

PLYMOUTH TOWN BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 8, 2022

6:30PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Grace Nucero-Alger
Councilman Daniel Meyer
Councilman Frank Williams
Councilman Shawn Cushman
Councilman Garry James
Superintendent of Highways Rodney Oakley

Supervisor Alger brought the meeting to order. She led in the Pledge to the Flag. She asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the July meeting. There were none. Mr. Cushman made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with five yeses and no nos.

Mr. Isaiah Sutton, the County Public Health Director, spoke about Monkey Pox and COVID. He said that Monkey Pox will have symptoms of fever and rash. It is spread primarily by contact. A vaccine is available. COVID numbers are down. The best defense against both of the ailments is washing hands thoroughly and often. A question and answer session followed. For any further questions anyone has, he advised them to call the Chenango County Health Department.

DOG CONTROLL OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Brian Franklin gave the following report:

- 8/2 Good Samaritan picked up a dog on the four corners of Plymouth and took the dog to the SPCA.

- 8/3 Went to Sherburne Four Corners. There was a dog on a neighbor's property. It was an on going issue. Tickets will probably be issued again.
- 8/4 Picked up a dog and took it to the SPCA. The owner was found.
- Another good Samaritan took a dog to the SPCA. Mr. Franklin is not sure if the dog is a Town of Plymouth dog. He is investigating.
- Mr. Franklin urged everyone to put the license and rabies tags on their dog and/or get the dog chipped for identification purposes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Steve Fox gave the following report:

- Three inspections on septic systems. One on Morley Road, one on the Plymouth North Norwich Road, and one on State Highway 23.
- He has been trying to track down Amy O'Neil in regards to garbage and unregistered vehicles on her property. He has been to her house several times. It does not appear that anyone is living there.
- Spoke with Raymond Knowles about the junk mobile home he has on his property. He was issued a notice of violation last month. He said this is the busy time of the year for him so he needs a little more time to get that cleaned up.
- Spoke with Brock Manwarren about the trouble he is having with a neighbor's livestock running on his property and causing damage. Mr. Fox said there was nothing he could do. It was a civil matter.
- Spoke with Brian Cushman about his garage. He said the property is in litigation so he can't do anything with it at this time.
- Received a complaint about the lack of a fence around Mark Bennett's swimming pool. Mr. Fox said he will turn the complaint over to the County. Mr. Bennett said he had already been through this. He asked for a written complaint and Mr. Fox said there was none.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Rodney Oakley reported on the following:

- Paving Lower German Hollow. Will be paving Doing Road on the 16th and 17th of August.
- Did some driveway pipes.
- Cleaned some ditches.
- Helped Pharsailia put on some shoulders.
- Fuel is up about 60% so Mr. Oakley said the Highway Department will be over budget for fuel. Parts are up about 40% to 45% so he expects that budget line will also go over budget.
- The job opening for a Motor Equipment Operator was advertised on the website. Two people have responded. Mrs. Alger asked Mrs. Brown to put an ad in the paper and on the bulletin board outside the Town Hall.
- Mr. Oakley said they have looked at Mrs. Race's driveway. He said he will extend the pipe and put it closer to the road. He will get to the work in a couple of weeks.

LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS: Mrs. Alger conveyed the following to everyone:

- The gate at the cell tower location has been put in place.
- Clean-up Day revised guidelines have been provided. The event will take place at the Plymouth Town Highway Garage. The hours will be August 19 and 20 from 8:00am to 5:00pm, and August 21 from 8:00am to noon. Mrs. Alger said people can drop off scrap metal, garbage, and electronics. She said the County is trying to organize a Tire Pick-up Day for a later date.
- The Planning Committee met on July 18th. Mrs. Alger passed out some of their meeting minutes. They are working on locating available grants to help with future projects.
- Mrs. Alger conferred with the Town attorney concerning the question of conflict of interest in employing her husband on the Highway Department. The attorney provided a written reply stating that it was not a conflict of interest. She said going forward all jobs will be advertised on the website, in the paper and on the bulletin board outside the Town Hall.

