

PLYMOUTH TOWN BOARD MEETING

FEBUARY 10, 2025

6:30pm

PRESENT: Supervisor Patricia Murray
Councilperson Ray Elsworth
Councilperson Tim Manwarren
Councilperson Rhonda Fairbanks
Councilperson Brett Wightman
Highway Superintendent Louis Redenback

Supervisor Murray brought the meeting to order at 6:30pm. She led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.

DOG CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT: Ms. Murray read the following report in Mr. Franklin's absence:

- 1/18/25 Dog at large Rt. 19. Took to SPCA. Owner picked up same day.
- 2/3/25 Dog barking. Travis Rd. Gave warning.
- 2/6/25 Rt. 21 dogs barking
- 2/8/25 Rt. 16 dog at large. Found owner.

Ms. Murray asked if there any additions or corrections to the minutes of the January 13th meeting. She had already noted some corrections which were made by the Town Clerk. Ms. Fairbanks made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Mr. Elsworth seconded the motion.

The Board was polled and the motion was passed with five yeses and no nos.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Louis Redenback reported on the following:

- Plowed and sanded 21 times since the last meeting.
- Having issues with getting salt deliveries. American Rock Salt won the County bid this year. Everyone state wide is having the same issue. According to the contract, they have three days to deliver after the order is placed. Instead, it is taking two to three weeks to get an order, making the Highway Department's job difficult.
- Been very busy doing repairs.
- Truck #6 is back from the shop.
- The excavator is back up and going after being down since October. Mr. Redenback was advised that it should be traded in as soon as possible because very large repair bills are probable in the near future with the hydraulic system.

Mr. Redenback expressed his objection to a post that Mrs. Clemens had made at a previous meeting. Ms. Murray thanked the Highway Department for doing a good job.

Ms. Murray brought up the subject of the excavator. Mr. Manwarren said he was present when the mechanic told Mr. Redenback that if the Town did not do something soon, the repair bill for the hydraulic system would be \$30,000.00 (not including labor). Mr. Redenback said he would look for replacement options. Ms. Murray said one more payment is remaining on the excavator.

Mr. David Craine from the NBT Insurance Agency had arrived. He gave an overview of the Town's insurance policy with them for 2025.

When Mr. Craine covered Employee Coverage under the heading "Crime", Mr. Wightman asked if that would qualify as the Official Undertaking. Mr. Craine said yes. It would cover things like employee theft etc. Mr. Craine suggested that the Town check with their Town attorney on this issue.

Mr. Wightman asked about the unscheduled equipment (like a mower). If NBT covers this, why do suppliers also require insurance through them. Mr. Craine said it happens sometimes.

There were questions about lien releases. Mr. Craine said he would look into it.

Coverages on each vehicle were discussed and corrected.

Mr. Craine continued to review the policy. He said the total cost to the Town would be \$37,461.00 for everything.

Mr. Manwarren pointed out that even though the insurance application indicated that there was no park, baseball fields and/or camping owned by the Town, the Town does own Foster Park. Mr. Craine said the Town should let the insurance company know if anyone did use the Park for camping.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Mr. Manwarren gave the following report in Mr. O'Hara's absence:

- Tied up some loose ends pertaining to methods of communication and past and future training.
- The Board now has a vacancy due to the expiration of Desiree Strains' term. Three to four people have voiced their interest in

- filling the position and will be sending letters of interest to the Town Board.
- Working to complete the comprehensive plan survey with a goal of being able to send them out to residents by May.
- Looking into a different type of enclosure for the salt shed using the “footprint” that is already there.
- Next meeting will be March 3rd at 6:00pm.

Ms. Murray would like a list of the upcoming meetings for the year.

Mrs. Brown asked Ms. Murray if she had received Mrs. Clemens’ email expressing her interest in joining the Planning Board. She said yes. Mr. Wightman said he had also received an email from Alison Kreiner asking to be considered for the vacant position. Ms. Murray wanted to advertise the vacancy. It was decided to advertise the opening for two weeks. Ms. Murray said she would update the website accordingly.

YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT: Mrs. Shelly Ciborowski reported on the following:

- March 1 trip planned for Interskate 88 in Oneonta. Adults \$5 all children 17 and under are free. Registration forms can be obtained at the Town Hall and at the South Plymouth Post Office. It was also posted on the website.
- April 12 Easter Event at the Plymouth Fire House
- May 21 Clean Up Foster Park
- July 5 Bike/Hiking with Rob Baker and the Galena Growlers Mountain Bike Team
- August 9 Amusement Park
- October 24 Halloween Dance

- December 7 Breakfast with Santa

Ms. Murray asked the Board if Judge Collier's bill for her robe and postage was going to be paid. Ms. Murray also asked for her bill for mileage. There was discussion. It was decided that going forward, mileage expenses should be submitted every 30 days.

