

PLYMOUTH TOWN BOARD MEETING

JUNE 13, 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 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 May meeting. There were none. Mr. James made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with five yeses and no nos.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT: Mrs. Alger read the Code Enforcement Officer's report as follows:

- Rob Baker on Inman Rd. has cleaned up some. He will continue to work at it.
- Kelly Johnson on Ashcraft Rd. has made a huge cleanup. Thank you, Kelly.
- Mike Bishop on State Hwy.23 has been picking up. Still has more to do.

- Amy O'Neil on Owens Rd. got rid of a load of garbage. Still has a ways to go.
- Had a complaint about the apartment house on the corner of Plymouth/N. Norwich Rd. about unsafe conditions and septic issues. I referred it to County Code Enforcement.
- Looking into a couple of properties on County Rd. 19 about junk.
- Did three septic inspections. One for completion of a new system and two perk tests for future new systems.

Mrs. Brown asked if anything was mentioned about the cell tower issues that were brought up during the last meeting. Mrs. Alger said no. She asked Mr. Steve Kreiner if the light on the tower was still out. He said yes. She will contact AT&T about the issue of the lights and the missing gate.

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

- Cleaned ditches on Doing Road.
- Excavator due for servicing. Waiting for JCB.
- Hauling sand for winter.
- Paving schedule has been moved out because of the lack of available materials.
- Repaired truck 6 and truck 4.
- Helped North Norwich grind roads as well as helping them chip seal.
- Helped the Town of Norwich.

- Informed everyone that there are no Shared Services with the County anymore. The equipment usually “shared” is in bad repair. Shawn Frye said that the equipment belongs to the County, not the Towns.

DOG CONTROL OFFICER’S REPORT: Mr. Brian Franklin reported on the following:

- 5/12/22 Stray dog on Pigeon Hill.
- 5/16/22 Dog hit by a car on the Center Road.
- 6/7/22 Dog bite on Pierce Road.
- State inspection on 6/9/22 went well. Inspector recommended that he get gloves. The SPCA inspection did not go well. He anticipates some changes.

LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS: Mrs. Alger said she talked to Mrs. Linda Powell-Owens who said she plans on August 23, 2022 for the Water Safari Trip. There will still be a \$10.00 charge. Everyone was encouraged to call Mrs. Powell-Owens to get added to the trip list. Chaperones are needed if a child is under the age of 17.

Mrs. Alger said she would be meeting with Mr. LeRoy Kotary the next week. He is the Town’s negotiator for the upcoming labor talks. She said she wants to get prepared and get negotiations started a little early.

There has been some interest expressed about using Foster Park for camping. Mrs. Alger consulted with Code Enforcement and Public Health who told her that if there were a maximum of four campsites, the Town would not have to upgrade the Park. The Town needs to try

something like this to get some revenue to use toward the maintenance of the Park. Mrs. Alger explained the plans for this project. She is having the Town Attorney draw up an agreement that people would have to sign. Plans are in the early stage.

Mrs. Alger brought up the issue of homelessness in Chenango County. She said people could ask questions during public concerns.

Mrs. Alger said the Town Justice presented her with a check for \$395.00 for the month's Fines and Fees.

BOARD CONCERNS: Mr. Frank Williams made a resolution to Authorize the Plymouth Reservoir Dam Project As Required By the DEC. Mr. James explained what the DEC wanted the Reservoir Association to upgrade and improve their dam. Grant money is available to help fund this project, however, in order to qualify for the grant, the Town must pass a resolution documenting their approval for this project. The Association has already raised the lion's share of the money and will be doing more fund raisers this year. The project is planned to begin next year. It will be completed with six months. Mr. James seconded Mr. William's resolution proposal. The Board was polled and the resolution was passed with five yeşes and no nos.

Mr. James read the Authorizing the Use of Foster Park Located in South Plymouth, NY, for Camping Purposes Resolution. Mr. Cushman seconded the resolution. The Board was polled and the Resolution was passed with five yeşes and no nos.

Mr. Frank Williams made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a private matter. Mr. Cushman seconded the motion. The

Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos. The Board went into Executive Session at 7:05pm. They returned from the Executive Session. Mr. Cushman made a motion to go back into the regular Board meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion passed with five yeses and no nos.

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Ms. Rhonda Fairbanks asked why the Flag was at half mast. Mrs. Alger explained that it was out of respect for the people that were killed at the Uvalde school shooting.

Ms. Fairbanks asked if the surveillance recording had been located that would show the Town Hall sign out front being damaged. Ms. Jackie Kreiner said the incident took place too long ago.

