

March 10 2025 Plainfield Selectboard Meeting Transcript

Dan Fingas 0:02

All right, let me now at six o'clock. Let me hit record as well. There we go. Well, I'm

Karl Bissex 0:12

going to open the meeting at this six o'clock. This is the Plainfield Select Board meeting, March 10, 2025, there are three of the five select members here now, but we expect the other two at some point. So the first order of business is to urbanize the Select Board, and that means a chair. We need nominations for chair, a co chair, I think a secretary. We never, we never had a secretary instead of Chairman. Okay, okay, and a vice chair. Hello. So,

Patti Jamele 0:59

yeah, I made motion that how visits continues

Unknown Speaker 1:02

to be the chair and that Frances

Frances Rose 1:04

rose continues to be the vice chair.

Karl Bissex 1:09

Anything about it? Kyle, any seconds

Frances Rose 1:12

I would second. Can

Dan Fingas 1:13

we? Can we do that? Can we do them together? Yeah, like we can do both positions in one month? Yeah, it's just our own organizational section. Yep.

Karl Bissex 1:24

So we have a motion and second i Well, thank you folks, Matt, and congratulations again on winning your election. You all soon. Oh, we did get, we did get, thank you. Any changes for the agenda with the board? Would like to talk about we tried to get everything on there that

Frances Rose 1:58

we need to do. I

Karl Bissex 2:03

yes announcements,

no announcements, okay, flying right through public comment. We have 10 minutes for public comment.

Speaker 1 2:21

No one. I don't see Peter on there the animal control that doesn't ask, did he impound the dog? I had heard that Saturday, him and Christopher keast were going to go up and talk with Devin. I know if they did, what's the status on that right now?

Karl Bissex 2:43

Well, we have not unless we'll wait for Bram to get off this very one of his very busy

Peter Yasus 2:54

day. Yeah, hi. Can you guys see me? Yes,

Frances Rose 2:58

we can. Hey, All

Peter Yasus 3:00

right, great. Yeah, Chris, I was gonna jump in and say, Chris and myself came up there, saw Devin, and we went over to Kim's house, left the message on our front door, and also went up and spoke with Ryan Christensen.

Frances Rose 3:16

And would you state your name please for the record?

Peter Yasus 3:20

Peter Yasus, thank you.

Karl Bissex 3:24

Okay, so you were at the property and you talked and you left notes for Kim and for the other neighbor, Ryan.

Peter Yasus 3:32

We actually spoke with Ryan. He was home, but at Kim's house, she was not home, and we left a message on her front door. Okay,

Unknown Speaker 3:42

okay, go ahead, telling me to tell me now. Oh,

Karl Bissex 3:46

so what? What was the result of your visit?

Peter Yasus 3:50

Um, the dog was tethered. Um, Devin had said that most of the claims against them were false. So once we got past that, we talked about the care of the animal. He said that he repaired the tether line. It was a new tether line, and the dog, while we were there, was barking at his boat running from the right side of the house to the left side of the house on the tether line. And we spoke, saying that he should get the animal rabies shots and then registered with the town as soon as possible. I called him back today because he said he was going to try and do it Monday morning, because we were there Saturday afternoon, at 12 o'clock, and so now I called them about 132 o'clock today, and I haven't checked my messages to see if I got any calls back from so I don't know what the status is today of the animal, if it got rabies shots this morning, or if you went to the town this morning.

Karl Bissex 4:59

Okay, he, I don't know if he's aware of it, but there are some free rabies clinics where

Peter Yasus 5:08

we were saying, we were saying that too, and he was going to look into

Karl Bissex 5:11

it. Good, good, because it's a lot less money. That's not the issue, right? No, it's not the issue. He needs to be tied up. Tell him about

Unknown Speaker 5:19

the dogs being encountered.

Peter Yasus 5:22

Well, what we what I tried to do is I got in touch with three different organizations, the one being the one that was recommended by Sheriff Brett Meyer, so that one is run by a former animal control officer in the town of Chelsea. So I'm waiting for an answer back on that, and what we need is a town contract with that company so that everything is set to go so I cannot impound the dog without having some place to bring it. Yep. So that's my problem right now. Did you

Speaker 2 6:06

tell Devon the dog was being impounded, no matter whether it has rabies shots or whatever?

Peter Yasus 6:12

Well, I cannot enter his property. I can only confiscate the dog on the road. The dog is loose, and that's per Brett Meyer, the sheriff, he needs, we need a warrant to go on to his property to get the animal so we could be brought up on charges. Okay?

Speaker 1 6:36

He said nothing about the warrant. And so you can answer my question, did you tell Kevin that the dog was being

Dan Fingas 6:43

impounded the microphones this way? Oh yeah,

Peter Yasus 6:49

we did. Yes, we did. We did mention all the other specifics about impounding the dog. But as far as a legal thing, Bretton Myers suggested to me, I cannot do that. I cannot just go on his property, grab the dog that's I can only grab the dog if it's loose on the road somewhere.

Karl Bissex 7:16

Michael, yes, I was aware that you need this. You're farther from

Frances Rose 7:21

the model you might need. That

Karl Bissex 7:24

name Michael

Unknown Speaker 7:29

Billington, Bucha,

Michael Billingsley 7:34

that's yeah, there you go. I was aware at the last Select Board meeting there was a very distinct effort to gather historical data of people who attested that they had been launched at or that they had been on their own property and the dog had come after them or tracked them and one person was bitten. So we actually have a long track record of the dog being out of compliance and also doing things that are illegal. So I didn't think you needed to prove that again.

Peter Yasus 8:06

Well then either that or I'm not getting the right information from Brett.

Josh 8:16

So

Karl Bissex 8:18

okay, so you're going to let us know about

Peter Yasus 8:20

and that, and that email was sent to Bram from Brett to myself, and I think some other people on the list at the town so that it's an email that Bram should have seen. Okay,

Unknown Speaker 8:36

what did the, what did the,

Karl Bissex 8:40

what's that anyone else have any comments, because I don't want to tie up all the 10 minutes with the dog. Do you have any

Bram Towbin 8:48

I mean, what I remember in the email was the officer complaining about the identification of the individual had a dog, but I don't remember much beyond that. Okay, another point of

Dan Fingas 9:02

what you might have to lose the mic. You're speaking pretty loud.

Bram Towbin 9:08

Sorry. George Cushing has had a hard time going into the Zoom portion of the meeting. You might come and he wants to be for the public comment section. Would it be possible to accommodate him? He's walking over right now. Yeah,

Karl Bissex 9:21

yeah, we can get into the business and get back at him. That's fine. Yeah, okay, thanks.

Any other public comment issues? Okay, we can come back to public comment when George gets here. The review of the town meeting, Dan had a concept, an idea, and we don't know if we can do this, was to combine the reports into one motion, similar to what we do with the social concerns, where we can combine all of them together and have one motion and then the discussion, people can bring up particular questions about each one of those.

Dan Fingas 10:11

Explain it. Yeah. Okay, so the town report for town meeting, there's some statutorily required things in it, about 90% of what's in our town report is not in that statutory requirement. So I'm not suggesting that we change the actual book or the information that we provide, but instead of having a count of 29 votes to say, Do we accept this report? Do we accept this report? Even though they're all past tense things and they've already happened, we would have one motion to accept all of the unrequired by statute reports. We could then go through all the reports in town meeting, but we wouldn't have to vote 29 times. We would just vote once at the end of all of the discussion. Probably save us some time and save us a bunch of asking for first and seconds and having someone write down who is the first or the second for the recreation departments or other parks and recreation committees report. So I think it's something we should try to move forward on it. You'll just make life a little bit easier for running town meeting. We're not changing the information we bring to the town, and we are. I've talked to other towns a lot of times, do not do it this way, and it's not required by state law to do it this way. Yeah,

Karl Bissex 11:26

I did talk to Donnie also, and he said it was just tradition, but it takes a lot of time, and it doesn't really accomplish anything, because we can still have a discussion about each one of those reports, if we were,

Bram Towbin 11:39
yep, oh, Trev, is that his

Karl Bissex 11:43
hand up? Charlie, go ahead, yes. Do

Charlie Cogbill 11:46
I understand that you're trying to set a procedure how next town meeting is being run?

Karl Bissex 11:55
It's a suggestion that we should bring up at next town meeting.

Charlie Cogbill 12:00
So will the decision be made by town meeting, or will the decision be made by the Select Board?

Karl Bissex 12:06
No, I think it should be a town meeting decision. I guess my thought, I don't know what's required.

Dan Fingas 12:13
Yeah, I guess I don't know if the way that we run town meeting right now was decided by a town meeting, or if they just did it this way and we just kept you know, like I don't, we'd have to look back in the records to know, I know that there is nothing, from a state law perspective, that requires us beyond the article piece and having requirements within the town meeting report. I mean, there's very specific things we're required to do, but a lot of what we do is not required, and I think it's town by town, how they deal with those things.

