

**Town of Plainfield Select Board Meeting,
March 20, 2023 by Zoom
Minutes – Approved 4/3/23**

Agenda:

Changes to Agenda

Announcements

Public Comment

Road Foreman Report - Michael Bingham

Town Clerk/Town Treasurer Report - Robin Miller

-Planning for Town Meeting: (1) What notice do we need to give and by what date; (2) Do we need to issue a revised financial report? and (3) Should we hire Linda Wells to assist us (may require an executive session)

- Approval of warrants

- Fleet Permits: Cardinal Logistics, Packard Fuels, Weston Pulpwood

-Approval of draft minutes

Upgrading Internet Service at Town Hall Opera House - Keith Swann

Recreation Committee - Jamie Spector

-Decide how and when to take up the following issues that the Rec Comm would like to discuss with the Select Board. Some could be decided at this March 20 meeting and some could be handled otherwise. They are:

1. Exploring getting a trash contract with Casella Waste Management for trash and recycling collection at the Rec Field.

2. Changing the name and mission of the Committee to "Plainfield Recreation and Public Art Committee"

3. Confirming a few budget issues with the Select Board (namely that the mowing charges are moved to the same account as the power and porta potty)

4. Inform the Select Board we are working on a proposed Skate Park renovation

5. Inform the Select Board about the planned water spigot / ARPA Proposal

6. Discuss the proposal for a composting toilet / ARPA Proposal

7. Old Home Day Date confirmation and organizing plan

Other Business

Agenda Items for Upcoming Select Board Meetings

Adjourn

Present: Select Board members Jim Volz (Select Board Chair), Riley Carlson, and Sasha Thayer. Also present were Town Clerk Robin Miller, Road Foreman Michael Bingham, Town Administrative Assistant Kristin Brosky, Charles Cogbill, Bob Fancher, and Eric Blaisdell (Times Argus).

Volz called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Changes to Agenda:

Volz shared that Jamie Specter was unable to attend this meeting due to illness therefore the Recreation Committee agenda item will be moved to a later date. Carlson suggested the agenda addition of the approval of liquor licenses, the other Select Board members agreed.

Announcements:

Volz shared that Town Meeting will be held Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 9 am at the Town Hall Opera House. Thayer shared that the polls will be open that day from 9am to 7pm to vote for Town Officers and that absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office, phone number (802) 454-8461. Miller added that residents may also stop by the Town Office to vote early or request an absentee ballot when the Town Office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays. Thayer offered the reminder that there are vacancies on a number of Town committees and other Town positions. She specifically mentioned the need for listers, auditors, and members of the Cemetery Commission, Development Review Board, Planning Commission, Revolving Loan Committee, and Social Concerns Committee. She shared that if residents would like to get involved they can contact the Select Board or Town Clerk. Volz shared that there's an application link on the Town website for interested parties.

Public Comment:

Volz recognized Charles Cogbill. Cogbill commented about the need for open communication regarding the adjournment of Town Meeting to April 15, 2023. He urged the Select Board to inquire of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), the Secretary of State, legal counsel, the moderator of Town Meeting, the Board of Civil Authority, and the Town Clerk to determine what each entity is responsible for and to then communicate this clearly to the electorate. He also noted that the Plainfield Town Charter states that elected officials remain in office until their successors are elected. Volz recognized Thayer for a response. She commented that the Select Board had tried to notify the electorate of changes by posting information on the Town website as well as on Front Porch Forum and the Plainfield People Facebook page. She thanked Cogbill for his comment regarding the language in the Town Charter which states that elected officials hold their position until a replacement is elected, and noted this applies to Carlson as well as herself. Volz stated his understanding of Cogbill's comment acknowledging that transparent communication is important. He suggested that a statement regarding the events surrounding the need to reschedule Town Meeting should be posted on the Town website. Cogbill agreed that this is needed. Thayer noted that a short explanation had been posted on the Town website home page as well as on the Town Meeting Elections and Annual Report describing what had happened with the vote and explaining that people could continue to vote for Town Officers.

Cogbill suggested that draft minutes for Town Meeting on March 7, 2023 should not be posted to the Town website until the completion of Town Meeting on April 15, 2023. Volz, Thayer, and Cogbill discussed the pros and cons of posting the draft minutes prior to the completion of Town Meeting. Volz responded that draft minutes for Town Meeting on March 7, 2023 will be posted on the Town website as soon as possible.

Road Foreman Report - Michael Bingham:

Bingham shared that he had met with VTrans project manager for District 6, Michelle Redman, at Bridge 22 near Cameron Rd and at Bridge 25 which is about 2.5 miles up Brook Rd. He reported that she had suggested that they the Highway Department apply for grants for each bridge separately. Bingham stated that the grant application is due by April 15, 2023. Miller stated that she will complete the grant application and bring it to the Select Board for approval. Bingham stated he's researched replacing the Highway Department's welder. He shared that a new welder costs approximately \$2500 and the one they have now is from the 1970s and is not in good working condition. He questioned whether there's money in the budget to cover this expense. Miller offered to review the Highway Department budget and share it with Bingham this week. Bingham then shared that the main concern for the road crew this week is managing mud on unpaved roads. Thayer offered appreciation to Bingham and the road crew for their work keeping Plainfield's roads in good condition.

