

PLYMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 24, 2014
WORKING SESSION

Present: Chairman Mark Russo, John Henry and Colleen Thompson, Clerk
Town Coordinator, Dale Pleau and Plympton/Halifax Express, Reporter Mike Melanson

Mr. Russo opened the meeting with the “ground rules” and asked that all present keep Selectman Joe Freitas in our thoughts at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Russo reported:

- Town Building Commissioner, Mr. Tom Millias will join the meeting at 10:15 AM to discuss Ms. Ivy Matheny’s recent request to relocate her files and herself into the former Selectmen’s Meeting room.
- Mr. Russo and Ms. Thompson attended the Land Use training Seminar last night. The meeting was well attended and Ms. Ilana Quirk of Kopelman Paige presided over the meeting.
- Town House – more hospitable and encourage volunteerism.
- Town House – Tri-Town Cable Advisory Meeting Wed., August 06, 2014 at 7:00 PM

The meeting began with Dale’s, Mark’s and John’s Agenda lists and were handed out amongst meeting participants. Reporter, Mr. Melanson was also present.

10:15 AM Mr. Millias joined the meeting. Mr. Millias reported he was “blindsided” by the letter sent to the Selectmen regarding air quality (ac) in basement and possible relocation of work environment for Ms. Matheny, Bldg. Admin. Assistant. He had no knowledge of air quality issues. Mr. Millias went on to say he addressed any issues that were brought to his attention over the past two years in the building department.

- Purchase and use of a portable heater and dehumidifier.
- Air conditioner, provided by Ivy was installed.

Discussion ensued regarding the relocation of work space for Ms. Matheny and the main concern of the air quality in building department.

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Russo to authorize Dale to engage in an Air Quality Company to test air quality in building department office. Second Mr. Henry 3/0

Dale stated, the time factor involved, to schedule the appointment will take one week; results will take another week. The Air quality test will reveal standards and any necessary remedies. Dale will discuss matter with Ivy and request in writing that she will request to move into Selectmen’s former meeting room on a temporary basis pending the air quality results. Tom stated there is a wireless phone in the office that could be brought upstairs for Ivy. Dale will look into a wireless computer. The files will remain in building department. Mr. Russo requested that Dale discuss the meeting items with Ms. Matheny until further findings.

Mr. Millias asked to discuss the Administrative support person that is lacking in the Land Use Departments: Planning Board, Zoning and Conservation Commission. He went onto support the plan to hire assistance for better communication and direction for permit applications. This was addressed last year, however, never materialized.

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Discussion ensued regarding the actual position “Clerk” versus “Administrative – expert. All present agreed an assistant is needed for Land Use Boards. More discussion:

- Position has not been funded
- Boards are overwhelmed
- Lack of expertise in some areas
- Volunteerism on Boards will become more attractive

Mr. Millias went onto say, other Towns share this same dilemma. Mr. Henry stated that the ZBA, Planning Board and ZEO, at times require the assistance and guidance from Legal and Engineers. Mr. Russo agreed this will be high on the Selectmen priority list. Mr. Millias stated in Halifax, his Administrative Assistant (Building Department) also takes the Meeting Minutes of their Planning Board.

The Board continued the meeting with their Agenda items. Ms. Thompson stated that Mark’s list was acceptable and had no additional items to add to the Agenda. Mr. Henry stated he would like to discuss top priority:

- Town budget – generate more revenue
- Creation of a Committee for the new Safety Building Complex (SBC)
- Police and Fire Departments’ building locations and funding of project
- Have ready to bring to Town Meeting in 2015.

The Board discussed some of the challenges the Town faces with a volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Henry stated, three full-time employees are needed for the Department. Presently, there are two full-time employees: Chief Borsari and Lt. Law. The Ambulance has been upgraded to ALS with a new ambulance. The location for the Safety Building Complex and exploring Regionalization was briefly discussed. Mr. Russo mentioned, one favorable possible location could be the former Pina/Weisman land with access from Route 58. Mr. Henry gave his idea for a future process for the SBC project:

- Clarify parcel of land this year
- Ask for funding at Town Meeting – plan two years
- Scope person
- Three years build
- Seven to eight acres is needed for building site.

Other noteworthy items:

- Contact Middleborough Fire Chief Benjamino – Brewster Ambulance – regionalization possibility.
- Involve Plympton Fire Chief and Police Chief with the SBC project
- One Selectman on the SBC project
- Involve members of the community to be on the SBC project committee – reach out to Mr. Wilhelmsen, Ms. Ossoff and Mr. Morin.
- Mr. Henry – do an RFP for SBC/Public Safety buildings for bids
- Mr. Henry – swap land for SBC site

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Mr. Russo concluded that the Board of Selectmen set four to six priorities topics by their next meeting on August 06, 2014

1. Review the public safety SBC project
2. Town By-laws
3. Atmosphere at Town House
4. Comcast
5. Solar
6. Policies and Procedures

The Board will discuss at their August 06, 2014 “Working Session” Comcast update, begin negotiations, move forward with a Tri- Studio (Halifax, Carver and Plympton.) This prompted discussion of Mr. Seelig, Halifax Town Administrator – Comcast subscriber’s being charged twice on their bills.

Open Meeting Law:

- Avoid deliberation
- Communicate Agenda items

REPORT: Land Use training seminar on July 23, 2014

- Attorney Quirk reminded attendees, it is more cost effective to obtain Selectmen’s permission if there are any questions/concerns/issues right away.
- In an emergency case – “three minutes” before the meeting, contact her office with any questions.
- Every Board – take “good” meeting Minutes
- Administrative help is needed for Land Use Boards
- Copies of this seminar will be provided to the Land Use Boards

The Board of Selectmen cancelled their Monday, July 28, 2014 meeting. Their next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 06, 2014 beginning at 5:30 PM “Working Session, and Regular Open Session at 7:00 PM

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Russo to adjourn the Meeting at 11:25 AM Second Ms. Thompson. 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.