Karl Bissex 12:44
It feels to me like next town meeting. We have a discussion about it and a vote on it, and then go from there. May

Charlie Cogbill 12:53
I say that town meeting runs itself, and any they can change their procedure, as long as it's in accordance with the law, and it has nothing to do with article that's presented or with anything else. It has to be something that's brought up at town meeting.

Karl Bissex 13:16
Yep, understood, and I think that's the way we'll do it. It was just a point of, we're just reviewing the town meeting issues, and just that was one of the items that we have talked about. Bram,

Bram Towbin 13:35

yes, we've gotten comments from the people. And I'm not for or against this idea, but I'm just saying other towns do this where they don't mail the town report to everyone. The town report is available at town meeting and at the town office.

Dan Fingas 13:55

It's really speaker thing. I don't I can try to fix it, but I'm not an audio person. People online. It isn't here,

Frances Rose 14:01

um, Lauren is having a hard time hearing you. I think online is having a hard time hearing Do you want to move into the do you want

Bram Towbin 14:07

to move into the front row? Yeah, just stand here. What I was saying was some towns do not do a mass mailing of a town report. The town report is picked up at the Municipal Building and available at town meeting and available electronically. I'll get the numbers in terms of what the savings is, but I'm just saying that that's something that some other towns do, and other people have complained about too many reports being made.

Karl Bissex 14:43

Okay? Any other feedback that we should talk about

Bram Towbin 14:51

from anyone? Yeah, Bram sorry on the zoning vote because of the position of that question on the ballot, many people did not vote that on the on the zoning. So we were aware of that, and we're going to change the design of the ballot to make sure that people don't skip over and

Karl Bissex 15:16

is there, is there another vote, or is there just the next time. That's something next time, okay, the vote is the vote? Yeah, yeah, yeah. Thank you. Where's the mic?

Frances Rose 15:31

Is that any better? Yes,

thanks. Well done, Dan. I have a few some things about town meeting to bring back to our ears and collective audience, probably three different categories. One before town meeting, I had come before the Select Board to ask for permission to the board and also the town the opera house to create air purifiers. We had that work session. There were six courses Rosenthal air purifiers running during town hall. That happened the town, the Opera House, town hall has agreed to adopt them. So now we have the option of running virus removing air filters in this space whenever we're in it. This one right there. There is one right there. The onus is on us to make sure they're turned on when we do have events here, and it's not just town events, of course, it's also Opera House events, and it's also, you know, this place is our emergency shelter in case of emergency or disaster. So just wanting to, like, circle around about that, that

that happened, and that was running during town halls. Second, it's has to do with we've measured before in here the the CO two, carbon dioxide, parts per million. It gets very high. This building is well sealed. It needs to be to, like, run efficiently. But, you know, outdoors is about 500 parts per million. 1000 is like, you know, fine for indoors. Above that, there's like graduating scales of increasing difficulty with cognition and perhaps irritability and town meeting. We're up around 4500 so that's like high and we're hoping that the Merc grant that Bob attenson got is going to help us with an HVAC system that can bring in more fresh air while warming the incoming air with the outgoing air. Right now, there's a lot of building air recycling for efficiency, and so we hope to, like, get any of that, say, um be equal on efficiency at least while um promoting more fresh air in this space.

Yep, I have one

Michael Billingsley 18:13

question. Frances rose, yes, very relevant to that microbial scene. I have very limited hearing. I have very limited hearing. I had requested in a couple of emails that you folks use a microphone. Those of us who come in person can't hear you. I didn't hear half about what you just said, and part of that was because the fans were running, which is good, but at the same time, we couldn't hear you. So I had requested that, although you've got an owl that will send your voices to the people on the internet, those of us who kind of personally, would love to hear what you say as well, if the Selectboard could use a microphone in addition to the hour, I would be very thankful

Frances Rose 19:10

just not on, not on

bringing me, bringing me Hello, bringing me to the third piece, which is accessibility at town meeting, it was brought up frequently in the space there are so many dimensions of accessibility about town meeting that I basically I'd love for this to be a moment where the Select Board is soliciting feedback about what we can do to improve accessibility around town meeting for some whose immune systems are compromised, you know, a room with close to 200 people in it is like not going to be the thing ever. We know already that the route to intersection. Some people don't come to town meeting because they're afraid to cross the street. That's also true. And you know, these are things that we are trying to do something about, and trying to do them happens really slowly, especially that intersection project. You know, you're not the first Michael to bring up the noise issue about you know, if we're running fans in order to clean the air that's also providing it's like sensory stimulation that is too much or it can't hear. And yeah, I want to invite all who are carrying ideas about how we can make talent meeting more accessible to start sending them to the Select Board, please. We're bringing them up here and we, you know, I'd like to state an intention to try to actuate as many of those suggestions that are reasonable as we may we want town meeting to be more and more accessible to the town. Michael, you

Michael Billingsley 21:04

Michael, again, I'm glad you brought this up. You spoke about it recently, and what I have made my personal responsibility since last June, actually since last May, was to make this building accessible for all meetings and others. There are committee meetings here as well. There are hosted meetings. There are meetings which people rent the facility. It is a public space, and it is very incumbent upon us to meet, at the very least ADA compliance and in terms of accessibility. So over the course of the last nine months, with a \$39,000 grant from the Vermont Community Foundation trying to make the building more livable, at least as much as \$39,000 can do so, paving the front hand cap accessible space, which is hand kept only accessible for hand cap accessibility, as well as soon, adding a front door where there is a ridge that people think with a wheelchair, trying to examine what will be the best air handling, and at least now we know that that's actually addressed with money we don't have. We can't do the air conditioning to this whole room, but also cooling the lower floor and adding air conditioning there so that we can have a habitable temperature that summer, as well as adding sustaining power so that we're not even going into the power goes up. It's getting those black so people can go see if they're not. And the last thing that we have asked is that the Select Board, working with the road or green on power, we can show lighting across the street? Because part of the difficulty of getting across the street is there isn't, first of all, dedicated lighting for people to get out of their car safely. And secondly, get across really too. And there is crosswalk marked, contemporary crosswalk, which is not in use right now, including it's not painted, but the idea of painting the crosswalk is one by a sign that was positioned by Vt trans would be helpful. We can go forward there. I don't know if we can do that as part of our striking project, but we're having

Frances Rose 23:16
space two hands up. Ilana and Dawn.

Karl Bissex 23:22
I think Alana was up first. Alana,

Frances Rose 23:32
okay, I can read, I can read Alana's comment because she's not able to unmute Alana spoke or I wanted to bring up the location of the zoning vote also and publicly note that could be 75 people that didn't vote because of that. And the wonder is, could it have changed the outcome?

Dan Fingas 23:54
No, the zoning, the zoning passed by more than 75 votes. The zoning passed by more even if every single one of those 75 people voted for now it's going to be it's still fast. Thank

Frances Rose 24:03
you. That's good,

Karl Bissex 24:05
good question. And was there someone else that had a Dawn? Dawn? Yep,

Dawn Fancher 24:09

that was me. I have a lot of thoughts, so I won't take up time in this meeting. I'll email them out about things we could make meeting more accessible, as long as we're still having an in person. One. I personally would like to see us move to Australian ballot for maximum accessibility. As much as I loved what we had, I just wanted to thank all the people who made all did all the efforts to make it as accessible as it was. And even though and the state legislator allowed it to be streamed, for part of it was actually helped me. Personally, I there's no way I could have made it out in person, town meeting that long, and I watched at home and like came at the end, which is something I was able to do. Not everyone's able to do that, but I was in the sweet spot of people that actually helped so but I also just wanted to echo what Rose said about the CO two levels at the being so high that it would could, you know, harm cognition, I just like wanted to say on that, that until we can get some sort of HVAC system, which I realize is a huge project, that we make sure we crack the windows at any kind of very crowded meeting like that. It gets hot enough in there. Anyway, that's all.

