

PLYMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
March 03, 2014

Present: Joe Freitas, John Henry and Mark Russo
The Regular Open Meeting began at 7:20 PM

The Board of Selectmen met earlier, at 6:30 PM in Executive Session to discuss contracts.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:00 PM Ms. Viola Ryerson visited the Board of Selectmen to report that she will be running for the State Senate seat in the 2nd District Plymouth as a Republican opposing Mr. Thomas Kennedy of Brockton, a Democrat. Ms. Ryerson shared with the Board that she was a Selectwoman for the Town of Hanover for nine years. She told the Board that funding is not coming our way. The recent State Budget showed Federal Funding is earmarked for inner cities and larger populations with less income. 40B housing is being forced on the South Eastern Mass towns versus the western part of the State. There are many programs that need to be fixed; one being homes for Veterans. A Senator needs to increase representation for towns.

Ms. Ryerson asked the Board what she could do for them.

Some of the topics of discussion that the Board would like to be addressed were:

- Special Education increasing costs – Plympton always overpays
- Unfunded Mandates
- Regional School costs
- Chapter 70 Allocation
- Unfair share and excess contributions to fund schools

Mr. Henry suggested Ms. Ryerson contact Representative Calter as well. This ended the visit.

Town Moderator, John Traynor visited the Board. He shared with the Board that he recently attended a Regional Moderator Meeting. One of the topics was “Special Municipal Employees.” The position, not the person, gets designated. According to the Town Clerk’s office, nothing had been filed. This will be researched further.

Mr. Traynor also suggested that Town Meeting be moved to the month of June to accommodate the Finance Committee Members and other Boards that are under time pressures. Mr. Pleau was asked to conduct a survey to Town Boards/Committees to determine if June will be more advantageous for preparing for Annual Town Meetings. More to follow.

The Summons from Ms. Sakr is with MIIA – Legal and Town Counsel Legal. More to follow.

REPORTS:

Mr. Russo gave an update on the Halifax Cable Advisory Board committee Meeting:

- Attorney Epstein is interested in representing Plympton. The process will be easy since he will use the Halifax template for the contract negotiations.
- Board of Selectmen will have to sign a client agreement form

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- Mr. Buckley called Mr. Russo. Mr. Russo will ask Mr. Buckley to also reach out to Mr. Freitas. According to Mr. Buckley a warrant article will not be necessary. If hired, will negotiate contract for Plympton with Comcast and set up the Non-Profit.
- It is recommended By Mr. Buckley and Attorney Epstein that Halifax have Plympton join them and avoid a Tri-Town with Carver if possible.
- If Halifax and Plympton partner, keep studio in Halifax.
- Cost to 680 Comcast customers will increase to \$3.50 per month.

Mr. Freitas reported that Mr. Beliveau has withdrawn a solar project. Nstar was part of this decision.

Mr. Henry revealed his research on the Town owned land and Town conservation land.

Selectman Russo stepped away from the Selectmen table under the advisement of Mass Ethics - State Ethics Conflict of Interest Law at 8:35 PM (Mr. Russo is an abutter to some of the town owned land)

Much discussion ensued over the report.

- 1973 conservation land near Dennett School was voted at Town Meeting. The deed was recorded incorrectly.
There was a \$23,000 grant that included restrictions. Two of the restrictions being; no ball fields or recreational use.
- Ms. Leddy asked for permission to contact Town Counsel.
- More conservation land increase property values
- Sell the land to put on "tax rolls"
- Offer to sell unbuildable lots to abutters
- Proceeds from any sales would go into Capital Stabilization Funds
- More time is need for residents to digest these ideas before this Town Meeting
- Any selling or conservation of Town lands will be a Town Meeting decision

Mr. Russo spoke from the audience as a town resident. He stated that it is foolhardy to sell buildable lots. Future new home real estate tax income will not offset increase in new students at the Dennett School. Mr. Henry disagreed with this idea.

Mr. Henry stated that the senior population in Town will be forced out of Plympton due to high real estate tax increases.

Mr. Freitas requested property values be included in the proposals to sell land. Mr. Henry stated the total value figure will be almost one million dollars.

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Henry to submit an Article to sell land at Town Meeting Second Mr. Freitas. 2/0/1 Mr. Russo – abstained.

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VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Henry to a separate Article for conservation of land at Town Meeting. Second Mr. Freitas. 2/0/1 Mr. Russo – abstained.

Mr. Russo returned to the Selectmen's table/seat at 8:55 PM

Mr. Henry invited members of the audience to the Selectmen table to view the map with noted parcels for sale and for Town Meeting. Ms. Leddy, Mr. Burnet and Ms. Thompson viewed the map.

Mr. Freitas asked Mr. Burnet about any rocks or boulders being removed from Harry Jason Park. Mr. Burnet reported that he removed stones. Mr. Freitas said it looked very good.

The Town House Roof is in dire need of repair over the Treasurer's office, Town Accountant's Office and former Selectmen's room. The repair estimate is under \$25,000 and it was suggested monies be taken from the Stabilization Account.

Mr. Freitas reported that the Board signed a three year contract with Town Coordinator, Dale Pleau. Mr. Russo explained that he did not sign the contract, not due to Mr. Pleau's abilities, but rather the three year term itself. Mr. Russo went onto explain that the position of Town Coordinators may want to be upgraded to Town Manager/Administrator in the future.

CORRESPONDENCE READ BY CLERK:

Filed in Selectmen Assistant's office unless noted otherwise:

MBTA Advisory Board Meeting March 19, 2014 9:30 a.m. Boston

South Shore Community Action Council – Local Hero's award March 26, 2014

Veteran Services, Commonwealth – Establish Plymouth/Plympton Veterans Service District.

Chairman Freitas signed. Document was sent to Town Veteran's Agent, Ms. Whitbeck.

Kopelman and Paige – J. Poillucci v. Plympton Conservation Commission.

Police Appointment request for Full Time Patrolman – Daniel Hoffman. (replacement for Officer Elisha Sullivan)

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Henry to appointment as Full Time Patrolman – Daniel Hoffman Second Mr. Russo. 3/0

Vivint.solar company will be going door to door – selling solar panels. (Ms. Lee)

Jon Wilhelmsen "housekeeping" Warrant Article amendment Article XX, Section 4.

Town Clerk – nomination deadline.

DOR email Bulletin 2014-02B Recet and Tax Rate Target Dates FY15

Town of Dartmouth – asked Legislative Delegation to support and modify current State Tax Classification.

ICMA – Questionnaire – Public Health – Forward to Plympton Board of Health Office.

NSTAR – Herbicide – Vegetation spraying. Copy to Sysco.

This concludes correspondence.

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DATES:

Wednesday, March 05, 2014 at 7:00 PM Tri-Town Selectmen/woman and Finance Committee Members.

Friday, March 7, 2014 – MMA Breakfast Series E. Bridgewater

Monday, March 10, 2014 – 8:00 PM Finance Committee meets with Board

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

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Henry to accept the Executive Session Meeting Minutes, as written of February 03, and 24, 2014. Second Mr. Russo 3/0

Hold the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2014.

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Russo to accept the Regular Open Meeting Minutes, as corrected of the February 03, 2014 Meeting. Second Mr. Henry. 3/0

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Henry to accept the Regular Open Meeting Minutes, as corrected of the February 18 and 24, 2014 Meeting. Second Mr. Henry. 2/0/1

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Russo to adjourn meeting 9:35 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