

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
Open Session
Monday, September 8, 2020
Zoom Video Teleconferencing

The Open Session Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Russo at 5:50 PM.

In Attendance:

Board of Selectmen (BOS): Selectwoman Christine Joy (CJ), Mark E. Russo (MR), John A. Traynor, Jr. (JT) and Town Administrator: Elizabeth Dennehy (TA)

Participants added to the call: Fire Chief: Steve Silva (SS), Residents: Linda Leddy, Joe Beck, Howard Randall, Plympton School Committee Chairman: Jon Wilhelmsen, and Plympton-Halifax Express Correspondent: Kristy Zamagni-Twomey

Authorizations:

First order of business was to hold a Board of Selectmen vote on authorizing the disbursement of \$24,950 from the Capital Stabilization account to complete the final payment of outstanding debt on the Two Brooks Preserve Park. This payment will also require the approval of the Finance Committee and the Capital Purpose Committee.

Motion made by MR, Seconded CJ. **Vote: 3/0**

The Board's gave a special thank you to Linda Leddy for her leadership and hard work in making Two Brooks Preserve come to fruition.

Fire Department Grant Announcements:

Fire Chief Steve Silva updated the BOS on a recently awarded grant by FEMA of \$230,000. Town meeting previously approved the required 5% matching amount of \$12,000 for a total of \$242,000. This grant will be used to replace the old military styled brush truck.

The Fire Chief also referenced a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Office of Grants & Research Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding announcing an award of just under \$12,000.00 to replace SCBA Masks, this is a fully funded grant with no match.

In addition to the grant awards totaling over \$240,000.00. The Fire Chief announced that the department is moving forward with a Community Paramedic Program (CPP)

CPP is a recognized and certified program through the Department of Public Health Office of Emergency Medical Services. This program is an extension of our current ambulance license. Through CPP the department will be able to offer the residents and visitors to Plympton additional service with no cost such as, wellness checks, Child Safety Programs, Home and Community fall prevention, Water Safety (pools), Asthma Evaluation and environmental factor, referral services and more. Additionally, the program will allow the PFD medics to provide vaccination services (i.e. Flu Shots), COVID testing, and tracing. The program is supported by the Beth Israel Plymouth through the already existing medical control affiliation

The exciting part of the CPP program is that it is tailored to the needs and wants of the community. It is a fluid structure and is flexible enough to change during dynamic times such as the issues we face today.

This program is in no way designed to replace any existing programs a community may already have, but rather it will work as adjunct to enhance the health and well-being of our residents. CPP will and should work in partnership with the Board of Health, COA, School Department, etc. The start-up costs are completely reimbursable through the CARES program and has been tested by other communities such as Hanover and Duxbury.

Special thanks were extended to the Fire Chief for the fine work that he has done in finding and pursuing grants for the benefit of the department and the community.

Heavy Truck Traffic:

Main Street resident Joe Beck reviewed the excessive Route 58 heavy truck traffic that is speeding down Main Street to reach Route 106. Prospect Road resident Howard Randall described a similar situation where gravel trucks from Middleboro are using Prospect, Parsonage and Winnetuxet Road to access Route 58. He also indicated that the trucks were going too fast for the conditions of the road.

Discussion turned to the role the BOS could play in reducing the trucks on these rural streets and the associated excessive speed. It was agreed to form a committee to address the MainStreet and Ring road intersection that would include abutters. (MR) also agreed to talk to the Police Chief about providing additional police presence at the two sites. This led to the two safety zone agenda items. After much discussion (MR) made a motion to create two safety zones which will reduce the speed limits to 20MPH; one at the intersection of Main Street and Ring Road and the other at The Prospect road and Winnetuxet area.

Motion made by (MR), Seconded (CJ). **Vote: 3/0**

Dennett School Update:

Chairman Jon Wilhelmsen reviewed the progress being made in readying the school for opening on the 16th. He praised the strong effort of the teachers, administration and school committee in putting together a plan.

See attached for schedules.

Board of Selectmen Assistant Brigette D. Martins joined the meeting.

Boards & Committee Open Seats:

Selectmen Chair Mark Russo read the list of open seats on the Boards & Committees. Currently there are open seats on the Silver Lake School Committee, the Board of Registrars, Council on Aging Board, and Area 58 Access Television Committee. TA will post the announcement the town is seeking volunteers to join to the Website & Social Media accounts.

Appointments:

The Selectmen Assistant provided a list of pending appointments to the Selectmen to review. Justin Shepard – Plympton Historical Commission 6/2022, Inez Murphy – Council on Aging Board 6/2023, Nancy Butler – Council on Aging Board 6/2023, Mary Lou White – Council on Aging Board 6/2023, James Mustacaros – Senior Aide 6/2021, and Joyce Curran – Council on Aging Outreach Worker 6/2021. MR read the list and made a motion to appoint all members. Seconded CJ. **Vote: 3/0.**

Future Agenda Items:

Selectmen Chair Russo discussed inviting Department Heads and Committee/Commission/Board Chairs to future meetings to discuss the progress in their department. The Treasurer Collector Colleen Morin will be the first scheduled to discuss the status of land taking. JT requested the Parking Lot be added to the next meeting.

Other Updates:

Open Meeting Law and Public Records Law Workshop is scheduled for September 28th with Gregg Corbo of KP Law. This is a mandatory requirement for all Appointed Town Employees (Department Heads, Staff who work with Boards or

Committees). Elected Officials, Board and Committee Members are strongly encouraged to participate in one of the workshop sessions.

Town Administrator:

The Town Administrator indicated that the town took delivery of the new handicap accessible van for the Council on Aging. Plympton contributed \$12,501 toward the purchase of this van and the balance was contributed by the Mass Department of Transportation. (TA) also indicated that the Town of Plympton still had an application for GATRA service, but that the GATRA Board had not met since the outbreak of the pandemic.

TA checked with Town Counsel who suggested that a request for Right of First Refusal on the sale of property on Lake Street was deemed unnecessary, as the land in Forestry Management was going to continue as such with the new owner.

The Hazardous Mitigation Grant kickoff meeting was held on August 26th. All departments are working on the recommended updates for Old Colony Planning Council.

Correspondence:

Plympton Firefighters Association requested use of the Holt Baseball Field at the Town House for a craft fair on 9/12/20 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Social distancing guidelines rules will be enforced due to COVID. CJ made motion to approve the request to use the Holt Baseball Field, Saturday 9/12/20. Seconded JT. **Vote: 3/0.**

The Minutes of August 10th were approved as amended.
Motion made by (MR), Seconded (CJ). **Vote: 3/0**

The meeting concluded with the “Raves” by each of the BOS members’

7:10 PM Motion to adjourn BOS meeting by (MR). Seconded (CJ). **Vote: 3/0**

Respectfully Submitted,
Brigette D. Martins