Dan Fingas 25:20

Thank you. I will say not all the windows open because they're old, but all of the windows that open were open during

Karl Bissex 25:28

the meeting. Yep. And I just want to follow up on one thing you mentioned. This lift I noticed, can't be called from up here,

Dan Fingas 25:39

or anyway, either way, yeah,

Karl Bissex 25:41

yeah. You have to go downstairs and then write it, yeah, yeah. So I had to do that for a few folks. And there is a button here. It just isn't connected, apparently. So I don't know. We should probably talk to our service people on that

Unknown Speaker 25:57

two, two hands. Alicia,

Unknown Speaker 25:59

okay. Alicia, chairs, Alicia,

Karl Bissex 26:01

you want to go first? Yeah, thank

Alicia Weiss 26:04

you, and thank you Frances rose for bringing that up. I really appreciate that. I've worked for years professionally in the accessibility area and also as an advocate. And you know, I'd be happy if Michael's interested in to look for funding resources. I've also worked, I've worked with the university that had a historic building. There's always a struggle to balance the expectations

of the preservation, historic preservation committees, which I also really appreciate, with access for everyone. It involves a lot of creative thinking and sometimes a little manipulation. You know, we don't have an accessible entrance. I just want to bring that up too. So, you know, accessibility really means in this day and age and legally and not just the spirit of the law, but in the letter of the law, independent access. So having to rely on someone else to call the lift and to open the door for you is an independent access. It's always going to be a difficult balance, because you're going to have people who need volume for for accessibility because of their hearing, and you're going to have people like myself who are hideously sensitive, or people on the spectrum, or people with other conditions which makes them reactive and sensitive to noise and some of its positioning yourself, bringing your plugs. We might look into acquiring some FM systems to be available for people who want to attend and have difficulty hearing because there you can't always choose your space. It's a small space, and there are only a certain number of seats, we could also think about putting preference seats signs on the seats saying preferred seating or reserved seating for people with various different disabilities, if you will. So I'm really interested in working with this way that anybody who's interested in trying to make it better, understanding that we'll always have constraints, just want to remind folks of the woman I couldn't quite see who it was, who said that it was really a hardship for her to get out To town meeting she's injured. That's going to be true for people who have mobility or other health issues. So if we're not going to go to Australian ballot on everything, I think we should offer as a reasonable accommodation the ability to do some kind of ballot vote, even if it's somebody recording it online. Someone asked one FM system, is it's an assistive listen listening device? There are a bunch of different type. I won't take more time up, but thanks.

Unknown Speaker 29:10

Thanks, Alicia, we

Dan Fingas 29:12

do. We, being Plainfield arts, does have an assistive listening I don't think we've figured out the best way to use it. I do know that the headphones we have for it very bad so we do. I think if you have expertise in that, teeth, Swan, who is facilities manager here, would love to talk about that more and how we can utilize that, I will say, from Australian ballot, if we, if we want to go to that as a town, that's a town vote. It's got to be petitioned and voted on at the next town meeting, without a town meeting in person to then move it. It's not a decision, and I do not believe that we as a town can tally votes for things that are four votes in any other way, other than floor votes. So that's not an option we have as a town under current state law.

Karl Bissex 30:02

Yeah. Betsy, oh,

Speaker 3 30:05

Betsy, go ahead. Oh, hi, hi. I'm just talking. I just wanted to mention about about crossing the high the road to get to town hall, and how that does really limit accessibility. But one of the things that we, I think, ran out, ran into, and I don't know if people have new information on this, but was it having a we had requested in the past, a blinking light to be, you know, one of those

buttons you can push as you want to cross the Road, and then there'd be a blinking light visible to drivers that you were crossing. But because we lack a long enough sight line from coming from the east, going west, they this, the state would not install anything like that. And so I'm I do hope in the net. I hope we're going to be hearing about it tonight, about how that might be improved, because certainly a blinking light, allowing people to cross and stopping traffic would really make it a little safe, much safer. Thank you.

Karl Bissex 31:22

Yeah, I think we all agree with a safety issue there Betsy, and we're going to be having discussions with VT chands about the intersection project, which kind of rolls into that safe crossing issue. So we're on that. We're working on that and getting, hopefully, in one of the future meetings, we will have a representative here to give us an update on where things are at. Okay, I think we're set. And George is not here yet, so I'm going to keep going. We have the town clerk's report. Bram i

Bram Towbin 32:03

right Just to follow up on the intersection. Betsy is correct because of line of sight issues coming in one direction, the state isn't going to sanction a crosswalk directly in front of town hall, opera household, but we could have gone a couple 100 feet down. I don't know if that interest of interest, also, there's complications regarding putting in any kind of blinking or stop light, because it's, it's a federal has to do with federal rules, which is why we have that horrible guard rail, you know, blocks the view for everybody. They replaced the old one, which was bad, but this one's worse, but it needs spec So, but the spec isn't designed for that kind of time on town office matters. I interviewed a number of candidates, probably plus for the administrative position, the system for me was the CO assistant position, we narrowed down to three candidates, and we'll have the final interviews at the end of this week. If any buddy from the Select Board wishes to join me in that. So that would be great.

Frances Rose 33:25

Okay, I'm I would be happy to join you for those interviews. Great.

Bram Towbin 33:28

Thanks process. Appreciate it. The other thing I just want to go over, there is no set policy in terms of disposing of used town big ticket item equipment, and we had a unfortunate situation, you know, a year and change ago, where a truck was sold at a willfully undervalued price, costing the taxpayers money. At present, we want to dispose of a pickup truck, plow truck, 2015 I believe it's an international that is was black flagged by the inspectors. For those of you not familiar, that means the damage to it is severe enough so that it cannot be put on the road. It can't pass inspection. In other words, so the problem has to do with the truck has a very severely bent frame that is not terrible. We have, I talked to Michael and Josh about this. We have a coin town employee who's interested in purchasing the vehicle for \$4,500 and I just wanted to make everyone aware publicly, Michael and Josh feel that that's a decent price. Once again, this is a vehicle that is not going to be able to be road worthy without an extraordinary amount of Well, I don't even know that one's black flag thing ever is. So I just wanted to bring

that up as well. And I think I'm trying to think for other matters. I think that's about it. Also, I have the summary of the minutes of town meeting, plus the transcript Dawn me has signed off on it, if you guys find you know want to correct stuff, or if you want to vote on it next meeting, or whatever you want to do. Just let me know. And I have, I have a hard copies as well as PDF versions, and I made corrections. There were people who emailed corrections to that. The transcript runs about 63 pages. The summary is probably four or five so,

Frances Rose 36:20

so that's the town meeting transcript, yes, and then Lloyd, yeah, Lord,

Lloyd Farnham 36:27

I'm here. I just wanted to say that I was the one that purchased the truck a year and a half ago. It did not go out to bid. It definitely shouldn't go out to bid, and I was the one that brought that to branch attention. So this time around, rather than give it to somebody's friend again, like the last one, it's going to why doesn't what the public did?

Bram Towbin 36:51

Well, I agree with Lloyd regarding the fact that you know the that last truck was completely boxed event. And to give you an idea, we extended the problem. We basically sold the truck for 21 and then about a month later, it went for 63 so that that was a real problem. In this case, I think that it does make sense, and we can select, or chooses, to put a public notice out and put it out to bid. We can give that route, that for equipment that's in this state and this and that, I don't know if the extra couple \$100 will get is worth the procedural cost of fielding phone calls and tying up personnel to do it. I could be wrong. So, you know, I think Lori is right in wanting to work out for the taxpayer, and we can go this other route. I'm just not sure, given the state of this particular vehicle, whether it's worth that extra effort, I certainly think for something that's, you know, in the over \$10,000 range, it's, it's no no doubt that would be a better option, but I'm just Not so sure

Lloyd Farnham 38:19

in that case, but it's exhausted. Certainly, dollar deposit the paper couldn't bring the town more money.

Bram Towbin 38:29

I think it's not so much the it's not so much the cost of the ad. It's the cost of fielding the phone calls, organizing the bid stuff and all that. And it will take a number of hours and the game. You know, if there's a gain, I don't know that it would be substantial, but once again, we could do that. I mean, I'm not, I'm not saying that it's a bad idea. I think we can do that. It's just that it's, it requires, you know, when you when you take an ad out, it's not the cost of the ad. It's fielding the phone call. It's organizing the payment and doing all that. It's not as as simple. It's just cost of debt. But once again,

Lloyd Farnham 39:11

in the past, there was two, two office people in the template. That's why we have four or five. We can put a few minutes into portion that correctly. Few at all three

Frances Rose 39:24

or four, there's three right now. Yeah,

Karl Bissex 39:30

just a quick question. Could we have, rather than have phone calls come in, could we have people send a bid into it, like you may, we

Bram Towbin 39:37

can do that. I'm just saying that, you know, I'm just saying that I'm feeling a bit overwhelmed in the office right now, right? And it adds more more work. If I thought that it would garner more bucks, I definitely do it. I know, no objection to that, you know. And as for things in the past, things in the past weren't publicly I mean, this is why I'm bringing up this discussion now so we can have a public discussion, you know. And for example, in the past, I went around and there was a truck that was going to be sold for \$1,000 and I went out and and thought that that price was too low, and I went out and I got somebody from Maine to come in and pay \$4,000 so not unfamiliar with with the challenge, but we can put it out. So that big deal,

Karl Bissex 40:25

but we want to be sensitive to your office time as well.