Ms. Murray brought up the question of the bill that was submitted on January 13, 2025, but the Board signed the bill on January 14, 2025.

Mr. Wightman said that was because there was originally an error on the bill. Ms. Murray said bills should be signed in front of the public, so said bill should have waited until the next month to be paid.

Mrs. Murray presented the Board with a bill from the City of Norwich for the Joint Youth Project which is in the amount of \$4,100.00. She said the Town had an option of paying the bill in full or waiting until October or November. Mr. Wightman said he would like to see the contract before he would sign the bill.

Ms. Fairbanks read Resolution #14 to Accept the Proposed Budget Amendment to the 2024 Highway Fund Budget. Mr. Manwarren seconded the Resolution. The Board was polled and the Resolution was passed with five yeses and no nos. (Ms. Murray switched the number to #14 at Mr. Manwarren's request.)

Ms. Murray reported to everyone that the bookkeeper said she would be willing to reconsider her decision to resign if the Board could continue to get along and work with each other.

Mr. Wightman asked why money was taken out of the Code Enforcement line. Ms. Murray said it was to pay the Code Enforcement

Officer for the month of January. Mr. Wightman asked what he did in January. Ms. Murray said he gave the Board a report.

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Mrs. Clemens pointed out inconsistencies in the way Resolutions have been processed. Mr. Manwarren explained that the number of the abovementioned Resolution was changed because the previous two resolutions had been tabled. She also said she felt it was important to post all resolutions.

Ms. Murray said she spoke with a bank representative concerning the previous resolution mandating that all the Board members have view only access to all Town Bank accounts. She said that would put the Town more at risk of cyber attacks. Ms. Murray said that less than 12 hours after receiving all bank statements and all financials, she forwarded them to every Board member. She asked for them to respond to her to let her know that they received her emails.

Mr. Molloy suggested that it was a good idea for the incoming Judge to be proactive in her purchase so she could be prepared to perform her job.

Mr. Rob Baker asked if the bookkeeper was still working for the Town at the present time. Ms. Murray said yes. Her resignation stated that she would continue to do the job for 90 days.

Mrs. Pierce asked about a resolution appointing herself and Mr. Doug O'Hara to the Planning Board. Mr. Manwarren said it had been done by motion. Mrs. Pierce asked what her term was. Ms. Murray said the Board would review this at a later date.

Mr. Wightman said the Board needed to review the Ethics Committee. Ms. Murray said she spoke with Mrs. Denise Rothwell and she would like to resign from the committee. She will send a letter to the Town Clerk. Ms. Murray said she would contact Mr. Winton and see if he is still interested in staying on the committee. She also said she spoke with Mr. Oehme. Mr. Redenback was asked to talk to the Highway crew to see if anyone was interested in joining the committee. Mr. Wightman suggested that this committee be updated each year at the Organizational Meeting.

Ms. Murray asked the Board members to read over the Emergency Action Plan for the Plymouth Reservoir dam and get back to her. She needs to get it back to Catherine Murphy as soon as possible.

Ms. Murray informed everyone that she had talked to the DA regarding the case of Mr. Oakley. The DA said they are in negotiations with Mr. Oakley and his attorney.

Mrs. Brown suggested that it might be a good idea to look into dusk to dawn lights for the parking lot as has been suggested several times by Mr. Mark Bennett. It would be less costly and less work for the Highway Superintendent.

Ms. Murray said she did receive a check for the truck and put it into the Highway savings account.

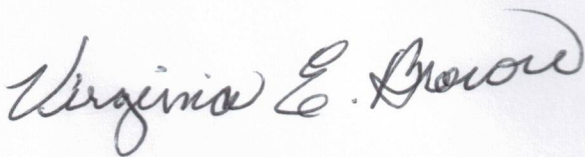
The bills were reviewed and signed.

The question of Sentry Alarms came up. The system isn't working properly since the recent incident at the Town Hall. Ms. Murray said that the Board has to meet with Josh Shapiro and, at his request, the Town attorney to discuss what transpired with Judge Collier and how things worked between the Board and the Judge. Ms. Murray said that the case is closed, but the final report had not been completed. Josh Shapiro is from the 6th Judicial District and he wants to meet with the Town Board and the Town Attorney.

Mr. Elsworth made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Wightman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with five yeses and no nos.

Ms. Fairbanks made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wightman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Virginia E. Brown". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Virginia E. Brown
Plymouth Town Clerk
February 22, 2025