



## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

6:00 pm

Plympton Town House  
Community Meeting Room

Present: Selectmen: Mark Russo, Colleen Thompson, John Henry & Town Coordinator, Dale Pleau  
Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm.

Mr. Russo opened the meeting with ground rules and a moment of silence.

### **Finance Committee:**

- Finance Committee was present tonight to go over budget and the list of Town Meeting warrant articles with BOS.
- There was a brief break of filming the meeting at 6:10 pm so videographer could fix camera. Taping resumed at 6:11 pm.
- Finance Committee ran down list of warrant articles and asked BOS for their input, ideas and suggestions.
- Finance Committee asked Town Coordinator and BOS if they have come across any Special Town warrant articles. Mr. Pleau stated he has not seen any.
- Mr. Henry stated that BOS talked about rescinding their previous vote on the Silver Lake School Capital Stabilization fund. Mr. Russo thinks rescinding the vote will just perpetuate mistrust. Mr. Russo is asking BOS to not include warrant article rescinding the vote at Town Meeting. Susan Ossoff, from Finance Committee does not agree with Mr. Russo. She believes there is lack of trust for a reason. Until we get to a point where trust is reestablished she doesn't believe we should rescind the vote. She believes we should leave on the warrant article and let the residents vote at Town Meeting. Mr. Henry agrees with Susan Ossoff. Ms. Thompson stated the lack of control of the Silver Lake School committee does make her nervous.

**VOTE: Mr. Henry made motion to leave warrant article on for Town Meeting to rescind vote on Silver Lake Capital Stabilization fund. Second Ms. Thompson. 2/1/0. Mr. Russo opposed.**

### **South Shore Community Action Council:**

- South Shore Community Action Council (SSCAC) contacted BOS by letter a couple weeks ago inquiring to attend a BOS meeting and give a brief overview of their services. Frank Casey & Dan Shannon were present at tonight's BOS meeting to do so. They passed out information to BOS. They would love to inform Plympton residents of all their services. They have over 26 programs that they provide. One of their missions is to eradicate poverty on the South Shore. They have a partnership with Massasoit Community College. They provide many classes, have helped residents obtain commercial licenses & also provide a free income tax preparation. Average age of their class participants is 47 years old. They are currently on

Approved.....4.6.15

their 4<sup>th</sup> class. State funding for SSCAC has been cut so they are relying on towns for financial support. Mr. Russo was unaware of the organization until receiving their letter a couple weeks ago. He urges residents to go onto their website, [www.sscac.org](http://www.sscac.org) and get familiar with SSCAC. BOS agreed we should put a warrant article on for SSCAC at Town Meeting.

**VOTE: Mr. Russo made motion for a warrant article contributing \$2k to support SSCAC serving the residents of Plympton. Second Ms. Thompson. 3/0**

**Computer Services Contract:**

- Mr. Pleau advised BOS that we can renew our computer contract with Local Computer Store at the same cost. They have provided excellent service and Mr. Pleau doesn't see any reason why we shouldn't renew with them.

**VOTE: Mr. Russo made motion to renew computer contract with Local Computer Store. Second Ms. Thompson. 3/0**

**Custodial Pay Scale:**

- Town House Custodian, Deril Fernald approached Town Coordinator about his salary being moved up to the highest pay scale. He has been a town employee for the past 15 years. It would adjust his pay for the rest of this fiscal year from hourly rate of \$15.84 to \$15.99 which is a .15 cent increase. Mr. Pleau felt comfortable with this request.

**VOTE: Mr. Russo made motion to move Custodian Deril Fernald to top end of pay scale. Second Ms. Thompson. 3/0**

**Public Safety Building:**

- Nothing new to report at tonight's meeting.

**DOR Report- follow up:**

- Mr. Henry asked BOS and Town Coordinator if there was anything in the D.O.R report that needs to be a warrant article. Mr. Henry stated that to stay in compliance the D.O.R recommends that interest and penalties on delinquent taxes go into a separate account. He questioned Dale if we should put a placeholder for this article at Town Meeting. Dale will discuss with Town Accountant, Barbara Gomez.

**PEG Access Preparations:**

- Mr. Russo has not heard back from Kopelman & Paige on the draft warrant article for Town Meeting.
- Mr. Henry suggested BOS look into other broadcasting ideas. He likes the idea of the Finance Committee meetings being recorded as well as other important meetings.
- Meetings are still not being televised on a channel yet but they are available through YouTube.

**Solar-ongoing projects:**

- Mr. Henry emailed Blue Wave to see if we are going to Town Meeting with a pilot or not. There is real savings in this venture.
- Ms. Thompson, a member of the Solar Bylaw Committee said there is a public hearing with the Planning Board on 4/6 at 8pm regarding Plympton Zoning bylaws/Solar Facilities.

**Town Government Vacancies:**

- Town Clerk, Tara was present and said all updated information regarding nomination papers will be on the Town website. Deadline for nomination papers was today at 5:00 pm. She stated residents can still join a committee/board as a write in candidate. There are still many positions open.