Dan Fingas 40:38

Yeah, I, I am understanding of the limited capacity of the town clerk, but you prefaced this by saying we don't have a formal policy for how we do these things. And it feels like, even though this obviously this vehicle is worth far less than the previous vehicle, it feels like we're doing it the exact same way as the previous vehicle, which you've said on many occasions, was the wrong way to do it. And so I think that we should have at least some sort of process that puts it out so that more than one person can look and decide if they want to, you know, spend whatever amount of money. And I think using this small case might be a good tester to figure out the best way for us to post it do other things, and then when we have an item, we actually think it's going to be worth some money, we'll have a process in place. So that seems like the, for me, the best way for us to go forward. I'm sure when we sold the last one, at least a couple of people in town must have thought it was a good idea to sell it for what we sold it. And so this just seems like the same exact case as before. Michael,

Michael Billingsley 41:49

yeah. Michael, I have been trying to grab my head on something for quite a few months, actually related to this vehicle. And also has a procedural question behind you, which is, this is a fairly expensive truck at the time when it was in years, even, you know, if it's 3050 at some point in its life, it was, it was, it hit something. There was with a file attached. This truck hit a fixed object, whether it's a big stone or a tree with sufficient power that it meant to frame and it could no longer be used with a dump body, which all of which I was present when Michael Bingham

pointed this out, which is why we had to replace it quite a bit of cost. And I was never sure why, if there is an accident with a town vehicle, why it isn't reported, first of all, to our town insurance agency so that our town insurance could replace the truck. That's why we passed vehicle insurance. And secondly, why it was there wasn't a police report, and it was obviously a person who knew that they had hit something with the file attached and wrenched the body, but it didn't ever get addressed. I'm not trying to dig up the past here. I'm trying to say that I wish this kind of thing wouldn't happen because it's very costly

Karl Bissex 43:11

to attend. Oh, I'm sorry. Met you next.

Speaker 4 43:19

I think it went on. I was just curious, my total of like my head was mentioned potentially being reasonable for the offer on this vehicle. But in the research, what was the range like a low and high range that I am I able to expect from a safe stream? I uh,

Josh 43:44

looking at a completed sale of the same model in year. You know, for type of salvage, the the range for similar vehicles, afford at 550 was between 2000 8000 and considering the extent of work with wired to make a passable vehicle, I felt like 4500 was perfectly reasonable.

Bram Towbin 44:16

So I would suggest, given Dan's comments, that the Selectboard basically somebody knew that when town property over \$500 is being sold, that it has to go through The Select Board. And with this vehicle, we can, you know, take ads out and and post it on I'll post it on social media.

Frances Rose 44:53

I'm wondering if this is an opportunity to create town policy on the sale of vehicles. Is this that moment? It doesn't need to be.

Karl Bissex 45:02

For me, I'd rather think about a little more, because there may be issues. But in this case, I think if we follow Bram thought is, if we want to review any sale prior to it being sold, then we can, we can work on the policy in the meantime and perhaps create that policy then,

Frances Rose 45:25

I mean, sensitive to to the town office staff right now, feel free to as you solicit multiple bids in whatever way, do so in such a way that is less labor for town office staff, right?

Dan Fingas 45:41

And also, I know all three of you that are in the office are busy. I know your technology comfort is different. And so you could potentially have the person getting the bids be somebody who's more comfortable with getting electronic bids and organizing I'm thinking of jobs, but might be

better. And then, right? I mean, it's just collecting. I mean, it would take you a lot less time in Bram to block them. I would bet. Well, I would

Josh 46:11

there. There are multiple towns that have a disposal of town assets policy. And just while we're at this conversation, I brought up the Saint Albans one, just to breeze through. So I think for the Select Board to to, you know, to adopt the policy, like looking at a few other towns with, you know, reasonable size are going to have this kind of policy, or that it wouldn't, it wouldn't, it wouldn't be very difficult to generate for the Select Board. Yeah,

Karl Bissex 46:44

I don't think we'll do it tonight, but we that's something we just one

Dan Fingas 46:49

other question for you. Bram so this truck, we've had it sitting for a little bit. Like, does this need to be sold this week? And why? Like, I'm just curious.

Unknown Speaker 46:59

If, no,

Bram Towbin 47:01

once again, it's fun. We'll go through the process. We'll solicit bids and this and that, which also means organizing, having people view the truck, on top of just talking on the phone and doing all that other stuff, which is fine. We'll do that,

Unknown Speaker 47:15

I think, in answer to

Bram Towbin 47:20

Michael's query as to why there wasn't a formal police report filed, I think I can speak that this involved. It was a personnel matter, and that person is no longer an employee of the town, and I don't know that it was one specific incident. I think it was a careless operator error over a period of time. So I think we addressed that one other thing before I turn it over to the Treasurer's Report, I'm going to write a letter that the Select Board I'd like the Select Board to consider. I want every taxpayer in this town to understand that we had a reckless driver who basically totaled a town vehicle and permanently injured a town employee. That individual ended up getting \$100 fine, and sorry, I should prospect it. He fled the scene of the accident, was identified, he ended up getting \$100 fine, license suspended for 30 days. And I really would like the slate board to I think I sent you a number of emails. I had emails of the district attorney, and I find the outcome of this case to be slapped in the face to the people Plainfield, not just on the taxpayer level, but on public safety level. So I will, and you can, you know, I'll give you the letter and you can consider it. Thank you, Bram.

Dan Fingas 48:57

So Bram, you don't need any action from us for you to go through that,

Karl Bissex 49:04

okay, but we do want to, in the future, work on a policy, as Josh suggests. There are other towns that have them,

Unknown Speaker 49:10

and we could find one like,

Karl Bissex 49:14

okay, oh, did you no treasures report, please. Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't see him like, sorry. The

Lloyd Farnham 49:24

only reason I bring it up that way, you have it done this way is every town taxpayer in township have the ability, the ability to have option to put on something like that. Yeah, and I just see the vehicle that I bought. Yes, I made money on the next one. May not be this vehicle, but we might be the one following that we should have a policy that we follow every time take much time to put an ad out. I agree.

Bram Towbin 49:55

I just want to just very clear that, you know, in terms of the disposition of the of the other truck, I agree completely with Lloyd that just going forward this policy, and, you know, willing to do anything wrong in terms of purchasing the truck, it was really the thoughts of the people in power, on the board in the town office at the time. So I think it's fine. We can do this through process. I

Josh 50:30

Okay, so the I had distributed a draft request for proposals to the Select Board for hiring professional firm for auditing, and I haven't, I don't believe I've had any feedback from anyone particularly on that proposal. So I'd be looking for, you know, the go ahead to put that out, to to an app for put the request for proposal out. Typically, there's a couple of places that are optimal for that kind of thing, Vermont citizen towns and then liking on the organization of like CPAs or something like that, but that was what I was planning on putting on the our our work. We had worked with the bookkeeper for a number of months, but due to, like, a lot of revolving, kind of scheduling problems and the need for a little more time than she has available, I'm going to look for a Another bookkeeper to kind of assisted in reconciling a lot of the books and the there are a lot of things in this fiscal year where, just due to the the volume of tables that came through the office in such a short time related to the flood has created a lot of like, difficulty in kind of finding all of the errors and and so I'm going to try to find somebody who's available within like, kind of the budget as it is, but with a little more frequency and availability. That's next to my list of to do is. And then, before we had a discussion about policy, I had on my notes, adoption of policies and the that would kind of go hand in hand with the CPA higher going out to bid. So those are things that I'm working on currently in kind of a fund recovery for Bucha process. Peter and Carl, I guess this is Carl and I have been reviewing the the firms and the ACT writing process. And I

also independently reached out to George strength to have him take a look, because he had questions about the process with hiring a municipal project management for to get these projects funded and up and running and the and then another portion of that is getting the documentation together. And today we had a very good working day on the on putting together all of the documentation for the Federal Highway Works Administration, and in the federal connector, all of that work that we've done is is sort of in 12 different projects. Some of the projects have multiple sites, and so we're currently like scanning and documenting all of the, the documentation from that, from that recovery work to take tickets and invoices, time cards and etc, to get, to Get \$1 value for what is, what is assigned to each and then that'll get built into a table that then gets offed with all the supporting documentation photographs. And then each of those will result in particular number of dollars back. We had great help from sky this morning for a couple of hours helping me with the administrative work on that. Karen Hatcher came in for a few hours and tagged it after sipana. And I'm just really like these, put the amount of work that we moved along and in that the municipal Project Management. Thank you, Carl, for hitchhiking for me when I was sick on Friday. We've come to a sort of a final dollar amount. And without any objection, I'd like to submit that to the municipal assistance Bureau get that processed as soon as possible. That would be for the Mill Street Bridge and then one down below.

Karl Bissex 55:58

You know I was going to say this is primarily a managing engineer, pe who will watch over the projects from one end or the other to get a new bridge in at Mill Street.

