

PLYMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
June 30, 2014

Present: Mark Russo and Colleen Thompson

The Board met in Executive Session at 5:45 PM #2 Contract Transfer Station Manager

The Regular Open Meeting began at 6:00 PM

Chairman Russo opened the meeting with the "Ground Rules" for meeting.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**6:00 PM** Members of the Planning Board were present for a joint appointment with the Board of Selectmen to appoint Ms. Domonique Sampson to the Planning Board until next Town Election, May 16, 2015. Members: Chairman, Irving Butler, Bill McClellan, John Rantuccio and Paul D'Angelo voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Sampson to the Planning Board. Selectmen appointed Ms. Sampson at their previous, June 16, 2014 meeting. All present signed the appointment slip.

Ms. Sampson was not present at the meeting.

The Agricultural Commission submitted gift checks in the amount of \$20.00 from Reunion Farm and \$20.00 from Sunrise Gardens for the Ag. Com. gift account.

**VOTED:** Motion made by Mr. Russo to accept the \$40.00 gift for the Agricultural Commission gift account. Second Ms. Thompson. 2/0

Ms. Mary Lou Sayles attended the meeting to discuss the Town Solar By-law and the State recommendations for Solar field sites. (Ms. Sayles had submitted a packet of information: Cover letter with website links, packet "Model As-of-Right Zoning By-law: Allowing Use of Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation prepared by the Department of Energy Resources Mass Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, dated March 2012 and a Boston Globe South article "Solar projects increasingly meeting local resistance, May 05, 2013. The packet was forwarded to the Selectmen for their review.)

Ms. Sayles main concerns regarding large scale Solar sites and the present "misinterpretations with various officials" of the State recommendations for large scale sites.

- Cutting of trees – "State recommends to allow on small scale sites"
- Lake Street project
- State Recommendations were omitted from the Town Solar By-law
- Omitted was historical and scenic recommendations
- Solar fields be designated to an Industrial site
- Would like a moratorium and Special Town Meeting to address the present Town Solar By-Law

After Ms. Sayles presented her opinions, Chairman Russo replied:

- The present Solar By-Law states all zones could be used for potential Solar sites
- The Planning Board created the Solar By-law and must be adhered to
- Only way to change the present By-law is at a Special Town or next Annual Town Meeting.
- Mr. Russo is not in favor of a Special Town Meeting and wants a thoughtful review and time for any changes made to the By-law for next Annual Town Meeting
- Mr. Russo went on to suggest a Review Committee for Town By-laws be established. He would like to start with the Solar By-law, Wetlands By-law and Master Plan for Town and Appropriations for a Town Planner
- Mr. Russo encouraged knowledgeable and dedicated Town residents to share their talents and join one of the Committees.

Ms. Pat Royal was present and volunteered to be on the Review Committee once it is established.

The Planning Board and much needed clerical assistance were briefly touched upon.

While these discussions took place, Blue Wave Capital Representatives visited the meeting. Mr. Russo addressed the Representatives and asked if they would like to add anything to the present discussions. Mr. Russo also made it known that Selectmen Henry was not here tonight and Mr. Henry is very well versed in Solar projects

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and Pilot Agreements. Mr. Aidan Foley stated he will work very hard with the Boards and Committees with the Solar project at 117 Lake Street. Mr. Foley gave a brief update to the Board of Selectmen regarding his Company.

- Recognizing a “key” member is not here during this discussion
- Blue Wave Capital is from Boston with 25 employees
- Blue Wave has offices in South Carolina, Bahamas and South Africa
- One of their projects was a 60 Megawatt in Mass, serving power to 6,000 to 7,000 homes
- Blue Wave Capital is a local company and Representatives will attend as many Town evening Meetings as possible
- Recognizes “change” and communication is important with residents
- Worked with municipalities in the past
- New Bedford – 17 sites
- Property tax revenue is generated at built sites
- Farmers seeing Solar projects as a way to keep their farms
- Here tonight to establish a relationship with the Board of Selectmen
- Future discussions to negotiate a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement
- Joint public process with Planning Board and Conservation Commission for project on 117 Lake Street
- Project is in a retreat section of the 43 acre property and not visible to neighbors
- There will be a bit of traffic during construction – vehicles coming and going
- Tree removal
- 5 Acres of solar panels, place every 10’ with a gap in between
- Will be fenced
- Storm water will not impact neighbors
- July and August – taxable personal property
- Land Purchase offer to Selectmen is on its way
- Increase in tax revenue on 7 or 8 acres

Mr. Russo stated Selectman Henry will have an opportunity to view this meeting on Cable or DVD.

