

PLYMOUTH TOWN BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 14, 2023

6:30PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Patricia Murray
Councilman Daniel Meyer
Councilman Frank Williams
Councilman Shawn Cushman
Acting Deputy Highway Superintendent Brett Wightman

ABSENT: Councilman Garry James

Supervisor Murray led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.

She began the meeting reminding everyone to be patient and respectful. She also asked everyone to stop the rumors and go directly to her if there is a question. She encouraged everyone to try to get along with each other.

Ms. Murray then asked the Board if anyone had any additions or corrections to the minutes of the July meeting. No one did. Mr. Cushman made a motion to approve the minutes as sent. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with four yeses and no nos. Mr. James was absent.

Mr. Frank Williams introduced a resolution to create the position of Deputy Highway Superintendent. Mr. Cushman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the resolution was approved with four yeses and no nos. Mr. James was absent.

Mr. Cushman read a resolution updating the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy & Incident Reporting. Mr. Williams seconded the resolution. The Board was polled and the resolution passed with four yeases and no nos. Mr. James was absent.

Ms. Murray went on to report on activities at the County Board Meeting. She said it was decided that the County 1% sales tax will remain in effect. The total sales tax will remain at 8%.

She read a letter from Charter Communications about changes in their programming.

The Chenango County Planning Board is looking at a Visions Survey. Ms. Murray said she could supply anyone with a copy of the survey if they wanted one.

The Chenango County office of Emergency Management will be the beneficiary of a \$5.00 tax for people registering a vehicle under 3,500 lbs. and a \$10.00 tax for people registering a vehicle over 3,501 lbs. She said she signed a Certificate of Need for this tax.

Ms. Murray reported that she had tried to get some money back for the repairs on the Highway's excavator that were necessary due to an issue at the garage. The insurance company declined any reimbursement because they deemed the incident as neglectful.

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

- July 14 – Responded to the Reservoir for a dog bite
- July 24 – Returned for a follow-up – a ticket was issued.
- July 14 – Residents on the Reservoir were concerned about a dog that was tied up on the owner's property when a neighbor approached it. It growled at her. They wanted Mr. Franklin to have it removed. He told them he had no authority to do so since the dog was on his owner's property.

Ms. Murray told Mr. Franklin that she had received another payment toward the bill owed by a resident whose dog was euthanized due to being hit by a car. The

balance is now \$304.60. The money will go back into the DOC Contractual budget line.

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

- Stopped every week at 119 County Rd. 21. They are making some progress. Spoke with Nick Rayez, one of the owners and also with Paula Nichols, who is staying in one of the campers. Paula owns the campers and is trying to get rid of one.
- Did two inspections for new septic systems. One was on Hoag Childs Road which required two visits. The other one was on Country Club Rd. which required only one visit.
- Follow up at 200 Owens Rd. Some progress. Some vehicles removed.
- Garbage is piling up at 103 Plymouth-North Norwich Road again. Called the owner, Josh Kisner. He stated he didn't realize he was responsible to supply garbage containers for all of the tenants. E-mailed the Code section from the property maintenance code. He stated he would take care of it.
- Sam Clemens has not done much. Judge Fox closed his case in court. I am unsure as to why, but I will follow up.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Brett Wightman reported on the following:

- Ashcraft Road has been ready to pave.
- Got the services of a vacuum truck to clean out a culvert on Doing Road that has been plugged for three years. It was unplugged in one day and cost \$2,500.00.
- Fixed washouts on Jackson Road.
- Took care of garbage on Jackson Road.
- The mowers have arrived. The crew has been mowing when they can't pave.

- 1,000 tons of grader patch has been put down
- Downed trees on Ashcraft Rd. and Bates and Wilson Rd. have been taken care of.
- Flushed the hydraulic oil in the excavator again. It still needs to be flushed again.
- Fixed two washouts on Bates and Wilson Road.

Mr. Wightman asked if anyone had any questions. Ms. Sherri Hill asked if the Highway would get to Hopkins Crandall Road this year. Mr. Wightman said he didn't know. He said he hoped they would.

Mr. Molloy asked about the use of the grader patch for holes in the roads. Mr. Wightman said there is still work to be done.

