

Plympton Board of Selectmen - Executive Session

January 12, 2015 Minutes

Present: Mark Russo, John Henry, Colleen Thompson

Guest: Town Coordinator Dale Pleau

At 5:45 p.m. Mark Russo opened the regular open session of the Plympton Board of Selectman. Mark Russo moved that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) go into Executive Session to discuss outside contracts and large budget items, with the intention of returning to BOS open session. John Henry seconded the motion.

Roll call: Mark Russo - Aye, John Henry - Aye, Colleen Thompson - Aye

Topic: The question was raised as to whether or not there are any large budget items and/or outside contracts that can be reviewed by the Town Coordinator with the possibility of saving the Town some money.

Discussion: With the recent change in Massachusetts law which increases the minimum wage and gives part time employees additional benefits, it seems prudent to evaluate our Town services to see if they are the most cost effective and efficient means of providing for the needs of residents.

One possibility discussed was the Town ambulance service. This will again be a very large budget item this year with expected increases in personnel from part time to full time, increases in wages and benefits and changes to the on-call policies instituted by Fire Chief Borsari. It is periodically wise to review outside contract options to see if equal services can be provided to residents at a lower cost.

There was some discussion about hiring a consultant to do this review but it was decided that the best place to start is with the Town Coordinator. Dale will look at all of the large budget items to see if reasonable savings are possible.

Motion: Mark Russo moved that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Coordinator to review the major budget items, including outside contracts, in order to explore options for cost efficiencies and savings. Colleen Thompson seconded. Motion passed 3/0

Return to Open Session - At 6:00 p.m. Mark Russo moved that the BOS close the Executive Session and return to open session. John Henry seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0

Roll call: Mark Russo - Aye, John Henry - Aye, Colleen Thompson - Aye