

**Town of Plainfield  
Select Board Meeting  
July 24, 2017  
Draft Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Ross Sneyd (Select Board Member), Betsy Ziegler (Select Board Chair), Alexandra Thayer (Select Board Member), Linda Wells (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Keith Swann (Videographer), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), Eric Blaisdell (Times Argus), Lisa Ryan (Library Grant Application Hearing), Bram Towbin (Road Commissioner, Kate Hayes (Constable), Bob Rosenfeld (Library Grant Application Hearing), Mike Nolan (Road Foreman), Patrick Martin (Fire Chief), Michael Billingsley (Emergency Management Director), George Cushing (Constable), and Daniel Hardy (Traffic Issues Discussion).

Betsy Ziegler called the Select Board meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**AGENDA**

- Review Agenda
- Public Comment/Announcements: Community Supper 7/25, Other
- Town Clerk's Report: Warrants, Other
- Road Report: Cameron Road
- Hearing RE: Library Grant Application
- Fire Department: Fire Truck Contract Approval, Stop Signs at Parking Lot Exit
- Approve the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP)
- Constable Reappointment: August and September
- Traffic Issues, Continued
- Trash Issues at Recreation Field and Mill Street Park
- Skateboard Ordinance Proposals
- Old Home Days: Old Home Days Next Meeting 7/31/17
- Update on Website
- Approve Minutes, Other Business
- Adjournment

**REVIEW AGENDA**

- After it was determined that no adjustments were needed, **Ross Sneyd made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Alexander Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS: COMMUNITY SUPPER 7/25, OTHER**

- Ziegler noted that there will be a community supper at the Grace Methodist Church tomorrow night, 7/25/17 at 6:00pm, sponsored by the Church and other community groups. Admission is free but there will be an opportunity to contribute to the wall fund.
- Ziegler announced that a Community Safety Forum will be held on 8/16/17 at 7:00pm, scheduled, but not yet confirmed, at the Town Hall Opera House. State Police Officer Trevor Prack will lead the

discussion, which will focus on a number of different safety concerns and include forming a Neighborhood Watch group.

- Thayer noted that an Old Home Days planning meeting was held on 7/17/17, with the next one scheduled for 7/31/17 at 6:00pm. Anyone interested in helping to organize any aspect of the event is invited to attend. Old Home Days will be held this year on 9/9/17.

#### **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT: WARRANTS, OTHER**

- Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells announced that taxes are due by 8/9/17. Payment must be delivered to the Town Clerk's office by 4:00pm or postmarked by 8/9/17 to be considered on time.
- Wells stated that there will be a planned power outage at the end of Recreation Field Road to allow for Green Mountain Power to remove some dangerous trees. The outage will begin at 9:00 on 8/1/17 and last for approximately four hours. The rain date is 8/2/17.
- Thayer noted a travel advisory issued from the State that construction work will begin again in East Montpelier at the junction of Route 2 and Route 14. Most of the work will be done between 7:00pm and 7:00am. People traveling through that area in the evenings starting 7/30/17 should allow for extra time.
- Wells requested confirmation on Constable George Cushing being the current Plainfield contact with the Washington County Sheriff's Department.
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the warrants of 7/14/17, 7/19/17, 7/21/17, and 7/21/17. Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

#### **ROAD REPORT: CAMERON ROAD**

- Road Commissioner Bram Towbin noted that the 1973 truck used by the Highway Department for applying chloride to the dirt roads is at the point where a new truck is needed. Road Foreman Mike Nolan has recommended purchasing a 10-wheeler that can be used for a variety of purposes, and Towbin advised the Select Board to approve his recommendation. The new truck would be in the \$110,000-\$120,000 range. Wells reported that there is currently \$73,000 in this past fiscal year's equipment fund and \$30,000 more has been budgeted for the current fiscal year, leaving a balance that would need to be financed. Nolan noted the cost of repairs and other difficulties involved that make fixing the current truck unfeasible. A brief discussion followed on local truck dealers and the protocol for purchasing a new truck. **Sneyd made a motion authorizing Nolan to seek quotes for a replacement truck for the Select Board to consider. Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- Towbin reported that he has met with a variety of demolition people who will be submitting bids for the house at 280 Cameron Road. The deadline for submission is noon on 7/26/17, after which the Select Board will decide on which contractor for the work. Towbin expressed hopes that the work can be carried out in August and the project completed by mid-September. A brief discussion followed on particular issues involved in this demolition project.
- Towbin noted that he has ordered three 35-miles-per-hour signs. He asked to be sent any changes to the "no littering" signs, proofs of which he had recently provided to the Select Board for review. A brief discussion followed on the cost of the signs. Nolan and Towbin stated that there is a need to install some other signs that the Sheriff's Department noted are needed along roads where the pavement changes from one material to another. A brief discussion ensued regarding the

placement of the stop sign at the exit point of the Plainfield Co-op parking lot. Thayer suggested installing a second stop sign on the left side of the exit for those turning left onto Main Street.

