

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH BOARD MEETING

JULY 11, 2022

6:30PM

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

Supervisor Alger called the meeting to order. She led in the pledge to the Flag. She asked if there were any additions or corrections to the June minutes. There were none. Mr. Meyer made a motion to accept the minutes as sent. Mr. Cushman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos. Mr. Richard Rifanburg, the Town Assessor, spoke about the current equalization rate and how the changes in that effect our property taxes. He presented the Board with a hand out that supported his presentation. He also commented on the economy and it's effects on the general housing market. He informed everyone about a second Grievance Day which will be held on July 19, 2022 at 5:00pm. He said that the last time he was at a meeting, people wanted to know if a re-evaluation would be a good idea. He advised against it at the present time because the cost would be in excess of \$130,000.00. He asked if everyone had gotten their Homeowner Tax Rebate in the mail. If a

person had not, they could go on ny.gov and look up homeowner tax rebate credit. He would also drop off some copies of this information at the Town Clerk's Office for those who do not have access to a computer.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Mr. Brian Franklin reported on the following:

- 6/22 Stray dog. Owner found on Rt. 23
- 6/30 Stray dog. Owner found on Center Road
- 7/6 Stray dog dropped off at the SPCA by a good Samaritan, who must sign papers before Mr. Franklin can proceed.
- 7/7 Mr. Franklin told the SPCA the bill will not be paid unless the name and number of the person who dropped the dog off is added to their report.

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

- Served a notice of violation to Raymond Knowles at 164 Ashcraft Road for the junk manufactured home. (No response)
- Bob Baker on Inman Road is making progress
- There is a dumpster at the Buffa residents on County Road 16. They have cleaned up some.
- Served a second notice of violation to Amy O'Neil on Owens Road for garbage again.
- Lawrence Hutchings is doing ok with keeping his junk behind the fence and keeping the gate closed.

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

- Mr. Oakley presented the Board with two checks for culverts
- Worked on truck 4
- Put in a culvert on Reservoir Road
- JCB serviced the excavator
- Did three driveway pipes and cleaned out beaver dams on Blackman Road and South Road.
- Truck 7 is down with an overheating problem.
- Grader radiator needs replacing.
- Helped the Towns of Columbus, Norwich and Pharsalia
- Picked up tractors to start mowing.
- Possibly Pharsalia might be interested in buying the Town's Ford tractor. The price was discussed.
- Mr. Oakley talked with Shawn Frye concerning the pipe on the end of Doing Road.

LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS: Mrs. Alger reported on the following:

- She announced that the Plymouth Clean Up Day will be held on August 19. The dumpsters will be at the Highway Garage through August 21.
- She gave out a listing of materials that can and can not be disposed of. The list will be posted to the website.
- Mrs. Alger said that the lights on the cell tower are now working, but the gate still is not up. She was assured that the gate would be erected soon.
- Mrs. Alger said that the Board has not decided what to do about the UTV issue. She said that other Towns are skeptical about allowing UTVs to use certain Town roads because of the liability.

Mr. Oakley said the Town of North Norwich is going to approve the use of Town roads for UTVs in August. They have already conferred with NYMIR and their lawyer and been given clearance to go ahead. More to come. Mrs. Alger said she would speak to the Town attorney. She said she would have answers next month.

- The Homeless shelter that Mrs. Alger spoke about at the last meeting will be in Norwich. It will be a 12 room building. It will be for Code 32 (for people who don't have a place to stay in the winter). These shelters will be supervised. Catholic Charities is working on this.
- Mrs. Alger announced that starting July 28, 2022 from 5pm to 7pm the Town will be holding a Farmers' Market at the Town Hall side of the parking lot. She said the Board had already talked to the Fire Department and they were fine with the idea. It will be on Tuesdays. She urged anyone who wanted to participate to contact her. There will be no cost. The only item that cannot be sold is prepared food because of State regulations. Food trucks are allowed.

BOARD CONCERNS:

- Mr. James made a resolution to approve the creation of a Farmers' Market in the Town of Plymouth. Mr. Cushman seconded the resolution. The Board was polled and the resolution was adopted with five yeses and no nos.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

- Ms. Rhonda Fairbanks asked for an update on possible properties for the new Town Garage. Mrs. Alger said they had looked at a

property at 3061 State Rt. 23. They got a price from the seller and had an appraisal done. They are now waiting for advice on how to proceed from Coghlin and Gerhardt. Ms. Fairbanks asked how much land was involved. Mrs. Alger said 115 acres. Ms. Fairbanks asked why the Board was still looking for so much land when the Town only needed 5 to 8 acres. She asked what the asking price was. The Board said \$185,000.00. Mr. Oakley said that was the only property left after eliminating the others for various reasons. Mrs. Fairbanks asked for notes from the Planning Board meetings.