Town Clerk/Town Treasurer Report - Robin Miller:

Planning for Town Meeting: (1) What notice do we need to give and by what date; (2) Do we need to issue a revised financial report? and (3) Should we hire Linda Wells to assist us (may require an executive session):

Miller shared that she had spoken with J.P. in the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office and an attorney with VLCT. She was informed that there is no need to rewarn Town Meeting, nor redo the ballots, because Town Meeting was adjourned to a date and time rather than canceled and because the warning had been put out within the correct time period. She shared that copies of the warning and ballots are posted at the Town Office, the Plainfield Coop, and would be posted at the Town Hall Opera House the following day.

Miller suggested it would be helpful to hire Linda Wells for one week to assist in completing the needed revised financial reports. Miller stated there's a tentative meeting with the Town auditor scheduled for Friday, March 24, 2023. **Carlson moved to hire Linda Wells as a consultant to assist with producing the annual treasurer's report at a rate of \$35/hour for a maximum of 40 hours. There was no discussion on the issue. The motion passed unanimously.** Thayer explained that this year's Town Meeting covers financials from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, prior to Miller being appointed on December 1, 2022. She stated her understanding that past Town Clerk Linda Wells had reviewed the Town books with the Town auditor prior to leaving her position on November 30, 2022. She noted that Miller is doing a good job as new Town

Clerk. Volz reiterated Thayer's sentiment, stating the Town is lucky to have Miller in the role of Town Clerk.

Approval of warrants:

Miller presented payroll warrants for March 9, 2023 and March 15, 2023 for approval. **Carlson moved to approve payroll warrants dated March 9, 2023 and March 15, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.**

Fleet Permits:

Volz moved for approval of fleet permits for Cardinal Logistics, Packard Fuels, and Weston Pulpwood. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of draft minutes – **Thayer moved to approve draft minutes for the March 6, 2023 Select Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.** Thayer stated that the draft minutes for the adjourned Town Meeting for March 7, 2023 also needed approval. Volz stated that the draft minutes for Town Meeting will be approved following completion of the adjourned meeting.

Approval of Liquor License:

Carlson moved to approve the first class, third class, and outside consumption liquor license for BAS LLC dba Fairways and Greens. The motion passed unanimously.

Upgrading Internet Service at Town Hall Opera House - Keith Swann:

Keith Swann was unable to attend this meeting. Thayer shared that high speed internet has been installed at the Town Hall Opera House. She shared her hope that this will allow Town Meeting to be offered not only in-person, but also via Zoom. She explained that there would be a one-hundred person attendance limit via Zoom. She noted that the Select Board was responsive to requests from resident's to offer a Zoom option. She thanked Keith Swann of the Friends of the Town Hall Opera House for his work pursuing the installation of high speed internet.

Recreation Committee - Jamie Spector:

Decide how and when to take up the following issues that the Rec Comm would like to discuss with the Select Board. Some could be decided at this March 20 meeting and some could be handled otherwise. They are:

- 1. Exploring getting a trash contract with Casella Waste Management for trash and recycling collection at the Rec Field.**
- 2. Changing the name and mission of the Committee to "Plainfield Recreation and Public Art Committee"**
- 3. Confirming a few budget issues with the Select Board (namely that the mowing charges are moved to the same account as the power and porta potty)**
- 4. Inform the Select Board we are working on a proposed Skate Park renovation**

- 5. Inform the Select Board about the planned water spigot / ARPA Proposal**
- 6. Discuss the proposal for a composting toilet / ARPA Proposal**
- 7. Old Home Day Date confirmation and organizing plan**

This agenda item will be discussed at a future meeting, see Changes to Agenda above.

Other Business:

Volz inquired if the public notice for the Public Hearing on April 3, 2023 had been posted. Miller stated that it was posted and had also been sent to the Times Argus for publication. She stated that Blaisdell had shared that the notice was published on Saturday, March 18, 2023. Bob Fancher requested the public notice be sent to him so that he can add it to the Town website. Miller volunteered to send that to Fancher.

Upcoming Select Board Meeting Agenda Items:

April 3, 2023, 6 pm

Town Clerk/Town Treasurer Report - Robin Miller

Review grant application for bridge repairs

7 pm – Public Hearing for proposed changes to Town zoning ordinance

April 17, 2023

Road Foreman Report - Michael Bingham

Adjourn: Carlson moved to adjourn at 6:44 pm and the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kristin Brosky, Town Administrative Assistant.