The Selectmen asked Mr. Foley about the timing of the project. Mr. Foley will negotiate the PILOT Agreement and have ready for Town Meeting approval.

Ms. Royal asked about the “Review Committee” and how this project will be affected. Mr. Pleau, Town Coordinator stated, this project will not be affected, it is already in the pipeline and will proceed with its application process.

Mr. Russo closed the discussion and the Board will meet with Blue Wave Capital Representatives again.

**ACTIONS:**

Community Preservation Committee – vacancy (to fill seat of Ms. Colleen Thompson)

**VOTED:** Motion made by Mr. Russo to appoint Ms. Judy Dudley to the Community Preservation Committee.  
Second Ms. Thompson. 2/0

**CONTRACTS:** Veterans Service Director, Computer Service – Local Computer Store and John Ryan Co., Inc. for the ADA restrooms at Town House.

**VOTED:** Motion made by Mr. Russo to sign the annual Veterans Service Director Contract for Ms. Roxanne Whitbeck. Second Ms. Thompson. 2/0

**VOTED:** Motion made by Mr. Russo to sign the Contract with Local Computer Store, LLC. (Town IT Company.)  
Second Ms. Thompson. 2/0

**VOTED:** Motion made by Mr. Russo to sign the Contract with John Ryan Co., Inc. Second Ms. Thompson. 2/0

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**ONGOING DISCUSSIONS:**

Comcast negotiator - Attorney Epstein's contract for the Town was signed. The Town of Halifax Contract template will be used. Carver and Halifax have joined their efforts to contract a cable access and studio and would like Plympton to join. The three Towns would be part of a regionalization and have studio access if Plympton decides to join Carver and Halifax.

Town Auditors recommendations:

1. All contracts with Town must be on file with the Town Accountant. A memo from the Town Accountant went out to all Boards and Committees stating same.
2. All procurement approvals must go through Town Coordinator/Procurement Officer. Mr. Pleau will ask the Dennett School Principal who he will want to designate as their procurement officer.
3. Police, Fire and Highway Department have been notified

Chairman Russo signed the Auditors request addressed to Kopelman and Paige for "Pending or Threatened Litigation, Claims, and Assessments (excluding un-asserted claims and assessments.)"

**Policy and Procedures – handling complaints:**

1. Mr. Russo reported he spoke with the Corporate Manager at Tractor Supply Company to resolve the vegetation/tree buffer line on Montello Street.
2. Brook Street – Sysco noise. Mr. Freitas and Mr. Russo have visited the area in question several times and have not been able to pin-point time frame in question. Asked for log of times from person making complaint.
3. Mr. Russo contacted Mr. Randall on Ring Road regarding truck traffic one Sunday morning. Mr. Randall stated it will not happen again.
4. Tractor Trailer – Samantha Way – noise and well water concerns. The Board of Health and Zoning Enforcement Officer are aware of ongoing complaint. Will revisit again.

**Policy and Procedures Manual** – carry to next meeting. Mr. Russo stated he met briefly with Mr. Pleau to begin the process for a "New Employees" Manual that informs employee of their benefits and "where they go" for information. This will be the first piece of the Benefits package Manual. Ms. Thompson stated she has an interest in the Human Resource aspect of the Manual and would like to work on this project.

Mr. Russo commented that Ms. Thompson and Ms. Krance could work together on an email to Board/Committees/Department Heads.

Tentative, date to be formalized, Monday, August 25, 2014 the Boards & Committees meet to discuss improving communication and coordination of events and planning. The Town Departments will also be invited to attend. More to follow.

