

Town of Plainfield Special Select Board Meeting
July 5, 2023
149 Main St. Plainfield, VT and via Zoom
Minutes - Approved

Agenda:

- Changes to Agenda
- Announcements
- Public Comment
- Sign documents for the Highway Dept. Mack truck loan
- Old Home Days discussion (Jenni B)
- Hazard Mitigation Committee authorization (Michael Billingsley)
- Appoint Auditor
- Approve applying for Municipal Energy Resilience Program Community Capacity Building mini-grant (Bob Atchinson)
- Set pay rates for Town Constable and Animal Control Officer
- Approval of warrants
- Approval of draft minutes
- Letter to Green Mountain Power (Bram Towbin)
- 79 Bean Road (Bram Towbin)
- Adjourn

Present: Select Board members Chair Riley Carlson, Jim Volz, and Bram Towbin. Also in attendance were Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Miller, Old Home Days Coordinator Jenni B, and Town Animal Control Officer Peter Yasus.

Carlson called the meeting to order at 11:07 am.

Changes to Agenda:

There were no changes to the agenda.

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Sign documents for the Highway Dept. Mack truck loan:

All Select Board members signed the loan documents for the previously approved Highway Department purchase of a Mack truck.

Old Home Days Discussion (Jenni B):

Jenni B asked if the Select Board will be in the Old Home Days parade held on September 9, 2023. Select Board members stated they will try to attend. Jenni asked for information regarding having portable toilets, lawn games, stage and sound system available for the event; the Select Board suggested Jenni collaborate with Plainfield Recreation and Public Arts Committee Chair Jamie Spector as well as Fire Chief Greg Light. Towbin stated that the Select Board will ensure that the Sheriff's Department is on hand for the event and informed Jenni that only one deputy will be available so volunteers will need to be organized to manage traffic at other intersections in town. Towbin volunteered to locate the road signs that are put up two days before the parade to warn traffic of the parade.

Hazard Mitigation Committee authorization (Michael Billingsley):

Michael Billingsley was unable to attend the meeting. Carlson voiced his preference for the older version of the Hazard Mitigation Committee authorization statement over the updated version in order to start with a basic document that can be reformed as needed going forward. This item will be on the agenda for the July 17, 2023 Select Board meeting.

Appoint Auditor:

Towbin moved to appoint Susan Bradley as Auditor for a term that runs through the next Town Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Approve applying for Municipal Energy Resilience Program Community Capacity Building mini-grant (Bob Atchinson):

Volz moved to approve applying for the Municipal Energy Resilience Program Community Capacity Building mini-grant. The motion carried unanimously.

Set pay rates for Town Constable and Animal Control Officer:

Towbin moved to set the pay rate for the Town Animal Control Officer, Constable, and Health Officer at \$20/hour up to the amount in the current budget. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of warrants:

Volz moved to approve payroll warrants dated June 21 and 28, 2023 and July 7, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Towbin moved to approve accounts payable warrants dated June 22 and 29, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of draft minutes:

Volz moved to approve draft minutes dated July 7, September 15, and October 6, 2022. The motion carried 2-0, with Towbin abstaining.

Volz moved to approve draft minutes dated June 19, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter to Green Mountain Power (Bram Towbin):

Towbin had provided a copy of the proposed letter to the other members of the Select Board ahead of the meeting. He shared that he will be touring the Marshfield Dam facility on the morning of July 12, 2023 with Representative Marc Mihaly and Plainfield Emergency management Director Michael Billingsley. Towbin stated his intention to provide copies of the letter to the head of Green Mountain Power (GMP) as well as the person at GMP in charge of

dams with copies also sent to the Department of Public Service and the Public Utility Commissioner.

Volz moved to approve sending the letter and authorizing Riley Carlson to sign on behalf of the Select Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Towbin shared that Representative Mihaly is drafting legislation that would shift oversight of the dam to the Agency of Natural Resources and expressed his hope that within that bill will be provision for funding emergency planning regarding dam safety.

79 Bean Road (Bram Towbin):

Towbin and Volz provided historical context for concerns regarding the property at 79 Bean Road. Towbin shared that the property is being taxed as a non-inhabited property. He shared that last week a relative of the deceased owner of the property came forward expressing interest in paying the property tax. Towbin expressed his belief that it would be prudent for the Town to prevent the property from being lived in without following zoning regulations. Volz explained that given the property size and the setback requirements that the property couldn't support the building of a residence there. Volz and Towbin suggested the Town discuss the matter with the Town attorney Michael Tarrant to explore options and potential cost of those options, Carlson agreed.

Volz moved to authorize Carlson to contact the Town attorney Michael Tarrant to discuss options and related costs of options regarding the property at 79 Bean Rd. The motion carried unanimously.

Towbin shared that cleanup is happening at the property at 1248 Brook Rd. and elaborated on the hazardous condition of the property. Carlson stated this issue will be discussed at the next regular Select Board meeting on July 17, 2023 and Towbin will invite concerned neighbor, Mr. Scott, to attend to voice his concerns.

Adjourn: **Carlson moved to adjourn at 11:45 am. The motion carried unanimously.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kristin Brosky, Town of Plainfield Administrative Assistant.