Josh 56:10

Yes. And

Dan Fingas 56:14

we have that as a agenda item later in the agenda we do

Karl Bissex 56:17

have that as an agenda item, yes. So I think we'll,

Frances Rose 56:21

I mean, I think a circle back to lack of clarity from us about whether or not the books won't be audited. I'm hearing they ought be audited. I have support them being audited, and you putting out a request for proposals to do that work. Right? I received any

Josh 56:37

feedback from the board on that, and I just just want to check in. And then if there's no other feedback,

Dan Fingas 56:46

Peter is not here. We got some questions, but questions in the document. So do you need us to move? For you to put it out,

Karl Bissex 56:55

or you can put it out? I think we're we're all in support of really understanding where we're at. And as far as the bookkeeper is concerned, I would this is kind of replacing the person that's been there but has had limited time, and we're still trying to recover from previous years of books and not being orderly. And I think this makes a lot of sense,

Josh 57:19

right? And, you know, and then some of this is preparatory for making sure that all of our, like, the rework of the general ledger to kind of unify some of the disparate things, like having, you know, your friend, your FICA, in different sections. Or, you know that other thing, there's, like, some administrative work on that that, you know, we get budgets like we have bookkeeping services, was a line item in this year's budget, and we're not expending it. And I would like to,

Karl Bissex 57:57

okay, I think, I think we fully support that sounds like indeed. Okay, that's the treasurers. Anything to tell us about the road commission.

Josh 58:13

All the work of the road recently has been in the moving forward with the municipal assistance Bureau process. So that has been, there's a very firm like timeline on that, that we have to race to to meet. So that is a a focus to like, you know, in that, in that regard has been entirely considering the municipal assistance Bucha process, yeah,

Karl Bissex 58:47

and I think Karen is going to probably address that right now

Karen Hatcher 58:51

I'm on All right, great. Thank you. Good. Good evening, everybody. I wanted to just give a brief update on the grants recovery and where we are. Things keep happening and things are changing. So I want to come on every time that that I've gotten new information to update folks so and I'll just, I'll tag team with what Josh has just been talking about. We're very clear. We've gotten very clear direction from our folks at FEMA that the only path forward for any of the repairs along Brook road is through federal highway. That's our one path. And so we're really clear about that now and in completing the work for the FEMA pa damage inventory. We'll be taking the brook road items off of that inventory and focusing our efforts with FEMA PA on the roads that are not Brook road. So Cameron Lee, Gore, Max field recreation, field road and the major work that has to be done on those sites will be priority through FEMA pa that damage inventory is close to being signed, but I will say FEMA has changed guidance over the course of the last several months by changing staffing. So that's been a bit of a challenge. We've had four different PDM GS, as they call them, giving us different information. So we finally have gotten it to where we understand exactly what we need to do, and that will be moving forward for the FEMA pa sites. The next step is scheduling site visits with the FEMA inspectors, and we are trying to get some dates on the calendar. But we all know that winter probably isn't done with us, despite today's weather, so we're trying to get some possible dates on where our consultants

can be here at the same time, because we absolutely know that they will hold FEMA fully to account to make sure everything is in the site inspection reports that needs to be. So we get not just the bridge, but all the all of what's around the bridge, you know. So, so that's in the works, and that's that's happening, as Josh said, Federal Highway, we are very clear that we have a tight timeline to get all of the preliminary work done on the 12 sites, the 12 projects, if we call them, that is getting all of this DD, IR, work done, which is incredibly time consuming and administratively heavy, but, but we're going to just keep knocking it out. It doesn't include all the invoices, all of the pick tickets, for all of the gravel and materials that were ever dumped anywhere, pictures of everything time that people spent on it. So for every location, we have to have all of that in a particular folder then scanned in and uploaded to vtrans for the next step, and then once we get signed off, there, we can move on hiring a project engineer and the next steps. But it's really the goal here is that by september 30, 2026 we would have all the preliminary work done and submitted to the point where the funds could be obligated through federal highway, and that's the goal. And if we can get everything obligated, then projects will go out to bid and the work will begin. But, but this preliminary work is our, is the, is the big work to get done so that we can get the dollars obligated to us, but progress is being made, and we are we are not going to let up until we get everything done. We need to also at the same time I reported last time that we are working on a grant that will do a study on the great Brook, top to bottom. The news on that is that there will be now, we thought there was going to be a 25% match on that grant. The update is that it will now be 100% funded, so we will not be on the hook for any of that, which is great news. Yeah. Also today, got an email from from our folks who manage the emergency watershed protection grant. As you may remember, those funds were put on a moratorium following some of the hijinks in Washington, DC. I'll just call it that. But today, we got an email saying that they want our applications in by april 11, and that funds are anticipated to be released. So that's good news on the that grant. Also a good news on the batch elder dam Study Grant. We we heard that that that the matching funds there were not going to be required also. So that's 100% funded, and that's being managed through the Friends of the Winooski. But that's that's new information. Another update is that on this, the Community Development Block Grant for disaster recovery, which is the one I'll remind you, was the \$68 million to Vermont, 55 million of which was for Washington and Lamoille counties, and that we were in the top five projects being presented, or the top five areas to be considered. What we have heard is that the preliminary plan from the agency of commerce and community development will be coming out and presented on March 20, which will open, then a 30 day public comment period, the completion of which I believe will will then have them working on the application and criteria requirements. So we have big hopes for that money. It's primarily affordable housing infrastructure and other community development projects. So more to come on that smaller grant we're working on the possibility of an animating infrastructure grant through the Department of arts, and meeting with the recreation and public art committee on March 18 to discuss their involvement in that. And we're hoping that will kick start a community engagement process around the green space and the new park area that will be taking the place of the homes that are in the buyout program in the lower village. So so we want to just start to get something going there. Also, new thing heard from Peter young bear sent to me over the weekend, information that Becca belint has asked towns to submit requests for funding, an earmark request, and so we have done that. We submitted a month \$1 million request to

support housing expansion in some way in in Plainfield, and we don't know anything more about that at this point, just that we wanted to be in the queue and have them consider us, and so we sent some information over, and hopefully we'll hear back, and they'll ask us for more information. And we're still waiting to hear officially about the FEMA buyout. We have no word on that yet. We thought February, but the our group is meeting tomorrow morning, and hopefully we'll we'll hear if there's anything more on that. I know that's a lot to digest, and I did provide the board with a written report, and that'll be posted on our site under our reports. So if anybody wants to dig in and try and take it at a slower pace, it'll be there. And I know I talk fast, and that's my jersey coming out. Sorry, but happy to take any questions if folks have them,

Unknown Speaker 1:07:38

I just want to say

Karl Bissex 1:07:39

remarkable work. Karen, idea of rock star. Yes, amazing work.

Frances Rose 1:07:45

Thanks, Karen. Thank

Karen Hatcher 1:07:47

you, Karen,

Karl Bissex 1:07:48

thank you. Betsy.

Speaker 3 1:07:53

Betsy, yes, hi, hi, this is Betsy. I just wanted to ask Karen. I, from what I heard you say, There you're working on some kind of infrastructure grant. I think that we, and maybe there's some million dollars that might be available for housing. I just saying, whatever we can be doing, I think, to look for money, either feasibility studies or or whatever, for the lower to to revitalize what we what we have left of our village and the rest of our town, so that we can bring it back to life, and in some way, using, using whatever Old refurbishing buildings, maybe finding, you know, places that could be built behind or built in, things, buildings that need to be removed and could be replaced.

Karen Hatcher 1:08:52

Yep, yep, I hear you. And you know, as I said at town meeting, there is an opportunity before us. And there are, there are offers for funding. And we'll, we will take, we will take them up on everything, Betsy, and we'll figure out how to spend it.

Betsy Ziegler 1:09:11

Good, good luck. Thank you.

Josh 1:09:18

Oh, I'm sorry, Michael,

Karl Bissex 1:09:21

thanks for catching people who are

Michael Billingsley 1:09:24

some I just wanted to speak to the idea of the lower village system, which is that the committee, the funding committee, is, in fact, very aware that there is this huge transition going on. We want to end up with a nicer looking town. We also want to have a more functional town, so things like street lighting and town parking lot, which I brought up earlier, or sidewalks where sidewalks are missing, particularly my

Frances Rose 1:09:51

folks or Michael too, maybe sidewalks,

Michael Billingsley 1:09:55

including those that would connect all the way up to the product campus, as well as those adjacent to town also, people have an easier time getting across this too, and they there has been a point raised which I think I want to make sure people have clear idea about, which is that the idea of abandoned buildings in the house, in the in the town, abandoned buildings that are unsightly or perhaps should be refurbished or made to do something else, We don't have a lot of control over that. It would be lovely to be able to either take them away from the people who own them in some kind of reasonable sale, or to demolish them through a meeting to say that they were unlivable. But at the present time, there are reluctant owners who do not want to make changes and who cannot, at the present time, step over top of them and take over their properties. And so there are some houses that we both solve that

Karen Hatcher 1:10:55

Thank you. Could I would just like to add like one more comment here, and you know, we don't know with the the Community Development Block Grant funds, you know, how much we could get, but one of the ideas within, within our application could be to allocate some funding to our revolving loan fund and to expand that so that homeowners could borrow money at, you know, low rates, to be able to refurbish or to improve their homes. And so, you know, we're, we're looking at all possibilities for what will be in line with what the criteria is when the grant criteria comes out. So, you know, but trying to be really creative about how, how do you revitalize the town? Not just new, but, you know, bringing up to some new standard, some of the, some of the homes that could use some help.