There was a brief announcement from Mr. Rick Burnet to the viewing audience and the Board: 27 Coyotes were seen at the Cumberland Farms filed, on Route 58 (former Haesotes property.) He recommended people use caution when walking their pets in the fields there. "There are not little critters left in the fields." The Animal Control Officer is on vacation and will be notified. The Plympton Board of Health will also be notified.

Ms. Thompson reported she and Mr. Russo attended the First Time Selectmen's Seminar and New Financial Training Seminar. She stated they were both informative. Ms. Thompson also attended the Mayflower Insurance Group. The insurance premiums will be level funded this year, however, may increase next year.

Mr. Russo reported he attended the Plymouth County Advisory Board Meeting. The Group took a moment of silence in honor of former Executive Commissioner, Selectman Joe Freitas.

**TOWN COORDINATOR UPDATES:** Mr. Pleau reported:

- The Policy and Procedure Manual – rough outline
- Benefits package – will review with Ms. Thompson – templates from other municipalities

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- Vault in Town Clerk's office – he will paint next week
- Shelving will then be put in. CPC funding will pay for shelving.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None to report.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

*Filed in Selectmen Assistant's office unless noted otherwise:*

Solar packet from Ms. Sayles

Town Accountant Memo for payroll FY14 and 15

Town Accountant Memo – Contracts

Complaint dated June 18, 2014 to Animal Control Officer – 110 Palmer Road –

Results unfounded by Animal Officer on June 19, 2014

Department of Revenue – Plympton on wait list – expect late Summer or early Fall review of financial offices.

Columbia Gas – use caution at construction sites.

Ethics Test – Certificate of Completion – Lisa Krance.

Columbia Gas – permission to excavate at 177 Main Street

**VOTED:** Motion made by Ms. Thompson to allow Columbia Gas to excavate with all necessary appurtenances at 177 Main Street under the supervision of Highway Surveyor. Second Mr. Russo. 2/0

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Registrar Mr. Buckley thanking Selectman

Russo for attending the FY15 Budget meeting.

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds "On-line training for Municipal Employees."

Copied: Board of Assessors, Planning Board, Treasurer and Town Clerk.

**VOTED:** Motion made by Mr. Russo to appoint Mr. John D. "Jack" O'Leary, Jr., to the Zoning Board of Appeals as Alternate #1 until June 30, 2017. Second Ms. Thompson. 2/0

Police Chief – Letter of Commendation for Police Officer Daniel Hoffman.

Police Chief – Letter of Commendation for Police Sgt. Brian Cranshaw.

Town Treasurer – requesting remaining unused vacation time be carried over into FY15 Mr. Russo will revisit at next meeting.

Town Coordinator – requesting remaining unused vacation time be carried over into FY15 Mr. Russo will revisit at next meeting.

Mass Municipal Assoc. "Oppose Telecom Industry Proposal to remove Local authority in siting of wireless antennas and equipment.

Old Colony Planning Council – Agenda June 25, 2014

" (MPO) Agenda June 24, 2014

" "Minutes – April 30, 2014

Kopelman and Paige, S. T. Sakr v. Town of Plympton et al. Plymouth Superior Court, C.A. No.2013 -00655-B Filings:

1. Municipal Defendants' Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's "Complaint Amended Appeal":
2. Municipal Defendants' Memorandum of Law in Support of Their Motion To Dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint Amended Appeal":
3. Affidavit of Compliance with Superior Court Rule 9A:
4. Superior Court Rule 9A List of Documents; and
5. Certificates of Service.

Disclosure by Special Municipal Employee for ZBA Members, Art Morin and David Alberti. Mr. Russo will confirm with State Ethics for correct form.

Municipal Advocate publication

Plympton Halifax Express newspaper. ***This concludes correspondence.***

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**DATES:**

Town Offices will be closed Thursday, July 03, 2014 - Holiday  
Next Board of Selectmen Meeting, Monday, July 14, 2014

Hold Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2014

**VOTED:** Motion made by Mr. Russo to adjourn meeting at 7:45 PM. Second Ms. Thompson. 2/0

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](http://WWW.Town.plympton.ma.us)  
**SELECTMENS' ASSISTANT:** [Selecemen.assistant@town.plympton.ma.us](mailto:Selecemen.assistant@town.plympton.ma.us)