

PLYMOUTH TOWN BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 15, 2017

PRESENT: Supervisor Grace Nucero-Alger
Councilman Gary Simpson
Councilman Eric Jones
Councilman Lewis Somers
Councilman Daniel Meyer
Highway Superintendent Peter Marshall

The meeting was brought to order at 6:30pm by Supervisor Nucero-Alger. She led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.

The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed by the Board. Mr. Jones made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos.

The Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Burlingame, reported that there was no activity in this area since the last Board meeting.

The Highway Superintendent, Mr. Marshall, reported that the highway crew has been plowing a lot of snow and hauling stone. They have also been maintaining their trucks. One truck, #13, is in Syracuse for repairs. It needs several repairs. Mr. Simpson asked if the repairs would be under warranty. Mr. Marshall said yes.

Mr. Marshall also said that a Highway Committee meeting was held and a new truck and mower were discussed. Mr. Marshall said that the mower would have to be "spec'd out" and put in the paper. Mr. Simpson announced that there would be another Highway Committee meeting on March 14, 2017 at the Highway Garage at 6:30pm. Linda Winton asked why the Town would be looking for another truck. Mr. Marshall replied that it would be to update equipment. He said that trucks should be updated when the warranty ran out. Mr. Bennett questioned the reason that a truck that was previously replaced is still at the Town Garage. Mr. Marshall said that it is still being used to "broom" the roads. Mrs. Alger reminded Mr. Marshall that three quotes would be required when purchasing any equipment. Mrs. Winton asked if the trucks wore out because of mileage or wear and tear. Mr. Marshall replied wear and tear.

The DCO report was read by Mrs. Alger. The report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office. Mrs. Winton asked if there was any news on the black dog that had been badly injured and picked up by the DCO. She also asked if the dog had been adopted? Mrs. Alger said that that would be a question to ask of Ms. Burns at the next meeting. Mrs. Winton asked if Matt Bates was the official DCO and Mrs. Alger answered yes. Mrs. Winton asked why Mr. Bates has not attended meetings. Mrs. Alger will ask Ms. Burns at the next meeting. Mrs. Alger asked if Mr. Bates was doing any of the DCO work for Plymouth. Mrs. Brown replied that Ms. Burns was doing all the DCO work for the Town. Mrs. Winton asked if a member of the Board should speak directly to Mr. Bates about DCO matters. Mrs. Alger said that she didn't know. She also asked who was receiving his pay if he was not doing the work. Mrs. Alger said that the issue had been discussed with the Town attorney. She is waiting for Mr. Spence to get back to her about it. She said that either Mr. Bates or Ms. Burns should be attending the meetings. She also felt that Mr. Bates should be doing the work if he is getting the pay. The Town may have to come up with another plan.

Mrs. Alger presented an overview of the activities of the County Supervisors.

Letters and Communications:

Worker's Comp Brochure

Letter from Agriculture and Markets concerning dog licensing.

Letter from Charter Communications announcing programming changes.

Membership dues for the Historian's Association

Posting for a job opening at the County Office Building.

Letter from Kiernan Hamilton expressing gratitude for the assistance that one of the Town Highway crew gave her when she was stuck.

Rabies Clinic announcement.

Rogers Center Newsletter.

Cortland USDA Rural Development

Board Concerns : David Marks asked the Board to reimbursement him for the cost of his health insurance that he had to pay for himself through his wife's insurance from March 1, 2016 to the end of the year because the Town's insurance erroneously did not insure him. Mrs. Alger wants to see documentation to show how much Mr. Marks had to pay for his insurance. She would also like to see a Union Handbook and talk to the Town's attorney before she takes action on this issue.

Mr. Meyer commented on the fact that the lights under the canopy in front of the Town Hall building are not working. Jackie Kreiner stated that she believed that Mr. Bates had been scheduled to work on the lights by the Fire District. However, he has not been here yet. Ms. Kreiner said that she believed the issue would be addressed at the next meeting of the Fire Commissioners.

