

Should the project be put to vote by the Town? – Thayer suggested the option of putting the project to a vote.

ARPA Committee Report:

Jane Bradley reported on the criteria the committee is using to determine their recommendations for disbursement of ARPA funds and requested guidance from the Select Board on the expectations for the scope and timeline for the committee’s work. Select Board members invited ARPA Committee members and Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells to join the Special Select Board Meeting on October 12, 2022.

Kristie Farnham encouraged the Select Board to contact Katie Buckley at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to explore the option of converting ARPA money for losses suffered by the Town during the pandemic.

Update on Main Street Bridge Repair and Pedestrian Bridge Project:

Schedule – Volz shared that the bridge is slated to close for repairs on October 10, 2022. Dawn Fancher inquired about how bridge work will impact access to the Rt.2 Commuter bus; Select Board members stated they will notify the bus service. Tammy Farnham stated that the bridge work is slated to begin October 10, 2022 as long as the Select Board signs the change orders they received this afternoon via email which she recommended they sign. Thayer expressed her concern that the Select Board has not been provided with specifics regarding the scope of the expected work. Farnham provided an update to the projected project costs with the recent change orders. Jason Keener provided clarification about the language included in the change orders. **Volz moved to approve change orders 4 and 5, the motion carried unanimously; Volz will sign the change orders. Thayer moved to authorize reimbursement, up to \$100, to Lucy Blue for creation and disbursement of a map of detours, the motion carried unanimously.**

Progress in assisting with challenges during construction for Town departments and for businesses – This item was not discussed.

Community initiatives – This item was not discussed.

Financial support for Town departments and Town businesses – This item was not discussed.

What you can do to help – This item was not discussed.

Other business: There was no other business.

Agenda items for upcoming Select Board meetings:

October 18, 2022 - Update on Main Street Bridge Repair and Pedestrian Bridge Project, ARPA Committee update.

Adjourn: **Thayer moved to adjourn at 9:31 pm, the motion carried unanimously.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kristin Brosky, Town Administrative Assistant.