

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
Open Session
Monday, March 22, 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

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 non-union personnel regarding Fire Chief, Interim Police Chief.

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

At 6:00 p.m., a motion was made and seconded to end the Executive Session Purpose 2 and revert back to Open Session Meeting.

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

The Board of Selectmen returned to Open Session at 6:04 p.m. immediately following the 5:45 p.m. Executive Session by Chairman Mark Russo. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

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: Plympton Athletic Youth Sports Representative Lillie Krueger, Town Clerk Patricia Detterman, Ken Thompson, and Express Correspondent: Deb Anderson.

Chairman Russo opened the meeting reviewing and reinstating the ground rules of the open meeting law.

Plympton Athletic Youth Sports (P.A.Y.S):

The Board of Selectmen welcomed representative and treasurer Lillie Krueger of the P.A.Y.S organization to the meeting. The organization was able to form four basketball teams combined of 4th, 5th and 6th graders. They worked with Principal Veneto and held practices in the Gymnasium at Dennett. They received great feedback from parents and will be continuing to form teams for baseball, softball, and soccer for this upcoming Spring. They will continue to follow the social distance rules due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Appointments:

- MR made motion to appoint Christine Kelly as the Treasurer/Collector effective 6/4/2021 pending contract review and negotiations by Town Counsel. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**
- MR made motion to appoint Brian Kling as Inspector of Animals until 4/30/2022. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**
- MR made motion to appoint David Batchelder as Board of Assessor Interim Member until 5/15/21. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

Town Clerk:

The Board discussed the potential of submitting a warrant article at the Annual Town Meeting to change the position of the Town Clerk from elected to appointed. The Board of Selectmen in past meetings have discussed the continuing goal of professionalism for Plympton to have qualified professionals in key town government positions. Each of the Select Board voiced their view on the subject and each of them asked the current Town Clerk Patricia Detterman if she had any questions. Ms. Detterman had concerns that changing the position to appointed would take away the say of the residents. She asked the Board if this was the first time the topic of changing the position was being discussed. CJ confirmed that she

made the request for the article to be drafted and for the subject be added to the agenda. CJ and JT each repeated that the Board has discussed continuing the goal to bring professionalism to the Town. The first step in the process is to have the article presented and voted on at Town Meeting. MR made a motion to include the article in the town meeting warrant to move the position of Town Clerk from elected to appointed. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

Town Meeting Articles Draft Review:

The warrant closes on Monday, March 29, 2021. The Board reviewed each of the and Town Properties Draft Articles for this upcoming Town Meeting.

- The hiring of a hydrologist to go over the records and recordings with the Dept. of Environmental Protection from Rocky Harvest water withdrawals on Brook Street.
- The repurposing of the leftover funds from the Article that was created when hiring a Town Administrator and to change the language so the balance of \$10,311 could be used for search assistance for professional positions.
- Roof Articles for \$300,000 to replace middle and rear portion of the Town House roof, and an article for \$7,500 for an assessment of the roof at the Fire Station and Library.
- Flagpole Article of \$5500 to refurbish the flagpole at the Town Green and the other at the intersection of Route 106 and Main Street.

MR made a motion to include the article's discussed including the article of the Town Clerk position. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

Board of Selectmen Member Protocols:

Chairman Russo presented a DRAFT of BOS operating principals, meeting agendas, and meeting conduct. The list consisted of ten items. CJ approved of the list presented. JT would like a line to be added to agenda for selectmen updates so the BOS could share more information on community updates that may come up after an agenda is posted. MR explained that that items being discussed should be listed and specific on an agenda. The BOS will continue the discussion at a future meeting.

Cannabis Proposal:

The BOS would like to pursue the exploration and proposal for a cannabis facility on Spring Street in the industrial park. There are still many questions from the BOS but this is a start for beginning negotiations. MR made a motion to let the principals

know that the town is interested and to make a proposal to begin negotiations with Town Counsel. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

Area 58:

The Board discussed the issues with ZOOM meetings being recorded with Area 58. Recently there were two meetings that failed. MR is a member of the Area 58 Board of Directors representing Plympton. He is working with Rich Goulart to improve the quality of services being provided.

Town Administrator:

TA provided the Selectmen with her updates. She has been speaking with the Town Administrator in Carver regarding the shared services of the Animal Control Officer. TA is compiling a list from the Police, Fire, and Highway Departments of all town owned vehicles that she will be reviewing. She is moving forward on the Hazard Mitigation Planning grant. The deadline for the grant submission is August 1, 2021. The Green Communities Grant for the weatherization project at the Dennett School and Town House is going forward as well. TA let the BOS know that she worked out all the details for the Town Meeting to be held on May 12th at the Dennett with Principal Peter Veneto and Town Moderator Barry DeCristofano.

Correspondence:

The State and FEMA submitted changes and are requiring towns to update their floodplain bylaws. This requires a vote by the BOS to forward the zoning bylaw revision to the Planning Board for a public hearing and also to co-sponsor the article with the Conservation Commission. MR made a motion that the zoning bylaw revision be forwarded to the Planning Board. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

Town Administrator Elizabeth Dennehy completed her certification as a Massachusetts Certified Public Purchaser. The Board congratulated TA of her achievement.

Halifax Meals-on-Wheels will begin to use the Town House during the roof replacement to their Council on Aging Community building.

Minutes:

The Open Session Minutes of February 22, 2021 were approved as edited. Motion made by MR. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

Zoning Enforcement Officer Ken Thompson asked to speak regarding Warrant Articles and recent changes made by the Bylaw Review Committee. Chairman Russo informed Mr. Thompson this topic could be added to a future agenda for further discussion. CJ suggested a working meeting be posted between the BOS and Bylaw Review Committee. The meeting concluded with a “Rave” by each member of the Select Board.

7:36 p.m. MR made a motion to adjourn the March 8, 2021 Board of Selectmen meeting. Seconded, CJ.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brigette D. Martins