- Ms. Patty Murray read a listing from the paper about a piece of property. Mr. Oakley said that piece had been eliminated. Mr. Oakley referred her to the spread sheets that had been handed out at previous meetings.
- Ms. Fairbanks asked what the Town was planning on doing with the excess property. Mr. Oakley said they could sell off 49% of it. The rest could be looked at for a solar field. Mr. James suggested a Community garden. Discussion followed about the pros and cons. Ms. Fairbanks was asking that the public be informed. Mr. Meyer said the people are entitled to know what is going on, when it is going on, not two months down the road.
- Ms. Fairbanks asked if the paperwork to ask to have Verizon added to the cell tower had been completed. Mr. James said he was not given any paperwork. Mrs. Denise Rothwell said there was a link on the paperwork that she gave him to access to complete the form. Mr. James said he would send a letter to Verizon concerning this issue. Mrs. Rothwell said she would resend the information to Mr. James.

- Ms. Fairbanks said she would like to hear follow-ups on issues brought up at previous meetings. She particularly asked about an update on the Kelly Cushman property. Mr. Fox said nothing had been done.
- Ms. Fairbanks asked what the status of camping at Foster Park was. Mrs. Alger said everything was in place. Mr. James said no one had camped there yet. Ms. Fairbanks asked how anyone would know about the availability. Mrs. Alger said it would be on the website. Mr. Steve Kriener asked who would be liable if anyone was hurt while camping there. Mrs. Alger said the Park is covered for liability.
- Ms. Fairbanks asked if there were any job openings that are supposed to be posted on the website. Mrs. Alger said we didn't have any openings right then.
- Mr. Steve Kriener asked Mr. Oakley if he was staying on as Highway Superintendent. Mr. Oakley said yes.
- Ms. Fairbanks asked Mr. Oakley and Mr. Cushman if they had done anything on the problem at the entrance to Rothwell's Garage. Mr. Oakley said they are still trying to get a piece of bridge grate to fix the problem. Also, for Ms. Race who complained about her driveway at the last meeting. Mr. Oakley said Mr. Cushman had looked at it and they have a plan to fix it as soon as Mr. Oakley has time.
- Mr. Tom Kriener asked Mr. Oakley if he had any plans to repair the holes on Pike Hill Road. Mr. Oakley said the crew had started patching the previous week. There are more to be patched when time allows.

- Mr. Tom Kriener also asked who was responsible if the cell tower was hit when the warning lights were out. Mrs. Alger said that was another question for David Craine.
- Ms. Patty Murray thanked the Fire Department for their dedication and hard work.
- She also asked if the Town was going to publicize the Town Clean-up day in any way. She once again suggested an informational post card be sent out to everyone. Discussion followed. Mrs. Alger agreed.
- Ms. Murray asked Mr. Oakley if he had any plans to sweep the roads. He said they were waiting for rain.
- Ms. Murray asked about the culvert that Mr. Oakley had said was going to be fixed on her road. He said that because of the rising cost of materials, the paving would probably not be done until next year.
- Mr. Jim Earing said that Mr. Shawn Frye told him that the Town Clean up day would be only for the residents of Plymouth.
- Mr. Brian Franklin asked if anyone comes in to help Plymouth under the Shared Resources program. Mr. Oakley said yes, we have received help from North Norwich, Sherburne, Otselic, Pharsalia and Georgetown.
- Mr. Franklin also asked for an update on the repair of Old Rt. 23. Mr. Oakley said he has the permit and a lot of the materials on hand. He was just waiting to complete his paving so he would have time to start the work.

- Mr. Franklin asked about large holes in Center Road near Rhinevault Lane. Mr. Oakley said that it was Pharsalia's road but the Town of Plymouth uses that area to turn around during the plowing season so he could probably patch the holes.
- Mr. Mark Bennet asked Mr. Oakley why the crew returns to the garage everyday when mowing. He asked why the mowing equipment wasn't left on the job near someone's home. Mr. Oakley said they brought it back for refueling and to guard against vandalism. Mr. Bennet said he felt it was a waste of time and fuel.
- Mr. Bennett asked Mrs. Alger if it wasn't a conflict of interest having her husband working on the Town Highway crew. She said it was not. She said she had already checked it out with the Town attorney. Mr. Bennett asked if that job had been posted. Mr. Oakley said it had not because it was a temporary position. Mr. Oakley said that according to the Union contract, a job opening only had to be posted on the bulletin board at the Town garage.
- Ms. Fairbanks asked if there was a meeting on the previous day, a Sunday. Mrs. Alger said yes, it was an Executive meeting. She said she did not need to have it posted earlier because it was an emergency meeting.
- Ms. Fairbanks informed everyone that if there were ever an opening on the Board, she would be interested. She said that, because of the way Mr. Cushman was asked to join the Board without any public knowledge.
- Mrs. Ginny Brown asked if it would be alright with Mrs. Alger if she asked Ms. Fairbanks, Ms. Murray and Mrs. Rothwell to join

her in researching and designing an informal postcard to be sent out to everyone. It would be presented to Mrs. Alger for her approval before mailing. She asked for the go ahead. Mrs. Alger said yes.

- Mr. Steve Kriener asked if there was going to be another coat of paint applied to Foster Park pavilion. Mr. James said yes.
- Mr. Dan Meyer expressed his disappointment about the way some of the Board members treated another Town officer.

Mrs. Alger said the next meeting would be on August 8, 2022 at 6:30pm.

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

Mr. Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed 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.

Virginia E. Brown

Plymouth Town Clerk

July 25, 2022