

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

August 14, 2023
Town of Plympton

IN ATTENDANCE

Selectmen Christine Joy (CJ), John Traynor (JT) and Mark Russo (MR), and Assistant Briggette Martins (SA). Town Administrator Elizabeth Dennehy (TA) was absent from the meeting

CHAIRMAN CHRISTINE JOY OPENED THE MEETING

5:45 p.m. BOS Chair Christine Joy opened the meeting in Open Session, as required under the Open Meeting Law

Updates & Discussions

Highway Superintendent Rob Firlotte updated the BOS on his department projects. They have recently dug 200' electrical trench for snack shack at Dennett School and a 200' trench and water line run for planters on town campus. Hazardous waste day was a success and the Cap was reached well before noon. A new information sign with trash removal costs has been installed at the Transfer Station. The Ch 90 project for Elm St and a section of Main St was approved for \$360k. The Highway construction article is being used to pave West St from Elm St to just past intersection of Cross St. Two Highway employees have received their CDL license along with Hoisting Engineering and now can be moved to position of equipment operator from laborer. The Winnetuxet River Bridge EAP plan has been updated and meetings are ongoing with Mass Dot.

MR opened the discussion regarding Engine “Jake” Brakes by reading a letter submitted by Tory Devonshire, a resident of Plympton. The BOS has received many complaints from residents asking if a ban could be in place on certain roadways. Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) stated that any ban on engine brakes is not enforceable. OCPC, consulted with MassDOT, and agrees with MassDOT in discouraging municipalities from posting engine brake (“jake brake”) bans, as such a ban would conflict with federal safety standards for commercial motor freight and would be unenforceable by law enforcement. MassDOT does not allow the posting of these signs on any state highway. Below is a response from MassDOT on a recent request from Town of Stoughton to ban use of engine brakes:

Engine braking requirements for commercial vehicles are set by the US DOT, and engine braking systems are now mandatory equipment on newer commercial vehicles. For these reasons, it is our understanding that MassDOT cannot legally post signs restricting the use of engine braking on our Interstates or other highways. Nor, as we understand it, can the Legislature or municipal governments enact any laws, ordinances, or restrictions limiting the use of engine braking on any streets or highways within Massachusetts. Even if signs were installed in spite of this, the braking restrictions would not be enforceable by police. Chapter 85, Section 2 of the MGL gives towns the authority to post certain traffic control devices on town ways without MassDOT approval as long as they are consistent with the department's current manual on uniform traffic control devices. There is no official sign of this nature in MassDOT's, or the federal manual (MUTCD), so the sign would be non-standard.

The Town could elect to put up signage, but not on any State roadways and with the understanding that it is not enforceable.

Special Town Meeting – October 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at Dennett Elementary School.

CJ made a motion to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant for Articles. Seconded MR. **Vote: 3-0.**

CJ made a motion to close the Special Town Meeting Warrant for Articles at 8:00 p.m. on 09/11/23. Seconded MR. **Vote: 3-0.**

Stellwagen Beer Co. applied for (15) One-Day Alcohol Licenses at Sauchuk Farm. SA has reviewed the application and all insurance and certifications are in order. The Police Chief is requiring a police detail for all days requested by the applicant.

Saturday, September 16, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm
Sunday, September 17, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm
Saturday, September 23, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm
Sunday, September 24, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm
Saturday, September 30, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm
Sunday, October 1, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm
Saturday, October 7, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm
Sunday, October 8, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm
Monday, October 9, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm
Saturday, October 14, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm
Sunday, October 15, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm
Saturday, October 21, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm
Sunday, October 22, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm

Saturday, October 28, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm

Sunday, October 29, 2023 11:30am - 6:00pm

CJ made a motion to approve the dates requested stipulating that the police detail will be required for all the dates as per Chief Ahl. Seconded MR. **Vote: 3-0.**

Appointments

CJ made a motion to appoint Sarahgrace Kelly to the Open Space Committee 8/14/2023 through 6/30/2026. Seconded MR. **Vote: 3-0.**

Warrants Paid

SA reported \$77,160.38

Correspondence

Eversource & Verizon Pole Request for new services at 11 Maple Street. Placed on hold for future meeting

The Council on Aging will be having nursing services available for seniors in the Deborah Sampson Room periodically. This would either be wellness clinics on 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month or ‘ask a nurse’ sessions 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

The Treasurers office will be reverting to mailing quarterly billing remittances starting January 2024.

Minutes

CJ made a motion to approve the 06/26/2023 – day minutes as written. Seconded JT. **Vote: 3-0.**

CJ made a motion to approve the 06/26/2023 – evening minutes as written. Seconded JT. **Vote: 3-0.**

CJ made a motion to approve the 07/06/2023 as written. Seconded JT. **Vote: 3-0.**

CJ made a motion to approve the 07/24/2023 as written. Seconded JT. **Vote: 3-0.**

Dates to Remember

BOS Open Meeting at 5:45 p.m., unless otherwise noted 08/28/2023, 09/11/2023

BOS Raves

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn BOS meeting by CJ. Seconded JT. **Vote: 3-0.**

Respectfully submitted,
Briggette Martins