

PLYMOUTH TOWN BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 11, 2023

6:30PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Patricia Murray
Councilman Frank Williams
Councilman Shawn Cushman

ABSENT: Councilman Daniel Meyer
Councilman Garry James
Highway Superintendent Louis Redenback

Ms. Murray led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.

Supervisor Murray talked about the annual review of the Town Justice. Councilman Cushman made a motion to approve the audit of Judge Fox. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with three yeses and no nos. Councilman Meyer and James were absent. Judge Fox announced that he would remain as the Town's Justice. He also informed everyone that due to legislation by the State, the Town's income from the court's fines and fees has "tanked". The Town only receives approximately half of what it used to.

Councilman Williams read the resignation from bookkeeper Chris Santullo. Mr. Williams made the motion to accept the resignation. Mr. Cushman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion

was passed with three yeses and no nos. Councilman Meyer and James were absent.

Ms. Murray reported that she had sent a proposed contract for bookkeeping services to April Ray Accounting and Tax LLC. Ms. Murray said she sent the contract to the attorney for review. Ms. Ray had planned to attend the meeting, but was unable to come. Mr. Williams made a motion to enter into the contract with Ms. Ray. Mr. Cushman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with three yeses and no nos. Councilman Meyer and James were absent.

Ms. Murray asked if there were any additions or corrections to November's minutes. Mr. Williams made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Mr. Cushman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with three yeses and no nos. Councilman Meyer and James were absent.

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

- 11/23/23 Dog on neighbor's property on Rt. 16
- 11/29/23 Dog on neighbor's property on Rt. 16
- 12/3/23 Hoag Childs Rd. dog at large
- 12/4/23 Dog at large on Owens Rd.
- 12/5/23 Dog on neighbor's property on Rt. 19
- Passed State inspection

Mr. Franklin let everyone know that the State has changed the law regarding dog's that are picked up by Dog Control Officers. The new law permits DCOs to hold the dog for 24 hours before taking it to the SPCA if the he can prove who the owner is. Mr. Franklin encouraged people to have identification such as the dog's license tag or a microchip on their dogs to avoid a costly encounter with the SPCA.

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

- Site visit to 179 Cottage Lane, Paul Simack. Mr. Fox thought he had room for some type of septic system without doing a holding tank. Spoke with Paul and his contractor. Told them to consult with an engineer. Received a call from Pete Meyers (design professional) and he agreed that Paul does have room for a septic system.
- Sam Clemens property on Tinker Ridge is worse than ever. Hoping to pursue court action again when the Town gets back on it's feet and may be able to use the junk law to it's fullest extent.
- Site visit property owned by Richard Pierce occupied by Chris Brazee (camper) some garbage cleaned up. Reminded them to keep cleaning and hauling the garbage away.
- Spoke with Theresa, Raymond Knowles' girlfriend on Ashcraft Rd. about the dilapidated house trailer on their property. She would like Raymond to get rid of it as well.
- Site visit to 102 Henry Lane (Reservoir Hill Rd.) about all the junk and debris and some garbage. Spoke with the owner (Rosemarie

Snell) who said she would get it cleaned up over the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Murray asked if Mr. Fox had done anything with the houses on Rt. 21. He said he had not.

Mr. Cushman asked if the Health Department regularly tested wells for E. coli. Mr. Fox said they only test if someone gets sick.

Judge Fox related to everyone that Plymouth is not the only Town to have problems with junk and garbage ridden properties. It is a big problem throughout the whole State. Judge Fox said during his training, the State said a Town could opt to clean up the property for the owner, charge him for the service and if the owner does not pay the bill, attach the cost to his taxes. Discussion followed.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS REPORT: Mr. Cushman read Mr. Redenback's report as follows:

- Working on truck #2, the one that was totaled. It should be done by the end of the week.
- Went out 8 times for plowing and sanding
- Plumbed the other furnace into the waste oil so the garage is burning waste oil only right now. Received about 1,000 gallons of oil from Suit-Kote, still looking for more.
- Maintenance on various equipment.
- Fixing potholes when the weather allows.
- New hire, Jason Oliver
- Received purchase agreement from the Town of Hamilton for the 2015 truck for \$30,000.00 and our paver. Would love to move forward with this.

- Received an estimate from Wightman Contracting for new heater in the bathrooms, insulate the wall and ceiling and finish the ceiling in the bathroom

Ms. Murray said she needs to talk with Mr. Redenback more about the possible purchase of the truck from Hamilton. She also said the Town has two estimates for the work that needs to be done at the garage.

This needs to be discussed with Mr. Redenback as well.

Mr. Mark Bennett asked how much the Town was asking for the paver in regards to the purchase of the truck. Mr. Cushman said \$5,000.00.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Mr. Tim Manwarren reported the following:

- No new requests to review
- Seeking applicants for the seventh member to the Board
- Working to complete a comprehensive plan.

BOARD CONCERNS: Ms. Murray reported that the Christmas party for the youth in the community was held on December 10. Only three kids attended. She thanked everyone who made donations to the party. The candy could not be saved for a year so 25 gift bags were sent to Preston Manor. The leftover food was given to the Highway Department. The toys will be saved for next year. Next year there will be Breakfast with Santa. It will be held the first weekend in December 8:00am on Saturday.

The Chenango County Health Department published information about how to prevent the flu. For any questions, call 607-337-1660. They will be giving flu, COVID and possibly RSV shots.

Ms. Murray read a thank you note from BOCES for partnering with them in work-studying two of their students last summer.

She thanked everyone working for the betterment of the Town.

She said the auditors were still working at the Town Hall. She said if there were any charges to be brought, they would be brought by the auditors' superiors, not by the Town.

Ms. Murray wants to consolidate the Town Hall garbage with the Highway garbage collection to help save some money. Mr. Williams made a motion to have the Town Hall garbage taken up to the Highway garage to be put in the dumpster. Mr. Cushman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with three yeses and no nos. Councilman Meyer and James were absent.

Ms. Murray thanked Mr. Williams for the great care he has taken with Foster Part. She reported that Foster Park had to be rewinterized. She had met with an appraiser to look at the damage done by the tree falling on the roof. She has been trying to find someone to fix the roof, but has not had any luck yet. The whole roof may have to be replaced because of it's age.

She said she will try to get the Town Assessor, Richard Rifanburg, to the next meeting. He couldn't make this meeting because he was ill.

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Mr. Mark Bennett asked if after the Town gets it's money issues straightened out, will the taxes go back down? Ms.

Murray said it would depend on a lot of things.

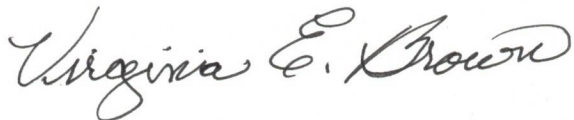
Mr. Tom Kreiner asked what the final consensus was on not paying Mr. James. Ms. Murray said the Town has to pay him.

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 three yeses and no nos. Councilman Meyer and James were absent.

Mr. Cushman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with three yeses and no nos. Councilman Meyer and James were absent. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Recorded by Jackie Kreiner

Transcribed by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia E. Brown".

Virginia E. Brown
Plymouth Town Clerk
December 19, 2023