

PLYMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
February 03, 2014

Present: Joe Freitas, John Henry and Mark Russo
The Meeting began at 7:00 PM

The Board of Selectmen met earlier, at 6:30 PM in Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with Town Coordinator.

7:00 PM APPOINTMENT:

State Representative, Thomas Calter reported on the epidemic of drug use in the South Shore area. Mr. Calter represents six districts, including Plympton. He reported on the alarming rate of deaths caused to people overdosing on Heroin and the use of Synthetic Marijuana – often called Spice or K2. There are two bills amending MGL regarding synthetic marijuana originally filed as S. 919, by Senator More and S. 917 by Senator Keenan. Representative Calter called this issues paramount to the health of all communities on the South Shore. Rep. Calter presented a sample of the Town of Middleborough Health Department Regulation of Synthetic Drugs effective October 17, 2013 and asked the Board to adopt this regulation for Plympton. A member of the Plympton Board of Health, Mr. Art Morin was in the audience and a copy of the regulation was given to him for his Board.

Rep. Calter went on to praise the work of the Plymouth District County “Drug Court” and Judge Rosemary Minehan for her efforts in combating this growing problem. Another forum will be held on April 01, 2014 at the Plymouth North High School Auditorium, 41 Obrey Street, Plymouth 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM to bring awareness to parents, students, and the community. (Post flyer in lobby, Dennett Elementary, Library.)

The Board of Selectmen thanked Rep. Calter for his work on this serious issue. They then proceed to ask questions on the House budget.

REPORTS:

Mr. Russo reported that he attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association Meeting. Ms. Kim Roy, Selectwoman in Halifax was elected as the MMA President. Mr. Russo presented to the Board a copy of the first chapter of the updated Forth Edition of the MMA – Town Hall Handbook for Massachusetts Selectmen. Senator Ed Markey spoke to the audience about modest budgets. Mr. Michael Widmer, President of the Mass Tax Payers Association reported modest movement and moderate rate increase in Local Aide. In the long term; there will not be a robust economy and the growth rate looks anemic. Mr. Widmer stated “we live in a new economy and must adjust.” The glory days of the economy are over and Union Contracts need to be more realistic. The new Mayor Marty Walsh and Senator Elizabeth Warren also spoke. A Tech Seminar – topic – Transparency and “Civility in City Hall” encouraged respect among employees and visitors alike. The Town of Acton “Visitors – Code of Conduct” was read.

Mr. Henry reported he has received several phone calls from the Senior Community asking that the Town Meeting time be changed from a Wednesday night to a Saturday. Leave the decision to the Town Meeting voters. Mr. Freitas suggested that ten signatures be collected and put the Article on the Warrant for Town Meeting.

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VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Henry to change the day and time of day from Wednesday evenings to Saturdays and put on the Article on Town Warrant Second for discussion Mr. Freitas. Mr. Pleau will write the Article for Warrant. The Town Clerk will also be consulted.

TOWN COORDINATOR UPDATES:

- Mr. Pleau requested an RSVP for the Green Communities Award ceremony from the Board. Mr. Henry will attend. Mr. Freitas will report back. Mr. Russo may attend.
- A savings of \$30,000 a year in an energy cost reduction and competitive grants are forthcoming.
- The Dennett will benefit with upgrades in lights and boiler controls.
- Town House and Highway will receive upgrades in lights.
- The Town House heating costs have significantly decreased since system went to gas heating
- Medical Marijuana By-law will be completed and the draft version sent to the Planning Board before February 24, 2014 He recommended the site location be in the business district or light industrial zone district. The Board of Selectmen will be in control of the By-law and be renewed every three years.
- The Board of Selectmen will hold the public hearing
- Public Gathering By-law maximum fine \$300.00 per day
- Littering Fine – municipal penalties \$5,000 - \$15,000 much discussion ensued on this subject

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Henry to institute a Littering Fine of \$1,000 for the first offense Second Mr. Freitas 2-1

It was pointed out the half of the fine money will go to the State – Trust Fund.

CORRESPONDENCE READ BY CLERK:

Filed in Selectmen Assistant's office unless noted otherwise:

Mass Taxpayers Foundation – 43rd Edition Municipal Financial Data pamphlet

Email from Halifax Town Administrator – requesting appointment for Mr. Jack O'Leary

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Henry to appoint Jack O'Leary as Central Plymouth Water District Advisory Board – Alternate position with an indefinite term. Second Mr. Russo 3/0

Girl Scouts Brownie Troop 75462 of Plympton – request to plant a Vegetable Garden. Ms. Karen Foye was present to represent her Troop. The Board will take this under advisement and report back with a location for the Garden.

The Selectmen signed the Best Buddies Challenge bicycle ride. Approved by both Chiefs. Town of Kingston Board of Selectmen requesting a meeting with Board – FY14 SLRSD budget

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VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Russo to meet with Town of Kingston Board of Selectmen FY14 SLRSD budget discussion. Second Mr. Henry 3/0

Kopelman and Paige, R. Smith, Trustee \$ & M Realty Trust and Rocky Harvest, LLC.

MMA – Spring Legislative Breakfast Meeting Schedule

Town Accountant – Project Revenue FY 2013

United Service Adjustment, Inc. – Notice of claim 27 Upland Road.

Town of Carver – Notice of Public Hearing – Feb. 13, 2014

Xfinity Form 500 Complaints/Concerns statistics

Town Clerk, Ms. Tara Wick – Ballot for 2014 Elected Officers – Nomination papers now available. Submit by Monday, March 31, 2014

This concludes correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS:

Role of Planning Board – Public Hearing Articles – Who advertises them?

Mr. Wick – Dennett Elementary School Committee – Shelter Site?

Mr. Jack O’Leary, Planning Board Member visited the meeting. The Board informed Mr. O’Leary of his appointment to the Central Plymouth Water District Advisory Board – Alternate position with an indefinite term. Mr. O’Leary graciously accepted. Mr. O’Leary brought to the attention of the Board the proposed Solar Project – TJA Solar of New Bedford and gave the Board a copy of the Site Plan. Location – South East corner of Plympton off Route 44 and Town of Carver side. Access through the Solar Circle in Carver.

REPORTS CONTINUED:

Mr. Russo made comment to last week’s meeting subject – Town owned land/sale.

Mr. Russo is not in favor of selling buildable Town owned land. He also stated he would not seek more Town owned land be put into conservation.

Mr. Henry made comment that once the Town Buildings Needs Complex Study Committee submits the completed report and presents to the Board; the Board will need to focus attention on a new Committee to carry the project into the future and keep Town residents informed.

DATES:

Monday, February 10, 2014 The Board of Selectmen will not meet.

Monday, February 17, 2014 Town House closed – Presidents’ Day.

Tuesday, February 19, 2014 next Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Wednesday, February 19, 2014 Green Communities Award – Acushnet Town Hall.

Annual Town Warrant closes, Monday, March 31, 2014 at 8:00 PM

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Freitas to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2014 Second Mr. Henry 3/0

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Russo to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2014 Second Mr. Henry 3/0

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VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Russo to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2014 subject to an edit regarding discussion of Palmer Road and Maple Street – abutter.
Second Mr. Henry 3/0

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Russo to adjourn meeting at 9:30 PM Second Mr. Henry 3/0

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Krance, 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

SELECTMENS' ASSISTANT: Selecemen.assistant@town.plympton.ma.us