

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES**  
**Open Session**  
**Monday, February 8, 2021**

In attendance: Chairman Mark Russo, Selectwoman Christine Joy, Clerk John Traynor, and Town Administrator Elizabeth Dennehy.

The Board of Selectmen had met at the appointed time and opened in Open Session, as required under the Open Meeting Law.

5:45 p.m.

Chairman Russo made a declaration that pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Plympton Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Town of Plympton's website: [town.plympton.ma.us](http://town.plympton.ma.us)

Voted: To enter executive session under M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a) Purpose 2 To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with the Interim Police Chief Matthew Clancy.

**Roll Call Vote:** Joy: Aye; Russo: Aye; Traynor: Aye

The Board returned to open session at 6:25 p.m. immediately following the 5:45 p.m. Executive Session.

In Attendance:

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

Participants added to the call: Rich Goulart of Area 58, Jon Wilhelmsen of the Plympton School Committee, Art Morin, Colleen Morin, and Express Correspondent: Kristy Zamagni-Twomey.

**Appointments:**

MR made motion to appoint Benjamin Sarro as highway Foreman until 6/30/2021 and to appoint Patrick Coleman as Highway Laborer until 6/30/2021. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

### **Area 58 Community Access Television Update and Contract Renewal:**

The BOS invited Director Rich Goulart of Area 58 to the meeting to update and discuss the renewal for the existing agreement with the Town, which expired in September of 2020. Town Counsel is reviewing the intermunicipal agreement. Area 58 is currently operating out of Carver and is looking to relocate closer to Plympton and Halifax to help cut costs. Discussions continued with questions on having the ZOOM meetings live streamed to reach a wider audience. Mr. Goulart informed them the meetings would have to be hosted by Area 58 to be streamed live. CJ had some concerns on the BOS not having total control if a meeting got out of hand. TA will follow-up with Mr. Goulart on the specifics.

### **Employee Dental Benefits:**

The Town has done a study on benefits offered to employees in surrounding towns. The Town would like offer dental coverage as an incentive to eligible employees. A majority vote is required by the Board of Selectmen. MR made a motion that the Board vote to accept the provisions of General Law Chapter 32B Section 10A to provide dental benefits as part of group general or blanket insurance providing hospital, surgical, medical, and other health insurance benefits for certain persons in the service of the Town of Plympton. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

### **Highway Department Office Building:**

The Highway Department Building recently had a water emergency during one of the storms causing damage to the office and storage room. RebuildEx of Carver was called in to assist with cleanup. The Selectmen's Assistant Briggette Martins will be meeting with the Project Manager of RebuildEx and will update the Town Administrator of the findings.

### **Acceptance of Resignation's:**

The Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator received resignations from Town Accountant Barbara Gomez effective May 27, 2021 and from Treasurer-Collector Colleen Morin effective June 3, 2021. Each member of the Board and Town Administrator gave a rave of appreciation to each of them for their commitment and services to the Town and wished them the best.

MR made a motion to accept the resignation from Town Accountant Barbara Gomez effective May 27, 2021. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

MR made a motion to accept the resignation from Treasurer-Collector Colleen Morin effective June 3, 2021. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

### **Town Administrator:**

TA gave her update to the Board. She is working on the town hazard mitigation plan. There will be a public workshop via ZOOM in the next month and she is looking into the meeting being televised live via Area 58. TA is working on several grant opportunities and with the Fire Chief. TA was informed that one of the larger projects they were hoping to run through Green Communities will need to go through the procurement process. Plympton's COVID Cases have decreased and the town is now in the yellow risk category.

### **School Update:**

Jon Wilhelmsen of the Plympton School Committee updated the Board of the recent school committee meeting. There is a lot of public interest on getting students back into the classroom for in-person learning. To date the schools have not gone full remote during this school year. There are logistical issues that include limited bus capacity, physical distancing requirement of 6 ft at lunchtime, and shortages with staff and substitutes. The teachers and elementary school staff are part of the third tier of Phase Two for vaccine distribution. Jon Wilhelmsen and Principal Peter Veneto will be holding a Zoom information session for parents on Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup>. They are trying to keep the lines of communication open and provide parents an opportunity to ask questions.

### **Correspondence:**

The Daisy Girl Scout Troop 70837 submitted a request for Use of Town Property. The Daisy Troop would like to maintain the garden beds that are currently between the Town House and the Library. They would be assisted by their Troop leader and would adhere to all current outdoor gathering limits and safety protocols as required by the Emergency Management Team and Board of Health. MR made a motion to approve Daisy Girl Scout Troop 70837 request to clean, garden and maintain the garden beds. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

### **Future Agenda Items:**

The Board of Selectmen will invite P.A.Y.S to the March 8, 2021 meeting.

### **Minutes:**

The Open Session Minutes of January 25, 2021 were approved as written. Motion made by MR. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

The Open Session Minutes of February 5, 2021 were approved as amended.  
Motion made by MR. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

The meeting concluded with a “Rave” by each member of the Select Board.

7:34 PM MR made a motion to adjourn the February 8, 2021 Board of Selectmen meeting. Seconded, CJ.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brigette D. Martins