Karl Bissex 1:11:53

And we have a note, I think it's pertinent, Lauren guidance, saying, as far as the lower bridge village goes, if the 28 FEMA buyouts go through, nothing can be built on those sites again. So we've been talking about what to do with that open land, and how to make it attractive and usable with the grant group. And so that's that's important to understand that we can't just rebuild things that are in the bio program, right? Okay,

Frances Rose 1:12:30

okay, thanks.

Karl Bissex 1:12:31

Thanks so much. That's really great. Welcome. Yeah, George, did you you walked all you walked over here to you missed the comment that you need to comment or say your

Dan Fingas 1:12:47

name.

George Cushing 1:12:51

George Fisher just like to reiterate problems in the office, and seems like throwing money isn't going to fix, you know, you keep hiring somebody extra. We're paying a ton of money from three people. You want to add an extra, it doesn't do any good, because that person has to be trained. And the people that are working there now, other than Carol, have not been properly trained, and they need to be trained. I've brought this up to you folks before that's very serious, because now it's it's affecting other people's work who do my own so the training isn't done. No matter how many people you get in there, it's not going to work. And hiring an extra person is not going to do any good. For 30, \$40,000 a year. That's not going to fix it. You need to have people trained, including, you know, new members of the smart board should be trained. It's my understanding that if you're on the smart board and there's people missing in town, like parole officer, the constable, even my job, if I, you know, couldn't do it tomorrow, you all should be trained to do all these jobs. It's all part of your job. So, and I know for a fact that doesn't happen. So you know something needs to be addressed, not spoken wrong. And you know we're going to do some advertising, and you know that's going to get done, that's going to get done, well, we are half better than halfway through another year, fiscal year, and it's not done. So I I'm at the town board's office every day, and I see what's going on, I hear what's going on, but I think I'm a pretty good authority of what should be done. Thank you.

Speaker 5 1:14:41

Thanks. You got all that. Yeah, okay,

Michael Billingsley 1:14:49

a quick comment. And

Karl Bissex 1:14:54

what is it? Real quick, yeah, for you that trainings

Michael Billingsley 1:14:57

are available through the Vermont leadership synthase, some of the specific stuff, which specific judges,

Karl Bissex 1:15:03

yeah, we know about that. We're just trying to get our feet under us. Let's see. So invitation to register interest to serve on the official village expansion committee. This isn't a general conversation. It's just to express that there's interest, and we have a form which you can talk about.

Dan Fingas 1:15:25

Yeah, so we are next week, and I see Peter, I will note that you are with us now on this agenda item for the notes your young person with us. So next week, March 17, at 6pm we're having a special support meeting to discuss the village expansion project and a number of elements to do with it. The agenda will be warned later this week. So this five minute agenda item is just to announce that we are looking for folks who will be interested in serving on the town of Plainfield village expansion committee. I'm creating a volunteer interest form that I will put live tonight, once folks, I'm happy to read what's in it and get feedback from the rest of the Select Board, where we finalize it, but it says, Thank you for considering volunteering your time to serve on the town of Plainfield village expansion committee. The Plainfield Select Board hopes to appoint a committee of diverse voices and perspectives. If you're interested in serving on the committee, please fill out this form that explains that we're going to be if you want to talk about who should be on the committee, what kinds of folks, the number for the committee. Those are all conversations for a week from today, not for tonight and but I put the time in there, name, address to make sure they're Plainfield residents. Email, phone number, please briefly describe the perspective, or perspectives you hope to bring to the committee. Examples, neighbor property, a butter experience with housing developments. Current member of village expansion committee, professional background, etc. The Committee expects to be very active in 2025 with multiple meetings a month. Can you commit to regularly attending frequent meetings, yes or no, and then if there's anything else folks want to share that might help the Selectboard make your appointment decisions. So that's the basic form, and if the rest of the Select Board is good with it, I'm happy to make that live and and and promote it both in the notes, but also put it on Facebook and other places.

Karl Bissex 1:17:18

Yeah, I mean, I've read through it, and to me, it sounds like you hit all the important items. I'd suggest we put it out. I

Speaker 5 1:17:29

have a question. Everyone's zoomed out of this. If you're using

Frances Rose 1:17:41

the most line is, if you're using the mic, hold it close to your face. Alright,

I should know,

Michael Billingsley 1:17:48

I Michael again, I should ask if there is a way. I don't. I think this is the awkward. But to include people who are not in Plainfield were in Plainfield and have been displaced by the flag, and, you

know, with the potential and maybe identify themselves with potential property owners in this new change in the town, the way to somehow create room for them as well. Report,

Frances Rose 1:18:19
maybe Alicia, yeah,

Alicia Weiss 1:18:21
hi, thanks. A point and a question. My understanding is that this form is going online. We have to remember we do have a digital divide. Is there a way to get an alternate way to get it out, or to help people who do not have consistent and easy access be aware of the form and maybe, you know, offer assistance so that someone can help them generate interest. We don't want to block people out by opportunity economics or technical savvy. And the other one is a question. Second point is a question to which you may not yet have the answer, but once these people have indicated interest, how will the actual composition of the Committee be determined? In other words, will probably we may have more people indicating interest than seem reasonable for a functional committee, and how will that appointment be selected? The

Dan Fingas 1:19:24
second question we are discussing next week, March 17, at 6pm in our special meeting. We have not a Select Board had any conversations about that. So come to that meeting, if you'd like to know, as far as getting the form out, I the things I just volunteered for are the capacity I have for getting the format. If other Select Board members have other capacity, or others that are not select board members have other capacity, can we get it

Unknown Speaker 1:19:48
leave it

Dan Fingas 1:19:51
in town office, so we will print copies and leave it at Town office as well.

Frances Rose 1:19:57
That's great. Thanks.

Alicia Weiss 1:20:00
Can we post? Can we put it in the post office as well, or a notification that the forms are in the are in the town office? Yes, I'll

Dan Fingas 1:20:13
do the better. Can you say where it's going to be online for people working in Jared ask this question. Yeah, I will put it in Plainfield, people. I will put it in French sports forum, and I will send to Bob Fancher to put on the town website. Perfect. Thank you. Thank you,

Karl Bissex 1:20:31
Charlie. Charlie, did you have a different question? I have

Charlie Cogbill 1:20:34

a comment. It's probably premature, but I think it's very important that the Selectboard at some point indicate what the charge that will be put to this committee is. In other words, what will their scope be? Will it be planning, negotiation, management, sales, construction, maybe all or none. Could you please make it clear, especially with people volunteering of what they're volunteering for, other than the title of the committee

Karl Bissex 1:21:09

that's in the plan for our meeting next week, Charlie, we understand that that that's the only way to this committee can actually do any Thank you. Yeah. Thanks. You. Yes, okay, discussion of VT trans intersection project. Do you have any new information from Ross? Okay, you're talking you said you talked to him today. I have not talked to him today. So our idea is to try to bring in either Ross or somebody that he would recommend to come into the Select Board and have a conversation about this intersection, especially the changes that we hear about that we haven't been formally informed about. So I guess we won't have much to talk about there tonight, but Well,

Josh 1:22:05

the Ross Dawn, sorry, Ross got this. Ross Dawn is with the municipal assistance Bureau, and I think that, I believe this might be outside of his, like

scope of his, his work. And so we'll have to go back and, you know, I'll determine who we contact, probably District Six as well.

Karl Bissex 1:22:46

But you do have readily ready access, or should I come in and look at through all the old files of anyone who might like be able to inform us on this, because I don't have any name, I

Josh 1:23:01

can, I can get the bottle,

Karl Bissex 1:23:03

okay, just or you can get it to me, and I can do it. I just want to get somebody's name. I thought it was Ross. Next night, Okay, I'll wait for something from you. Then, Peter,

yeah. Mike Zauner had sent an email with the reduced scope, or new scoping diagrams. And that did come from Ross, but there was someone else copied on that as well. I can check, I can check back in the emails on that as well.

Okay, I'm happy to follow up, but I want to, I need a name that's current, and the old records wouldn't have current, but that that might Thank you, Peter. I guess you'll take care of

Dan Fingas 1:23:45

that. Well, can we, I mean, happy to obviously have you do it, but if Josh is going to reach out to the folks anyway, can we just give him the dates of our next two regular scheduled meetings, and he can try to schedule it, and then we'll just make room for it on our agenda, rather than you all having to reach out to Yeah? Is that what details? So it's the 24th and April.

Karl Bissex 1:24:07

Yeah, whatever. Yeah, second Monday in April. Yeah. Okay, good job.

Oh, we already covered the status of the Mill Street Bridge manager, hire and and a Brook road study. You kind of already talked about that. Is there anything to add to that? Yeah, it's okay.

Josh 1:24:39

Well, did

Peter Youngbaer 1:24:41

you already act on that?

Karl Bissex 1:24:45

What's that? We have not acted on that yet. We need to. We need a motion to,

Josh 1:24:54

well, I'm just gonna say for in this process that is outlined through federal highway and the municipal assistance Bureau work. There is opportunity to for volunteers to get involved, and there's a lot of like solar blocks that people can volunteer for and to create some of the this documentation, you know, read and recommend some of the, you know, the at the ready list. So people who are interested there, there are things you can do if you want to get involved. The

Karl Bissex 1:25:32

things can you give a quick summary of what the things might be? Would it be visiting sites on the road? No, it's,

Josh 1:25:40

it's largely like an administrative work, okay? We set up a kind of a workspace upstairs to run through some of that, to create that documentation, you know, and not hiring out that, you know, that's part of, you know, what was take time in the office. You know, it's like doing, doing the work ourselves is, like, it's a good value, because that is like, you know, running, being the clerk of the works is that is costly to pay for, yes, and so we are kind of running that ourselves right now. And, you know, so any help is appreciated.

Karl Bissex 1:26:22

Yeah, thanks for that, and that goes from for several of the committees that are formed based on the flood. I know the grant group and this new committee were forming. All these things are unexpected, but we need help. And if we could get volunteer help, that'd be great, and yours is very important because of timelines on it. Thanks,

Michael Billingsley 1:26:49

Michael. Michael, I just wanted to add that in the past 4567, years, the housing mitigation committee had made stuff available to help with those kind of projects, and we're very deeply involved with the supporting the finding of the findings of the consulting firms that were working on the broad road bridge, and we had mentioned that we potentially could bring that expertise over to the most bridge, as well as looking at the brokerage we've been doing and having public forums on the gears. So we we know river engineers, we know scientists and people who have already offered their services so we can help. Great,

Karl Bissex 1:27:29

that's great. I just should keep in touch with the trash on that.

Frances Rose 1:27:33

I mean, Peter mentioned action. Is there action required of us right now?

Karl Bissex 1:27:39

I think, based on the meeting that Carla and I had with VHB and Evan the other day, I think we could move to approve that contract.

Frances Rose 1:27:53

Is that a motion? Yes,

Karl Bissex 1:27:57

and I could, I could summarize the discussions that we had with them. There was a whole section dealing with right of way acquisition that they agreed to drop from the contract, because we don't know if the replacement bridge will lie outside the current right of way. But even if it does, you're talking about the Mill Street park or three other properties, all of which are subject to the FEMA buyout and would become town property, in which case we would need not need that portion at all. And so they agreed to drop that, and that may actually speed up the project by as much as eight months in Evan Dietrich estimation, but we don't, won't know that until after the timing of the FEMA buyouts. So, but that's that's a ways into the project management timetable. And anyway, you need specifics of the name of the contract.

Dan Fingas 1:29:13

Okay. Now, said Yes, oh,

Karl Bissex 1:29:16

you said yes. If we're in

Dan Fingas 1:29:17

a motion here, you can't get other public comment until we get a motion in a second, we need a second then we can discuss it. But what's the motion?

Karl Bissex 1:29:27

The motion is to approve the VHB con revised contract that was sent and I forwarded that to the entire Select Board,

Dan Fingas 1:29:38

and it's for NFC Bridge Project management

Frances Rose 1:29:41

is

Karl Bissex 1:29:47

that, yes, okay, we have discussion. There's actually clarification on this. This is very

Dan Fingas 1:29:51

speaking with my FEMA buyout warning or hat on. So Peter did share this with me, and I think it's great. And I did notify the state. I think there's a question about if there's any other work that we should get in front of that would maybe facilitate that timeline while we're working through the FEMA buyout process. And you may not have an answer to this right now, but if it becomes clear that there may be some preparatory work to increase that right away, that we could move forward sooner with those potential properties. I'm in contact with all of those folks on a regular basis, and so if there's something that could facilitate that timeline even more, I just want to put that out there to make sure that the folks are aware of that.

Karl Bissex 1:30:36

Thank you. I think, I think it's important for us to make this move as quickly as possible so we can avoid another capacity. So we have a motion and a second, it sounds like Peter has more discussion. Oh, one more discussion.

I appreciate that thought from Arian and and would add, I mean, Michael's honor also replied that the coordination with the river study and the rollout of all of these federal highway funded projects needs to be a coordinated process, and to the extent that, as Arian suggests, we can look at the buyout properties as we go up the brook Road in that extent, that's a good thing to keep in mind. I don't think it's any reason to slow this project down. We need to get this one underway. All of these need to be committed to by 2026 so

Frances Rose 1:31:38

and then Lauren Geiger is asking, What does VHB stand for

Karl Bissex 1:31:45

Vanessa. I think it's the initials of the owners of the company. I don't know

it's the name of the company that we are going to find

Dan Fingas 1:31:52

Vanessa. Tangen Breslin is the, is the, is the woman's name owns the so VHB is the farther Intel, the full name of the company.

Karl Bissex 1:32:03

Thank you. Thank you. Okay, we have a motion a second. We ready to vote all those in favor say, Aye, aye, aye,

Unknown Speaker 1:32:12

aye.

Karl Bissex 1:32:16

It's unanimous. Thank you and Josh, you're taking it from here, I guess

we update. I'm not sure this one about the requests for information is that for check in and update about requests for information. The

Frances Rose 1:32:43

the town office has received multiple requests for information. You want to talk to that?

Bram Towbin 1:32:52

Yeah, the town doesn't have a formal policy on how to manage, uh, requests for information. I sent everybody the model League, cities and towns, model statute on this obviously, probably haven't digested it. If you want to go through it and bring to bring it up at another meeting, he said, I think we're ready to make a motion at this point.

Karl Bissex 1:33:15

Yeah, I haven't had a chance.

Bram Towbin 1:33:18

But I mean, the challenge is fulfilling statute and making sure public get public information, but at the same time not eating up all town resources to do that, right?

Karl Bissex 1:33:31

Yes, thank you for following up on that. So we'll, we'll postpone this, but we'll keep it on the on the list of future items,

discussion of town positions and reappointments.

Frances Rose 1:33:56

This is has the potential to be a longer item. Yeah, there are many appointments. Yeah, do we have? We have the list. The list is in my email.

Dan Fingas 1:34:08

You forward me that so I don't have to type it all out.

Frances Rose 1:34:13

Yes. I mean, it's like, I'd be forwarding you, yeah, just copy and paste that, yeah. Okay, we're not going to do that right now. Okay, here we go. Okay, we can start with water and wastewater.

Mary lane, after 21 years, says, Why quit now? Thank you. Mary lane is, can I just like review these all, and then we like make a motion

Karl Bissex 1:34:51

to approve them all? I think that makes sense.

Frances Rose 1:34:53

Okay? We go. Janice is, we're pleased to welcome Janice Waller back to the Design Review Board. Thank you, Janice, Development Review Board. Review Board, thank you Bram.

Mary Charise Travis, thank you is Welcome back to The Conservation Committee. Thank

um, David Boynton, Erica da Costa and Carl bissicks Actually, not one of them actually got back to me. Oh, wait, no, Erica Dacosta got back to me. You're sitting next to me. I would say yes. Okay, so we've not yet heard back from David Boynton about whether or not he would like to be reappointed the revolving loan committee meeting, but Eric Acosta and Carl Biss Yes,

we are welcoming back Karen Storey, the zoning administrator.

Okay, and then for recreation, public arts, welcoming back Ben Youngbaer, welcoming Jamie Spector. Jake McBride did not get back to me. I don't know who purple duck pictures is. That's

Peter Youngbaer 1:37:00

been Oh, thank

Frances Rose 1:37:02

you. Thank you. Peter Jamie, Jamie s uggested another had another name, yes, and we have a welcome, a new welcome, Larkin, right? Kennedy to the Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Yes. Larkin, right now, No, Larkin Wright Kennedy.

And then Michael Billingsley as

Josh 1:38:13

emergency management director.

Unknown Speaker 1:38:17

Thank you, Michael.

Karl Bissex 1:38:19

I missed Dan caddy. What was that Dan caddy as Constable, thank you.

Unknown Speaker 1:38:28

What is the status of our current constable?

Bram Towbin 1:38:34

Constipation. Our current constable has become more active of late. I don't know that he has made an impact on the job. In other words, if you look back on the entire year, you kind of wonder if it might make sense

Karl Bissex 1:38:57

to try someone

Bram Towbin 1:38:59

new and

Unknown Speaker 1:39:01

express interest. So

Unknown Speaker 1:39:04

that's obviously about so can

Bram Towbin 1:39:16

so I can, I can reach out to

Frances Rose 1:39:21

the other one,

Bram Towbin 1:39:23

depending on your decision and contact Dan and you want to put this off another

Karl Bissex 1:39:29

meeting to give I don't know that the current constable knows that we're considering a change if they want to. Yeah, I feel a little awkward just about the window. So perhaps the next I think,

Michael Billingsley 1:39:47

let's hold off on that appointment until we talk to the current possible

Karl Bissex 1:39:56

I also want to add that the hazard mitigation thing next week, we

Speaker 4 1:40:00

will be pulling members who wants to be reappointed so that

Karl Bissex 1:40:03
we can have another traction. We could add

Unknown Speaker 1:40:05
next meeting. We

Speaker 3 1:40:07
can add those Sure, let's see his hand. Hands up. Stand up. Betsy. Hello. Hi. This is Betsy and Ziegler, someone has to be reappointed to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District for the next meeting.

