

# Plainfield Selectboard Hearing

SB Chair Karl Bissex and SB Members Frances Rose Subbiando and Patti Jamle were in attendance.

## Transcript

<https://otter.ai/u/7ZksRVSvFW9Lh4qXfz4fJiYhAGY?view=summary>

The Selectboard Hearing addressed several key issues. The meeting started late due to technical issues. The board approved a \$60,000 planning grant for the village expansion project, requiring a 10% in-kind match from town officials. A special election on May 20 was scheduled to reconsider zoning bylaws, with a 2/3 majority needed for passage above what was voted on in the previous election.. The town attorney Michael Tarrant was authorized to file a contempt motion against Devin for non-compliance with a court order to vacate 79 Bean Road. The board also discussed the need for clearer ballot language to prevent voter confusion. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14.

## Action Items

- **Hold a special election by Australian ballot on May 20th to reconsider the zoning bylaw vote from Town Meeting.**
  - **Motion from Karl Bissex, Patti Jamele seconded, passed with unanimous support.**
- **Submit the planning grant application under the Vermont Community Development Program.**
  - **Motion by Frances Rose, seconded by Patti Jamele, passed with unanimous support.**
- **File a contempt proceeding regarding the residents at 79 Bean Road.**
  - **Motion from Frances Rose, seconded by Patti Jamele, passed with unanimous support.**

## Outline

### Opening the Meeting and Technical Issues

- Karl Bissex and Frances Rose discuss the technical issues that caused the late start of the meeting.
- Karl Bissex confirms that the meeting is being recorded and that minutes will be taken.

- Karl Bissex mentions that the planned executive session is no longer needed as it has been internally resolved.
- Frances Rose expresses gratitude to Dan Fingas for hosting the first committee meeting of the East Village expansion Advisory Committee.

## **Public Comment and Announcements**

- Karl Bissex announces that he will be absent for the next two meetings, and Frances Rose will act as chair during that time.
- Allana Norway asks if she should comment now or wait until the special election is discussed.
- Karl Bissex suggests waiting until the special election is addressed.
- Frances Rose mentions the planning grant under the Vermont Community Development Program and introduces Arion Thiboumery to discuss it.

## **Planning Grant Discussion**

- Arion Thiboumery explains the \$60,000 planning grant for the village expansion project and the \$150,000 loan for engineering (which was not addressed at this meeting).
- The grant would be used for engineering without affecting the project's budget.
- Frances Rose and Karl Bissex discuss the procedural steps needed to apply for the grant.
- The board votes to support the planning grant and authorizes Dan Fingas to submit the grant application.

## **Special Election on Zoning Bylaws**

- Karl Bissex explains the need for a special election on zoning bylaws due to a reconsideration vote.
- The election is scheduled for May 20, and absentee ballots will be sent out.
- Alana Norway expresses concerns about the placement of the question on the ballot and the confusion it caused.
- Karl Bissex and Frances Rose discuss the need for clear communication and public education on the zoning changes.

## **Discussion on Zoning Bylaws and Public Input**

- Frances Rose and Karl Bissex discuss the importance of public input and the need for clear communication on zoning changes.
- Alana Norway shares her experience of gathering signatures for the reconsideration vote and the confusion among voters.
- Karl Bissex explains the process and the need for a two-thirds majority for the reconsideration vote to pass.

- The board discusses the importance of making information available to all residents, including those not on social media or electronics.

### **Approval of Minutes and Warrants**

- Frances Rose and Karl Bissex discuss the approval of payroll and other accounts payable.
- The board approves the minutes and warrants for the March 31 meeting.

### **Bean Road Situation Update**

- Town Attorney Michael Tarrant joins the meeting to discuss the Bean Road situation and the need for a contempt motion.
- Michael Tarrant explains the process of filing a contempt motion to enforce the court's order for Devin to vacate the property.
- The board discusses the challenges of enforcing the order and the potential for fines and imprisonment.
- The board authorizes Michael Tarrant to file the contempt motion.

### **Final Discussions and Adjournment**

- The board discusses the enforcement of zoning regulations and the placement of the RV on the property.
- Karen, the zoning administrator, confirms that the RV is 50 feet away from the property line.
- The board confirms the next meeting date and time for April 14.
- The meeting is adjourned with a motion and seconded by Frances Rose and Karl Bissex.