To: Plainfield Select Board
From: Karen Hatcher, Grants Administrator
Re: Grants Update- September 28, 2026

On September 24th, a reconstituted Grants Work Group (Tammy Martel, Karl Bissex, Michael Billingsley, Walter Hope, Peter Youngbaer, Arion Thiboumery and Bob Atchinson) met to:

1. Review and map a comprehensive list of grants currently in process or anticipated, to understand timing as relates to coordination, resources and matching funds needed.
2. Discuss creating a Grants Policy to include a town-wide process for coordinating with the Treasurer's office on any prospective grant applications. The need for this includes financial record-keeping and reporting and planning for any required matching funds.
3. Discuss the need for a town-wide Strategic Planning process that provides the SB a lens through which grant application decisions are made.

FEMA-PA DR4810 (2024 Flood) Grant

- We are currently working toward close-out on all but two FEMA projects, which are under final FEMA review.
- We received a notice of FEMA Audit at the end of August and were audited on September 10th. The Audit report showed three areas of Questioned Compliance, which Treasurer, Tammy Martel and I are working to address. Two of these require specific additional provisions in our town's procurement policy and in contracts related to FEMA funded projects, in line with new policies of the Federal government. The third addresses how we name/describe FEMA accounts in our General Ledger.

Federal Highway Administration Grants/Project Review

All three permanent FHWA projects continue to move forward:

- Mill Street Bridge and Brook Rd Bridge replacement projects are currently in the Right of Way phase, with temporary easements in process with property owners.
- Brook Road (bridges 12, 23 and 24) Alternative study has been presented and public voting of preferences will follow the September 30th SLR Great Brook H&H study presentation. The Select Board will determine which alternative route will be fully developed on October 12th.
- A question was raised by a member of the public about how much money the town has already spent on Brook Road. To date, I can report the following:
    - For emergency repairs on Brook Road following the flooding, the FHWA reimbursed the Town 100% of the over $800,000 expended using grant funds, so $0 of town funds were used.
    - For permanent repair projects currently in process for Brook Road, FHWA reimburses the Town 90% of expenses. To date, those expenses total:

- Brook Road Bridge #21 Project: $142,126. The Town's match has been $14,213
- Brook Road Bridges 12, 23, 24 Project: $82,511.89. The Town's match has been $8,252

Emergency Watershed Protection Grant

Initial Design Review Meetings with Dubois & King were held with property owners 8/14/26. Since then, the owner at 99 Brook Rd has decided to opt out and instead take the FEMA Buyout. The owner at 125 Barre Hill has opted to go forward.

A second set of Design Review meetings will need to be scheduled for the two problem areas along the Winooski in the area of Martin Meadow, the first being with the trustees of the Friends Meeting House and the Cogbills, the second being with the Hammacks and representatives of the Plainfield Health Center. These meetings are yet to be scheduled due to a need to get updated survey information from the NRCS. Hope to have meetings set up in October.

Grant Award: $1,062,918
Terms: 75%, Match 25%

MERP: Municipal Energy Resilience Program

Grant Purpose: Energy efficiency updates to five town owned buildings: Garage, Wastewater Plant, Firehouse, Town Office, and Town Hall/Opera House, managed by Town Energy Coordinator
Current Status: Contracting will be completed by September 30th.
Grant Award: $310,180
Terms: 100%

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant– Removal of Old Batchelder Dam

Request for Information sent to FEMA Hazard Mitigation; funds are still not awarded.
Being managed by The Friends of the Winooski to benefit the town and surrounding towns.

Congressionally Directed Spending Request

Purpose: to fund improvements to the Town Hall/Opera House
Grant Request: $292,500
Status: Still awaiting a decision