#### **HEARING RE: LIBRARY GRANT APPLICATION**

- At 7:35pm, Ziegler opened the public hearing for the Cutler Memorial Library's grant application.
- Lisa Ryan stated that the purpose of the hearing was to resubmit the Vermont Community Development Program Planning Grant application in support of the Library's expansion and accessibility project. Ryan noted changes to the original application, including an update to the Certificate of Program Income form, a reduced budget request of approximately \$1,500 that both the Library and the Town have agreed to absorb, and a revised project timeline. If the grant application can be submitted by 8/9/17, they will learn if the project will be funded by October. Once completed, Ryan will send the new application to the Town so that it has an official copy. Discussion followed on the timeline for the planning project if funding is awarded. **Thayer made a motion to approve the submission of the amended grant application as presented in the public hearing. Sneyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- **Sneyd made a motion to close the public hearing for the Cutler Memorial Library's grant application. Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT: FIRE TRUCK CONTRACT APPROVAL, STOP SIGNS AT PARKING LOT EXIT**

- Fire Department Chief Patrick Martin presented the draft contract between the Town of Plainfield and E-ONE, the company selected to build the Town's new fire truck. Martin noted that the contract reflects what had been discussed at the last Select Board meeting. After reviewing the contract, **Sneyd made a motion to approve the contract with E-ONE for \$318,000 for the purpose of a new pumper truck. Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.** A brief discussion followed on plans to sell the old fire truck once the new one is received and is in operation in just under a year from now.

#### **APPROVE THE LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (LEOP)**

- Emergency Management Director (EMD) Michael Billingsley explained the process that towns engage in to revise their LEOPs. The revised plan for the Town of Plainfield will be sent to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission for its database. Billingsley noted that intensive record-keeping is key to qualifying for State clean-up money and rebuilding after a flood event. Billingsley gave credit to former EMD Robert Bridges for his work last year with Billingsley in gathering the information to update the plan. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the 2017 Local Emergency Operations Plan as submitted by Billingsley. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

#### **CONSTABLE REAPPOINTMENT: AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER**

- Kate Hayes, one of two current constables in Plainfield, gave a report on recent activities, specifically pertaining to littering issues at the Recreation Field, campers on Spruce Mountain Road, and complaints from Farmers' Market participants of dog droppings in Mill Street Park. Ziegler noted that she had put a supply of dog-dropping bags at Mill Street Park, however, the problem may stem from dogs in the park unaccompanied by their owners. It was noted that Plainfield has a dog ordinance, but no actual leash law.

- Constable George Cushing reported on complaints he had received regarding speeding and noise on Spruce Mountain Road. Cushing noted that there is no visible septic system at an encampment area at the top of Spruce Mountain Road and Plainfield Health Officer Justine Gadd is going to write up a report and send it to the State. There is a similar issue on Gore Road. Discussion ensued regarding protocol and the need for a complaint to be lodged before the Health Officer can act on a problem. Cushing raised the issue of the State Police stating they could do nothing about complaints of noise because there is no noise ordinance in Plainfield, which is incorrect, as there is a noise ordinance that covers the entire town. Cushing stated the need to get the Sheriff's Department to patrol the back roads, an issue that Ziegler noted would be discussed as part of the next agenda item.
- All agreed that Hayes would attend the next training in September. Thayer offered to draft a letter for Ziegler's signature to the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Center asking that they add Hayes to the list of attendees. Ziegler and Thayer will send out the letter after reviewing it at the 7/31/17 special Select Board meeting. **Sneyd made a motion to send a letter to the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Center asking that Kathleen Hayes be included in the next training in September. Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.** Discussion followed regarding the fact that are two constables and providing information to the public on how to contact the other constable if one is not available; communication between the two constables; and Hayes' use of a log book to record the times and locations of incidents she investigates. After agreeing that Cushing should stay on as a second constable until Hayes can complete training in September, **Sneyd made a motion to reappoint George Cushing as a constable through the end of September. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

#### **TRAFFIC ISSUES, CONTINUED**

- Daniel Hardy, a Brook Road resident who attended the past two regular Select Board meetings to discuss the problem of vehicles speeding past his house, presented 97 signatures from residents who live on or off Brook Road in support of installing speed bumps in the area of obstructed vision for both directions of travel near his residence. Hardy stated that speeding occurs during all hours of the day and night, but likely more so during morning and afternoon commuting hours. Thayer noted that the Sheriff's Department should no longer be giving warnings to speeders, but rather impose hefty fines that serve to get the word out that speeding will not be tolerated in Plainfield. Sneyd stated to Hardy that the Select Board has developed a list of potential options to address the issue that includes the use of speed bumps and, if the case can be made to voters at the next Town Meeting, increasing the budget to allow for increased Sheriff Department or State Police patrols. Other options discussed included deploying radar signs, rubber strips on roads to measure speed and identify where the issues are, and "slow down" signage. Thayer agreed to check into the cost of the latter option and Sneyd will check into the Governor's Highway Safety Program to explore funding options for radar equipment.

#### **TRASH ISSUES AT RECREATION FIELD AND MILL STREET PARK**

- Discussion centered on types of waste containers to utilize at the Recreation Field and Mill Street Park, including the removal of trash from these locations. Sneyd suggested inviting David Strong, who was hired as a maintenance person for the Town, to attend the next Select Board meeting to discuss the issue. Dan Gadd, an active member of the Recreation Committee, will also be invited to attend to get his thoughts on how things are going and ways to address the trash issue.

#### **SKATEBOARD ORDINANCE PROPOSALS**

- Ziegler tabled this item, which will be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **OLD HOME DAYS: OLD HOME DAYS NEXT MEETING 7/31/17**

- Ziegler tabled this item, which will be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **UPDATE ON WEBSITE**

- Ziegler tabled this item, which will be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **APPROVE MINUTES, OTHER BUSINESS**

- Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the 7/10/17 regular Select Board meeting as submitted. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Sneyd made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff