

Summary Selectboard Meeting March 10, 2025

Selectboard Meeting

Transcript

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The Plainfield Select Board meeting on March 10, 2025, addressed several key issues. The board elected Karl Bissex as chair, Rose as vice chair. Peter Yasus reported on animal control issues, including a dog's rabies status and the need for a town contract for animal control. The board discussed improving town meeting accessibility, including air quality and hearing assistance. They also reviewed the disposal of a damaged town truck, deciding to seek public bids. Karen Hatcher provided updates on grant recovery efforts, including FEMA PA and Community Development Block Grant applications. The board approved the VHB contract for Mill Street Bridge project management. The Selectboard Meeting covered several key points. VHB stands for Vanessa Tangen Breslin. The town received multiple requests for information, with no formal policy in place. Appointments and reappointments were discussed, including Janice Waller to the Design Review Board, Mary Charise Travis to the Conservation Committee, and Michael Billingsley as Emergency Management Director. The need for a new constable was considered. The town also discussed reappointing Betsy Ziegler to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District and appointing Charlie Cogbill as a fence viewer. The meeting concluded with the approval of minutes and overweight permits.

Action Items

- [] @Bram Towbin - Prepare a draft policy for the disposal of town assets like vehicles for the Selectboard to review.
- [] @Bram Towbin - Reach out to the current Constable to discuss the role and potential reappointment.
- [] Create a volunteer interest form for the Town of Plainfield Village Expansion Committee and promote it online and at the Town Office.
- [] Reach out to VTrans to schedule a representative to provide an update on the intersection project at a future Selectboard meeting.
- [] Add the appointment of a representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District to the next Selectboard meeting agenda.
- [] Appoint Charlie Cogbill as a Fence Viewer for the Town of Plainfield.

Outline

Select Board Meeting Opening and Initial Orders

- Karl Bissex opens the meeting at 6 PM, noting the absence of two members but expecting them later.
- Karl Bissex calls for nominations for chair, co-chair, vice-chair, and secretary.
- Patti Jamele nominates Karl Bissex to continue as chair and Rose as vice-chair.
- Karl Bissex confirms the nominations and calls for a motion and second.
- Karl Bissex asks if there are any changes to the agenda or public comment.

Animal Control Issue Discussion

- Kim Nolan inquires about the status of a dog impounded by Peter Yasus and Christopher Keast.
- Karl Bissex mentions waiting for Bram to join the meeting.
- Peter Yasus, details his visit to Devin's property, including leaving messages and discussing the dog's care.
- Peter Yasus mentions Devin's claims that most complaints were false and the need for rabies shots and town registration.
- Karl Bissex suggests free rabies clinics and discusses the legalities of impounding the dog.

Public Comment and Town Meeting Review

- Karl Bissex opens public comment for 10 minutes.
- Karl Bissex and Dan Fingas discuss combining town meeting reports into one motion for easier voting.
- Dan Fingas explains the current process of voting on each report separately and suggests combining them for efficiency.
- Karl Bissex and Dan Fingas agree to propose this change at the next town meeting.
- Bram Towbin mentions some towns do not mail the town report to everyone and suggests this could be a cost-saving measure.

Town Meeting Accessibility and Air Quality Concerns

- Michael Billingsley discusses the installation of air purifiers in town hall and the Opera House.
- Michael Billingsley highlights the high CO2 levels in town hall and the need for better ventilation.
- Rose raises concerns about the noise and accessibility issues during town meetings.
- Rose suggests using microphones and FM systems for better hearing and accessibility.
- Dawn Fancher emphasizes the need for ADA compliance and better air handling in the building.

Discussion on Town Meeting Procedures and Accessibility

- Charlie Cogbill questions whether the decision on town meeting procedures should be made by the Select Board or the town meeting attendees.
- Karl Bissex suggests discussing the proposal at the next town meeting.
- Bram Towbin mentions some towns do not mail the town report and suggests this could be a cost-saving measure.
- Karl Bissex and Dan Fingas discuss the need for a policy on disposing of used town equipment.
- Bram Towbin mentions the need for a public notice and bids for disposing of a plow truck.

Town Clerk's Report and Truck Disposal

- Bram Towbin discusses the process of disposing of a plow truck and the need for a public notice.
- Lloyd raises concerns about the previous truck sale and suggests a more formal process.
- Bram Towbin agrees to follow a more formal process and mentions the need for a policy.
- Karl Bissex and Dan Fingas discuss the importance of a formal policy for disposing of town equipment.
- Bram Towbin mentions the need for a letter to the Select Board regarding a reckless driver incident.