Mrs. Brown asked, on behalf of Chris Santullo, to let the New York State Gas and Electric Company directly charge the Town's checking account to avoid shut off occurrences. Discussion followed. Mr. Simpson made a motion to allow the New York State Electric and Gas Company directly charge the Town's checking account for electric bill payments. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos.

Mrs. Brown also asked about plans going forward to address the issues that were brought up by the State Auditor. Mrs. Alger said that she did plan on working on the issues. She said that the auditor told her that the Board had until January of 2018 to complete the work.

Public Concerns: William Collar addressed the Board concerning what he called “vindictive waste” of which he feels the Highway is guilty. He stated that the “Cattle Ahead” signs that he requested and that were put up by the Highway Department, had been removed by the Highway Superintendent when he found out that the meaning of the signs also applied to the Highway Department. Mr. Collar’s resolution to the problem was to announce that he would like to be the next Highway Superintendent.

Mr. Jones asked why the signs were removed. Mr. Marshall said that they were removed because Mr. Collar would walk down the road in front of the snow plow slowly, delaying the snow plows ability to plow and sand the road. Law enforcement officials were consulted. They visited Mr. Collar. More discussion followed. Mrs. Alger asked Mr. Collar what he wanted from the Board. Mr. Meyer asked Mr. Collar to write up his complaint and present it to the Board. Then the Board would take it into consideration and act accordingly.

Mrs. Winton asked the status of the issue that was the subject of the Executive Session that was held last month. No solution has been accomplished yet. Mrs. Alger said that the Board is waiting to hear from Mr. Spence. Mrs. Winton asked if there was any news on the issue of the Town Judge. Mrs. Alger said that the Town has a full functioning court. She said that Mr. O’Connor was able to hear cases again. She said that if people had any questions, they should contact the Unified Court System on Judicial Conduct in Albany.

Gladys Brannagan announced that Community Garage Sales were being planned for May 13th with a rain date of May 20th. People can sign up with Mrs. Brannagan or Diane Franklin.

Mrs. Alger informed everyone that she asked Charlene DeSha to work on a newsletter that would get the word out to Plymouth residents about such things as the garage sales after she finished helping the Town Clerk with the Property Tax Collection. Mrs. Brown asked what funds would be used to pay Mrs. Desha for working on the newsletter. Mrs. Alger said her Contractual Account would be used. Mrs. Alger would like to see the newsletter mailed out at first with the option for people to choose to receive it electronically.

Mr. Collar objected to the rude and disrespectful treatment that he received during his presentation to the Board.

A woman expressed her frustration with the amount of snow that she says gets plowed into her driveway making it difficult to get out to get to work.

Kim Jones raised a concern about social complaints concerning the condition of Plymouth's cemeteries. She informed everyone that there are lots of opportunities to address this issue such as grants, college students and high school volunteers and BOCES students that might make a project of cleaning up the cemeteries. She volunteered to write an application for a grant if the Board would like. Mr. Simpson said the Board would be happy to have her do it. Mrs. Jones also asked if anything had been decided about requiring the Amish to acquire building permits. A discussion followed. Mr. Jones made a motion to require the Amish to apply for building permits and septic permits. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with five yeses and no nos. Mr. Burlingame suggested that the County be notified and a resolution be written to that affect. He also said that the public should be notified as well. Mrs. Alger will write a resolution.

Mrs. Winton asked about the status of the proposed mushroom farm that was to be built on the old Franklin farm on route 16. Mr. Simpson said that the DEC stopped the building because there is a stream that runs through the property.

Mrs. Alger announced that the next meeting will be held on Monday March 13th at 6:30pm and the Town Hall.

The bills were reviewed. Mr. Somers made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion passed with five yeses and no nos.

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

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia E. Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Virginia E. Brown
Plymouth Town Clerk