- The location of the Plymouth Farmer's Market has been changed to the parking lot of the Dollar General in Plymouth on County Route 16. The location has better visibility.
- UTV update. Mrs. Alger checked with Bob Wansor who is the Supervisor for the Town of North Norwich. He said their Town is working on creating a local law. Then it will go to a public hearing. She will keep everyone informed.
- Mr. Leroy Kotari, who is the Town negotiator, met with Mrs. Alger, Mr. Oakley and Mr. James to prepare for the upcoming union negotiations.
- Budget meeting will start soon. Mrs. Alger asked the Board to let her know when the best time will be for the meetings.
- Verizon update. Verizon responded to the Town's inquiries about adding a unit to the existing cell tower by saying that the information is confidential.
- Mrs. Alger received an e-mail from Georgia Gonzales to invite her to a committee meeting of Town Supervisors to discuss an emergency action plan for the area.
- The Town has received \$87,721.00 from the second distribution of the American Action Plan, \$70,000.00 + for the second quarter sales taxes, and \$375.00 from Judge Fox for fines collected.

BOARD CONCERNS: Mr. Cushman asked when the dam project at the Reservoir would start. Mr. Carroll said probably not until 2023.

Mr. Meyer asked Mr. Oakley if anything was going to happen with the road issue in front of Rothwell's garage. Mr. Oakley said he had to go to Steel Sales to have a plate made. They will do it when they have time.

Mrs. Brown reported on the progress that she, Ms. Fairbanks, Ms. Murray and Mrs. Rothwell have made with the informational post card to be mailed out to everyone. Postage issues have to be ironed out and then the post card will be ready to go.

Mrs. Alger said the Planning Committee is looking for volunteers.

Mrs. Alger said there is a buyer that is interested in buying about 50% of the property that the Town is looking at for the new Town Garage. The Town talked to the owner about separating that piece and selling it directly to the other party. Then the Town would be looking at 57 acres. The Town could then sell 49% of that. The appraisal was higher than the asking price. Mrs. Alger proposed a tour of the property for the public. No commitment has been made. Mrs. Alger said the property taxes will not go up this year because of this purchase.

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Mrs. Bernadette Jackson addressed Mr. Oakley about her concerns about her road. She is worried that if there was a heavy rain, her basement would be flooded. She asked if someone would come and look at the situation. Mrs. Murray suggested that Mr. Cushman and Mr. Oakley meet with the Jacksons to work this out.

Mr. Jack Adams commented on the conduct of the people attending the meeting. He said their behavior was embarrassing. He encouraged everyone to run for office if they were unhappy with the performance of those in office.

Mr. Tom Kreiner asked what it was going to take to keep people out of the abandoned trailer next door to him. Mr. Fox said he had no idea. He said the County has done all they can do by posting the property.

Ms. Rhonda Fairbanks asked Mr. Oakley if he had heard anything back on the Town sign. He said no. Ms. Fairbanks said she had some vendors and she would give a list to Mr. Oakley.

Ms. Fairbanks asked why the Board does not read the bills when they are signing them. Mrs. Brown said that in the past some duplicate bills have been signed. Mrs. Alger said she would find out if that is mandatory.

Ms. Fairbanks said the Board should look into a better sign for Foster Park.

Ms. Patty Murray asked if the property that the Town is looking at for the new Town Garage is surveyed. Mr. James said it would probably have to be surveyed again. Ms. Murray also asked if there was a well, septic and electric service. Mr. James said yes. Ms. Murray offered to help with any existing records on file at the County Office Building if needed.

Ms. Rhonda Fairbanks asked how advertising was going to be done for the Town Cleanup Day. Mrs. Alger said it would be on the website, in the paper, posted at the Town Hall and she would put it on Facebook.

She also asked how long the Farmer's Market would go. Mrs. Alger said it would go week by week to see how many people would come.

Mrs. Jackson spoke about how disrespectful she was treated.

Mrs. Alger said the next meeting will be held on September 12, 2022 at 6:30pm.

The Board reviewed and signed the bills. Mr. Williams made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. James seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos.

Mr. James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Virginia E. Brown
Plymouth Town Clerk
August 22, 2022