Treasurer's Report and Grant Recovery Update

- Josh Pitts discusses the need for an audit of the town's books and the hiring of a professional firm.
- Josh Pitts mentions the need for a bookkeeper to assist with reconciling the books.
- Josh Pitts provides an update on the grant recovery process and the need for a project engineer.
- Karen Hatcher provides a detailed update on the grant recovery efforts and the timeline for preliminary work.
- Karen Hatcher mentions the potential for additional grants and the need for community engagement.

Village Expansion Committee and Public Comment

- Dan Fingas announces a special meeting on March 17 to discuss the village expansion project.
- Dan Fingas reads a form for interested volunteers to serve on the village expansion committee.
- Alicia raises concerns about accessibility and the digital divide for completing the form.
- Karl Bissex and Dan Fingas discuss ways to make the form accessible to everyone.

- Charlie suggests defining the scope of the committee's charge before appointing members.

Intersection Project and Mill Street Bridge

- Karl Bissex and Peter Youngbaer discuss the need for a representative from VT Trans to discuss the intersection project.
- Karl Bissex mentions the need for a motion to approve the VHB contract for the Mill Street Bridge project management.
- Karl Bissex summarizes the discussions with VHB and the need for a quick approval to avoid delays.
- Karl Bissex and Peter Youngbaer discuss the potential for preparatory work to expedite the project.
- Karl Bissex emphasizes the importance of moving forward with the project to avoid another capacity issue.

VHB Company and Motion Voting

- Karl Bissex explains that VHB stands for the initials of the company owners.
- Dan Fingas clarifies that VHB is the full name of the company, owned by Vanessa Tangen Breslin.
- Karl Bissex calls for a motion and a second to vote on the matter, which is unanimously approved.
- Karl Bissex hands over the meeting to Josh for updates on requests for information.

Requests for Information and Town Policies

- Peter Youngbaer mentions that the town office has received multiple requests for information.
- Bram Towbin discusses the lack of a formal policy for managing requests for information and mentions a model statute from the League of Cities and Towns.
- Karl Bissex suggests postponing the discussion on town policies and reappointments to a future meeting.
- Frames Rose notes that the item could be lengthy due to many appointments and reappointments.

Appointments and Reappointments

- Karl Bissex and Frances Rose review the list of appointments and reappointments, including Mary Lane, Janice Walrafen, and Mary Trerice.
- Rose mentions the reappointments for recreation and public arts, including Ben Youngbaer and Jamie Spector.
- Karl Bissex and Bram Towbin discuss the status of the current constable and the possibility of appointing a new one.

- Karl Bissex suggests postponing the constable appointment to the next meeting to avoid any awkwardness.

Hazard Mitigation and Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District

- Karl Bissex mentions the upcoming hazard mitigation meeting and the need to pull members who want to be reappointed.
- Betsy Ziegler offers to run again for the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District and suggests appointing an alternate.
- Karl Bissex agrees and thanks Betsy for her offer and suggestion.
- Dan Fingas asks if there are any other appointments to add to the motion, and Karl Bissex confirms the list.

Fence Viewer Appointment and Consent Agenda

- Karl Bissex and Dan Fingas discuss the need for a fence viewer, with Karl Bissex expressing interest in the position.
- Peter Youngbaer explains the role of a fence viewer in mediating boundary disputes and maintaining fences.
- Karl Bissex suggests appointing Charlie as a fence viewer and prioritizing fence viewers over planning commission members.
- Dan Fingas and Karl Bissex discuss the creation of a consent agenda to streamline the approval process for routine items.

Approval of Meeting Minutes and Overweight Permits

- Dan Fingas suggests approving the consent agenda, which includes warrants, payrolls, and town meeting minutes.
- Karl Bissex and Dan Fingas discuss the need to date the town meeting minutes and the process for approving them.
- Karl Bissex moves to approve the Select Board meeting minutes for February 24, 2025, and the motion is seconded and approved.
- Karl Bissex and Speaker 10 discuss the approval of overweight permits, listing the permits for GW Tetro, Hike Industries, Western Pulpwood, and Manoj Morrisville.

Future Meetings and Adjournment

- Karl Bissex announces the next Select Board meeting on March 17 to discuss the organization of a new committee and welcome volunteers.
- The meeting on March 24 will focus on multiple village expansion topics.
- Karl Bissex calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which is seconded and approved at 7:50 PM.
- Dan Fingas reminds everyone to leave chairs for the DML meeting on Wednesday.
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