Karl Bissex 1:40:26
I would be glad to run again or be appointed again. I would also encourage the town to have an

Frances Rose 1:40:33
appoint an alternate. Thank you. Thank

Karl Bissex 1:40:37
you for the offer and thank you for the suggestion. That's good. Thank you, Betsy.

Frances Rose 1:40:45
Is there any one else that

Dan Fingas 1:40:47
you think we should add into that motion. That's all I was tracking. Okay, yeah, thanks for doing that, by the way. So Charlie caljo, Charles, I ask a clarifying question. Oh, yeah, hold on, is Betsy? Is Central Vermont solid waste district? Betsy? Is that being we're doing that tonight. No, we're gonna do that. I think, well, we could do it. That's why, this is why I'm asking. Yeah, we could do it tonight. I see no reason to not. Okay, okay,

Karl Bissex 1:41:11
I will add

Charlie Cogbill 1:41:15
Thank you. And then Constable of a future appointment, yes, okay, I'm trying to track Yeah. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, Charles. Yeah, for 20 years I was a fence viewer and for professional and town interests, I think we should have a fence viewer.

Karl Bissex 1:41:35
For the past four or five years, my requests have been ignored. I wish to request to be appointed fence viewer. I don't know what it is. It's a it's an old tradition.

Dan Fingas 1:41:49
And you're right, it was, it was here for many years,

Bram Towbin 1:41:53

and then it got dropped. But, oh, we have a Yeah, earlier. It's not on mute,

Frances Rose 1:42:02

is it this on him? Yes. I don't think we

Karl Bissex 1:42:05

have a wear of cold either, Charlie, if you want to jump in being aware of COVID. I think we should add Charlie to our list of appointments.

Michael Billingsley 1:42:18

We

Karl Bissex 1:42:20

do. We have fence viewer as an actual thing we can appoint to

Peter Youngbaer 1:42:23

there is a

Charlie Cogbill 1:42:24

position of fence viewer. What is their role? It's not clear to me, but boundary disputes, yes, if I could enumerate they, are called to mediate against boundary disputes in the position and maintenance of fences.

Karl Bissex 1:42:46

Um, yes, it is archaic, but it still exists on

Frances Rose 1:42:50

the books in Vermont and every town should appoint three fence viewers.

Michael Billingsley 1:42:56

Oh, it looks like Do you have any friends, Charlie, who would like to sit on that post with you? And I would quickly add that in the last four or five years,

Frances Rose 1:43:08

a fence dispute was set about free

Karl Bissex 1:43:10

range, which needed to be resolved with a fence viewer. So I think this is helpful, good, Peter. In all seriousness, I do not mind appointing Charlie as a fence viewer. I would disagree, however, in terms of priorities that second and third fence

Charlie Cogbill 1:43:32

viewers would take priority over fourth and fifth planning commission members. I totally can conclude that Peter

Speaker 6 1:43:45

is so right that I will gladly serve as a committee

Karl Bissex 1:43:50

of one, if you so desire.

Dan Fingas 1:43:58

You're you're on the list. Charlie, thank you.

Frances Rose 1:44:04

Okay. Frances says, will you make not to say the names? I would make a motion. I would make a motion that the town of Plainfield reappoints the many and the one new two, new to the long roster that

Unknown Speaker 1:44:22

fill out our town committees

Karl Bissex 1:44:24

and do a lot of moving,

Unknown Speaker 1:44:27

shaking and working for this

Frances Rose 1:44:28

town. Thank you all for your service.

Dan Fingas 1:44:33

And all those in favor say, Aye, good work. I just have a question, if for other committees, you

Frances Rose 1:44:43

want very into the word for other committees in town, you're looking to hear from everybody again,

Dan Fingas 1:44:49

just because at this time of year, is that correct? We had a list of people whose commissions were expiring in 2025, ah, someone were halting your trends. Okay, so it's not like everybody needs it. Not

Karl Bissex 1:45:00

everybody, okay, very good. Yeah, and it's just because today's the first meeting of the new after elections. I was like, they're a lot more idiots. This sounds Yeah. There's a lot of people this town to do things. Yeah, it's really terrific.

Frances Rose 1:45:12

Okay, we're down to minutes approval of town. Many meeting minutes

Dan Fingas 1:45:20

are we prepared to we're saying since last meeting, I believe is the we're trying out approval of town meeting minutes. Since last meeting? Yes, I think I don't know if we can actually do that with minutes. Maybe I can put minutes on the consent agenda with dates, and then we can put all of these. We could put all warrants, payrolls and town meeting minutes on a consent agenda. I see the Chair, good, okay, and then we can approve the Consent Agenda. But I think minutes, because they're specifically required by the Select Board, have to be dated. And so let me pull up the date of the last minutes, whatever our last regular meeting was, which was February 24 Yes, so they would be the minutes for February 24 but we should, as Peter youngber said, more than once, create a consent agenda for the kind of items that we can just do at one swipe. Instead of doing all these individual votes, we just need our chair and vice chair to

Frances Rose 1:46:19

put a consent agenda on the agenda.

Karl Bissex 1:46:22

Okay, when they're creating it, okay, we'll remember that. You can ask Peter what that means, yeah, yeah, yeah. I

Dan Fingas 1:46:28

definitely will need some tech up on that. Yeah, okay, well, we'll, we'll hold up on that. Then so February 24

Unknown Speaker 1:46:34

February 24 so

Frances Rose 1:46:37

I move that we approve

Karl Bissex 1:46:38

the meeting, the Select Board meeting minutes for February 24 2025

Speaker 7 1:46:46

wait. We gotta vote still. Yeah, we gotta vote all those in favor, hi,

Karl Bissex 1:46:58

nothing. Actually,

Unknown Speaker 1:47:02
we don't have anything

Dan Fingas 1:47:06
that's kind of a standard we put in there, just because we

Unknown Speaker 1:47:09
don't want to forget it.

Dan Fingas 1:47:12
Okay, okay, the next select board

Bram Towbin 1:47:14
meeting, we have to pass anyone, forget, to prove anyone. So, yes, last meeting, since

Frances Rose 1:47:19
last meeting, but we have to approve them.

We don't have any, right? There were filing. So, I mean, I

Dan Fingas 1:47:29
think we do it in case there are, I mean, I think Cara will give us a talking to you if there are
some who don't do it.

Speaker 6 1:47:37
So you first, of course, you are motioning that we

Karl Bissex 1:47:41
approve Warren since last meeting. True. Yes. Okay. Seconded by

Dan Fingas 1:47:50
and you get a second, okay? All those in favor, aye? And

Unknown Speaker 1:47:55
then I think the other

Karl Bissex 1:47:57
thing we have to do is the overweight and yeah, permits since last meeting, is that correct? Yes,

Speaker 6 1:48:05
I believe Carol sent out a list. And I don't have it in front of me, but I do. There were four, I think,
yeah, new ones.

Frances Rose 1:48:30

Okay, excess weight permits for GW Tetro Jeffersonville, Vermont, hike industries, Barry Vermont,

Karl Bissex 1:48:39

Western pulpwood, Essex junction Vermont, and a Manoj Morrisville, Vermont. So we'll have a motion to motion to approve the fleet warrants or fleet permits.

Speaker 6 1:48:55

Second, motion a second. All those in favor say, Aye. Aye. Okay.

Karl Bissex 1:49:12

Uh, now state for next Selectboard meeting, we have a meeting next Monday, that's the 17th here, at six o'clock, to discuss the committee, the how we're going to organize the committee and take any any volunteers that want to sit on that committee, to come in, and we would welcome them to come in and talk to us about what we would like to see.

Frances Rose 1:49:38

And we have to decide what we would like to see, first, yeah, and then decide the process. And then review all that and review the process, and just to name

Karl Bissex 1:49:47

it, not just going to be

Unknown Speaker 1:49:48

talk of the committee. The next select board meeting a

Frances Rose 1:49:51

week from today, is to discuss the village expansion project.

Dan Fingas 1:49:55

Village expansion project, yeah, well,

Karl Bissex 1:49:59

no, sorry, no, okay, multiple village expansion topics will be on the agenda. Yeah, yeah. There you go. Say, and then the following week will be April,

Speaker 6 1:50:18

no, March 24 Oh, I'm sorry. March 24 Right, right, right, back to our regular meeting. Yeah, yeah. Okay.

Karl Bissex 1:50:34

Motion to adjourn at 7:50pm

Unknown Speaker 1:50:38
second, all

Unknown Speaker 1:50:39
those in favor say

Dan Fingas 1:50:41
aye. Thank

Speaker 6 1:50:43
you, everyone. We can leave chairs for the DML meeting here, Wednesday. What.