

Plainfield Water/WasteWater Commission Meeting Minutes for March 18, 2025

Present In Meeting: Scott Stewart, Carol Smith, Josh Pitts, Mary Lane, Tristan Macgregor-Stewart, Tim Phillips, Vicki McDonald, Arion Thiboumery, Sandra Vitzhum, Bob Atchinson

5:15 Meeting called to order

Review/approve agenda

Changed agenda to have election of officers as the 1st item

Mary added she'd like to be the liaison to the Plainfield Expansion project and would like to discuss this during that topic's time-frame.

Elect Officers

Mary Lane was elected as Chair of the Water/WasteWater Commission.

Review/adopt minutes

Approved minutes for January 21st and January 24th 2025 as written.

Plainfield Expansion Project discussion

Arion Thiboumery arrived at 5:37PM. Sandra Vitzhum at 5:38PM.

Sandra is an architect from Montpelier who has been working on the Plainfield Expansion Project.

Arion wanted to show the preliminary engineering drawings for how roads and water/waster pipes are being located. This preliminary set is trying to articulate a price point for future discussion.

Sandra walked through the set of preliminary engineering plans.

Mary voiced her desire to be a liaison to the expansion committee for the Water/WasteWater Commission. Arion and Sandra supported that idea as did Scott and Tristan. Josh made no objection.

Arion and Sandra departed at 6:09PM

WW plant solar panel installation discussion

Bob Atchinson arrived at 6:09PM.

Bob has prepared a scope of work to add solar panels to the wastewater plant. He shared that document.

Tristan confirmed that the list of suggested improvements are covered by grants that Bob believes are coming in the future.

Tristan would prefer a high efficiency gas boiler instead of a heat pump for HVAC improvements.

Tristan can't have the exposed foundation wall covered on either side. It must be accessible for the operations of the plant. Insulating the attic/doors/windows is fine

Tristan doesn't see any point to a lighting retrofit. A bunch of lights have already been swapped to LEDs, he has a bunch of spares and the overhead lighting is not being used as much any more.

Tristan has talked with a solar installer and they suggested beyond a roof-mount system to add more panels atop the sludge tanks to get more capacity. Bob does not know if those additional sludge tank panels could be covered by what is available now from grants.

Bob departed at 6:30PM

Chief Facility Operator's report

There is a water leak in town. This has been known for a while. Tristan may have it isolated as to location. Trying to let the weather get a bit better before digging. Have had the wells turned on to refill the reservoir after Goddard went through so much water with their leak.

Tristan wants to get the Perry spring back online. Need to do some sampling to prove water quality before reconnecting.

Working with Don Martin to replace electrical in the well building. Budgeted in this fiscal year and want it done.

Should be getting the easements for the School Street project back next week. Looking at 2026 to actually do this work. There are 7 or 8 easements that need to be finalized.

Tristan wants to talk with A&E about some more permanent fixes (like the sewer line under the river to get things underground for the winter). When doing this, he'd like to move that line further away from the bridge crossing. He'd like to find a way to keep rising river-levels from leading to a backup into the wastewater plant from the discharge piping.

Tristan would like to see a garage located above the treatment plant to act as a storage location and an auxiliary office where critical documents can be stored well above the floodplain. Tristan would like an oversized garage to provide capacity to own a small excavator in the future. Josh thought there was a possibility this would qualify as a hazard mitigation loan/grant via FEMA. Josh will check into this with Karen Hatcher.

Tristan has talked with Josh about rewriting the personal policy to deal with overtime for whoever is working the weekends on call. There are circumstances where an emergency at night ends up being paid as standard time. Tristan would like to see these circumstances limited for fairness. Josh asked if Tristan could come with a rough-draft as a starting point for discussion. Tristan said he would.

Tristan would like to see if the 3-year step-increases for pay identified in the town personal policies could be made to happen for himself and Scott Franks. The Selectboard will need to be involved in making this happen. The Commission agreed that the situation needed to be improved.

Tristan asked if they were allowed to rent an excavator and use it. He has a number of small tasks that he could do if rented a piece of equipment. The Commission thought this was feasible. There also may be possible to use the town backhoe. Tristan has talked with Michael Bingham about this idea. Tristan thinks a mini-excavator is needed to work in some of the spots

he wants to access. Tristan is game to work with the Road crew to share equipment if that is possible.

Approve warrants

Approved Payable and Payroll Warrants from January 21, 2025 through March 18, 2025.

Other business

None

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15th, 2025 at 5:15PM as a hybrid meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05PM

Submitted by Tim Phillips