Ms. Murray asked about the mowing process. She didn't think it was cutting short enough. Several people said it can't be mowed too short because of the rocks and dirt on the shoulders.

Mr. Mark Bennett asked if the Highway crew still had an old paver. Mr. Wightman said it wasn't any good and he had it on his list of surplus equipment. There was some discussion about the need for a declaration of surplus for unwanted equipment.

Mr. Wightman said he had been working on improvements to the garage. He invited anyone who would like to see it, to stop up. He has done a lot of work on the bathrooms especially. He said in his opinion, the garage can be fixed. They do need more room for storage. The roof can be patched. The electric is terrible. He can do the work, but needs to know what the Board wants to spend on the repairs before he starts ordering parts.

Mr. Tom Kreiner asked if Pike Hill was going to be paved. Mr. Wightman said yes.

Mr. Kreiner cautioned Mr. Wightman about big holes on the sides of the road.

Mr. Jim Earing asked when his road was going to be worked on. Mr. Wightman said it was not slated at that time. He explained that the Town would receive CHIPS money if the road had not been redone in 10 years only.

Mr. Wightman proposed that the Board have a Department Head meeting. Ms. Murray explained the protocol for Town meetings. Whenever there is a quorum, the meeting must be considered a public meeting.

Mr. Wightman proposed that Mr. Redenback get the Highway Superintendent job full time. Mr. Wightman said he would take the vacant part time job or he would step down because Mr. Redenback has been putting in 50 to 60 hours a week and should get full time pay. Ms. Murray said the Highway has five full time drivers and one part timer. She admitted that she needed to look at the situation.

Mr. Wightman pointed out that the Town has been paying over \$2,200.00 a month on health insurance for two employees that have been gone since May. Ms. Murray said she has had great difficulty trying to straighten out such things as this. She is making progress slowly. Mr. Wightman also said that money was being deducted from one of the Highway personnel's paychecks in error. The Town should pay it back. Ms. Murray said she is working on these issues and trying to create a corrected budget for next year.

Mr. Wightman said the hours worked should be kept by the bookkeeper and recorded on the employees' pay stubs.

Mr. Tim Manwarren asked if it would be beneficial to install a time clock at the garage. Mr. Wightman said it wouldn't hurt.

Mr. Molloy thanked Ms. Murray and Mr. Wightman for all the work they have been doing in trying to straighten all this out.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Mr. Jim Earing reported that the Planning Board has been working on a Comprehensive Plan to make it easier to get grants. He has been talking to people in Albany about grants as well.

Mr. Earing has made two calls to a salt shed company, with measurements for an estimate. He has not heard from them yet.

Mr. Earing thanked the Board for their work.

BOARD CONCERNS: Ms. Murray discussed Foster Park. She said Mr. Williams has been going above and beyond in trying to upgrade the Park. He has been cleaning, repairing, and clearing brush. He also opens and closes the Park when needed. Mr. Williams said all the wiring to the lights in the field has been cut.

Ms. Murray talked about a building maintenance person for the Town Hall. It needs to be discussed.

Mrs. Denise Rothwell warned everyone that the Chat Group for the Town has been hacked.

Ms. Sherri Hill asked why the Dollar General can not sell beer. She was told by the store employees that the Board was stopping it. The Board is not.

Mr. Franklin asked if the pay that Mr. Wightman and Mr. Redenback have been receiving was the former Superintendent's pay that was split between the two of them. Ms. Murray said yes.

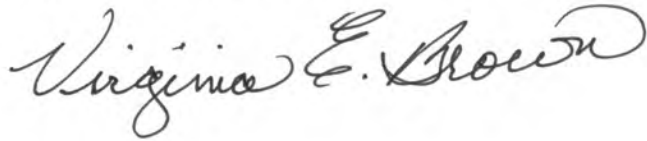
Mr. Kreiner asked for clarity about the County sales tax. Ms. Murray said the current sales tax is 8%.

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 four yeases and no nos. Mr. James was absent.

A Budget Workshop will be announced soon. The next Board meeting will be held on September 11, 2023.

Mr. Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cushman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with four yeses and no nos. Mr. James was absent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia E. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted by,".

Virginia E. Brown
Plymouth Town Clerk
August 24, 2023