**Annual Town Meeting Preparations:**

- Mr. Henry suggested a warrant article to be put on at Town Meeting regarding the sale of Maple Street & Palmer Road. Mr. Russo recused himself to sit in audience as resident, since he is abutter to that property. Mr. Henry believes we should give taxpayers opportunity to sell this property. The property is 17 acres consisting of two large lots that are worth about \$150k each. This money could help fund the Public Safety Building. It should be a taxpayer decision. Ms. Thompson asked audience if anyone had any questions or concerns. No one spoke up.

**VOTE: Mr. Henry made motion for placeholder on the warrant article for the sale of Maple St. & Palmer Road. Second Ms. Thompson. 2/1/0. Mr. Russo opposed.**

- Mr. Henry opened up a brief discussion on meeting minutes by law. He was interested in having a warrant article on a Minutes Bylaw that gives boards/committees consequences if minutes aren't posted in timely matter. Mr. Henry believes we are headed for issues with not having minutes from important meetings posted in a timely matter. These meeting should be recorded. The process needs to be tightened up. Mr. Russo believes state law covers this. Town Clerk, Tara stated that the state law says boards should forward in a timely matter but some boards are not adhering to this. There are boards that take months

to submit minutes. When they are elected or volunteer to be on a board they sign paperwork that says they will comply with State law. It is hard to set policy for what a timely matter is. Boards/Committees should be held accountable. Mr. Russo wasn't sure how you make a board accountable. Mr. Russo is not in favor of this wording and bylaw.

- John Wilhelmsen in audience understands frustration but believes that we don't have full boards now and if this bylaw goes into effect with this language we will have empty boards as a result. He proposed that maybe a solution could have a warrant article for elected boards and a policy for volunteer boards to turn minutes over in a timely manner.
- Resident and Board of Health member, Art Morin in audience disagrees; he believes that boards should be held responsible. Boards are taking too much time turning in minutes and there should be consequences.
- Mr. Henry stated that one solution could be BOS chairmen to have a standing request for minutes. Town Clerk, Tara likes the idea of at least having draft minutes sent in. Tara said all Open Meeting Law information can be found on the Plympton's Town website.

**VOTE: Mr. Russo made a motion to not include a warrant article at Town Meeting on a Meeting Minutes policy. Second Ms. Thompson. 3/0**

Mr. Russo made quick plea on parking at Town House. Parking spaces in the front tend to get filled up quickly. Fire Department was also parking in front near their trailer. Mr. Russo will talk to Fire Department about parking farther away to leave the closer spaces for residents doing business at the Town House- particularly the elderly and those with medical issues.

**Next BOS Meeting Schedule:**

- The next BOS ES meeting is on 4/6 at 5pm. BOS regular open meeting will follow at 6pm.
- Monday, 4/13 BOS regular open meeting at 6pm.

**Town Coordinator:**

- Mr. Pleau stated there had been some water damage in Treasurer's office due to water dams and leaks. The carpets were cleaned. There will be an air quality test this week. If that comes back ok then repairs will begin in Treasurer's office.
- The Fire Station had a septic back up today. Plumbers were there and fixed issue.
- Warrant articles are closed as of today (3/30).

**Correspondence:**

- Plympton -Halifax Express
- Bridgewater State Fireside Chat invitation
- Save the Date for Plymouth County Communities on 5/7
- Letter from Beaugard, Burke & Franco asking for support for Casino License
- Letter from Bristol County Agricultural High School
- Letter from United Way- free supply of garbage bags
- Resource Controls- Notice of Private Well Sampling Results

Approved.....4.6.15

- Sakr Summons

**Minutes:**

**VOTE: Mr. Henry made motion to approve 3/23 BOS meeting minutes as amended. Second Mr. Russo. 3/0**

**Silver Lake School Budget:**

- Mr. Russo handed out paperwork regarding the latest voted Silver Lake School budget.
- Mr. Henry briefly talked about the calculation of the Municipal Revenue Growth Factor. The calculation for Plympton does not make sense and we can file an appeal. Resident and School Committee member, Jason Fraser advised BOS that he is drafting letter to Representatives Thomas Calter & Thomas Kennedy regarding Plympton's unfairly Municipal Revenue Growth Factor calculations.
- Finance Committee rejoined the BOS meeting. Mr. Russo wanted to give an update on the 3 ½ hour Silver Lake School meeting. The meeting was pretty intense but he believes every side voiced their opinions and was heard. They voted on a budget with a 2.3 % increase and FY16 expenditures of \$600k.
- Susan Ossoff, Finance Committee gave a brief explanation of how the capital budget works.

**VOTE: Mr. Russo made motion to close the warrant. Second Ms. Thompson. 3/0**

**Meeting Adjourned 8:05 pm.**

Respectively submitted,



Kristen LeVangie  
Board of Selectmen, Assistant

All Meeting Minutes are sent electronically to Town Clerk's Office and are posted on the Town website. A paper copy and electronic version is on file with the Selectmen's Office.

**TOWN WEBSITE: [www.town.plympton.ma.us](http://www.town.plympton.ma.us)**

**SELECTMENS' ASSISTANT: [Selectmen.assistant@town.plympton.ma.us](mailto:Selectmen.assistant@town.plympton.ma.us)**