Ms. Fairbanks listed some incidents of damage that had been done as the result of the Highway Department actions. She asked who would be responsible for maintaining those things. Mr. Oakley said that he spoke with Mr. Steve Fox, Code Enforcement Officer, about the drainage issue at Rothwell's garage. Mr. Fox said it was "100% legal" according to Mr. Oakley. Ms. Fairbanks said it looks awful. Mr. Cushman suggested that a piece of bridge decking be placed over the hole which should eliminate the problem of people hitting the posts around it. Mr. Cushman said he thought there were some pieces of the decking that he could get for the Highway crew to use to take care of this problem.

Ms. Fairbanks asked what was happening with the repair of the Town Offices sign. Mr. Oakley said he had contacted Mr. Manwarren about it. Mr. Manwarren said he would get back to him, but he had not yet.

Ms. Fairbanks asked about the homeless situation in Chenango County. Mrs. Alger said what the County was finding out was that 65% of the homeless people were from other Counties. She said it was being addressed. Mrs. Alger said that the Bail Reform that the State has enacted has complicated this issue. Mrs. Anderson relayed her experiences with homeless people through the United Way. Mrs. Alger said the people that were removed from the hotel and motel rooms that were provided had been causing trouble. That is why they were put out. Mrs. Alger said she wanted to make it clear to everyone that Family Enrichment was not connected to Chenango County. She said that a lot of the things that were printed in the paper were not true. Ms. Patty Murray said that something needs to be done to resolve this problem for the sake of all.

Mrs. Brown said that not all of the homeless people were non-compliant and that some of them were children.

Mrs. Anderson said that unfair assumptions were being made about homeless people.

Ms. Murray it was a good idea to use Foster Park for camping to bring in some revenue, but she was concerned about who would be policing the use of the park. Mr. James said if the pavilion was rented, only the people who rented it could use it. The campers would not be able to use it until after the pavilion renters were through. He said it would be a learning experience.

Mr. Franklin asked if anything had been done about people living in campers on a permanent basis. Mr. James said it would take passing a Town law which would be very complicated. Mr. Franklin suggested

that the Board should start working on it. Ms. Murray recommended contacting the Town attorney to get started.

Mrs. Anderson said it might be a good idea to limit the number of tents per camping site to avoid overcrowding.

Ms. Lorri Race addressed the Board concerning her complaints about her driveway. She had asked to have the ditches cleaned. The Highway Department removed asphalt, put in a new culvert and back filled with rocks and sand which now had washed and settled. Now the driveway has a deep dip in it between the road and the driveway. She said the contour of the driveway had been changed. Her mailbox had been placed directly in the backup path. Ms. Race asked that someone from the Board come and see the driveway. She was asking for repair work to be done. Mr. Cushman said he would check it out. Ms. Race asked if a time could be set up so she could be there when he looks at it.

Ms. Fairbanks asked if there was any news on the UTV access. Mrs. Alger said no. Ms. Fairbanks asked who would be contacting Mr. Graham. Mrs. Alger said she had not received enough information yet. Ms. Murray asked about Town Cleanup day. Mr. Jim Earing was supposed to be working on that. No news yet.

Ms. Fairbanks asked about what had been done to get more providers to add on to the cell tower. Mr. James said he had sent e-mails to Mr. Matt Beckwith about this issue and he has never responded. Ms. Fairbanks, Ms. Murray and Mrs. Rothwell all spoke with Mr. Matt Beckwith. The conversations were documented in a packet that was presented to the Board. They were told that there was a form that the Town Board should fill out to help the process along. Ms. Murray asked if someone would do that. Mr. Anderson also talked to Mr. Beckwith

and was told that if people make enough noise, things are more likely to happen.

Mr. Anderson also thanked Mr. Oakley for the Dead End sign that was recently put up. He also said that there are some branches hanging over the road since the last storm.

Mr. Franklin asked if the gate had been put up on the cell tower fence. Mrs. Alger said no. She will call the company the next day and asked about the gate and the light.

Ms. Fairbanks asked if the Town could have BOCES print postcards to be sent out with information about the Town.

Mr. Anderson suggested that the Board contact the Town of New Berlin about camping issues. They have had experience with Millbrook Pond rentals.

Ms. Fairbanks asked Mrs. Brown to correct a name in last month's minutes.

Ms. Murray asked if any Town related job openings could be posted on the website. Mrs. Alger said yes.

The next meeting will be held on July 11, 2022.

The bills were reviewed and signed. Mr. Williams made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Cushman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed 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

passed with five yeses and no nos. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Virginia E. Brown
Plymouth Town Clerk
June 30, 2022