

# **JANUARY PLYMOUTH TOWN BOARD MEETING**

## **JANUARY 8, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Grace Nucero-Alger  
Councilman Gary Simpson  
Councilman Lewis Somers  
Councilman Jerry Kreiner  
Highway Superintendent Rodney Oakley

**ABSENT:** Councilman Daniel Meyer

Supervisor Alger brought the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Councilman Kreiner led the pledge to the Flag.

Mrs. Alger welcomed Mr. Kreiner to the Board.

Mrs. Alger asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the December meeting. There were none. Mr. Somers made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with three yeses. Mr. Kreiner abstained. Mr. Meyer was absent.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** None available.

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Mr. Oakley reported that the crew has been plowing, sanding and pushing drifts back. He said that he had gotten the Winter Recovery Packet from FEMA. He also said that Jay Fuller from FEMA was coming to the garage to meet with Mr. Oakley and Mr. Marshall to complete paperwork to transfer authorization to Mr. Oakley. Mr. Marshall has been very willing to help Mr. Oakley on the paperwork. Mr. Simpson announced that Mr. Oakley will be a working Superintendent just like Mr. Marshall was.

**DOG CONTROLL OFFICER'S REPORT:** Mr. Bates was not present. Mr. Simpson explained an agreement that the Town has with Mr. Bates wherein he will attend Plymouth's Town Board meetings every other month. On the opposite months, he will be attending the Norwich Town Board meetings. For the months that he cannot attend Plymouth's Town Board meetings he is expected to provide the Board with a report. Mr. Simpson stated that at the present time, Mr. Bates is the only DCO for the Town.

**LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** The Association of Towns communicated that their annual training is coming up. Charter Communications announced their programming changes. There was a listing of online courses available through NYMIR.

**BOARD CONCERNS:** Mr. Simpson announced that the Board got a letter from the insurance company, NYMIR, concerning Foster Park. They referred to two safety concerns, one being the playground equipment, and the other being a sign which states that a surveillance camera is recording activities at the Park when in fact the camera is inoperative. Some discussion followed. Mrs. Alger suggested that Mr. Oakley and she call an insurance representative and get some clarification on the issues. Mr. Oakley agreed. They will call on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Kreiner asked about the Fema Winter Recovery for 2017. Mr. Oakley said that it was for approximately \$27,000.00



Mr. Kreiner also asked Mr. Simpson about the plan for the DCO to come to alternating meetings with the Town of Norwich. He asked where that agreement came from. Mrs. Alger explained that she learned about it through Matt Bates. She also explained that when Mr. Bates cannot attend the Plymouth Town Board Meeting, he must provide a written report.

Mr. Kreiner asked why the Board did not have the Organizational meeting before the regular meeting. Mrs. Alger said that the Organizational Meeting would take place at 7:00pm.

Mr. Kreiner referred to the Code of Ethics about which a resolution was passed last month. He asked who was appointed to the Board of Ethics. Mr. Simpson said that currently this is no Board of Ethics. Mr. Kreiner asked if the appointments would take place at the Organizational Meeting. Mrs. Alger said that it could. Mr. Simpson said the Board of Ethics would be the Town Board. Mr. Kreiner disagreed with that and read the requirements for the members of the Board of Ethics. Mr. Kreiner also asked if the Town employees and Officers of the Town had been required to sign a copy of the Code of Ethics to signify receipt of such as required in the Code. They had not. Mrs. Alger directed Mr. Oakley to have the Highway crew sign copies. Mr. Kreiner also asked if this action would be in any violation of the collective bargaining agreement that the Town has with the Union. Neither Mrs. Alger nor Mr. Oakley knew what the answer was to Mr. Kreiner's question. Mr. Kreiner suggested that the Town get independent advice about this issue. Mrs. Alger said okay.

**PUBLIC CONCERNS:** Mr. Hudiburg gave a report on the progress of the Planning Board concerning the Clean Energy Communities Program. Mr. Jack Adams also presented some predicted estimated savings. Several questions were asked by people attending. Mr. Hudiburg said that the Planning Board recommended that the Town Board adopt a resolution for bench marking. Mr. Alan Sweet, who is a Planning Board member, said that he wasn't in agreement with that. He expressed his concerns. It was generally agreed that more data was needed.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to temporarily adjourn the January Board meeting so that the Organizational meeting could begin. Mr. Somers seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with four yeases. Mr. Meyer was absent.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to open the Organizational meeting. Mr. Kreiner seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with four yeases. Mr. Meyer was absent.

Mrs. Alger started the Organizational meeting by announcing the salaries of the Town Officials as follows:

Bi-weekly – Highway Superintendent - \$42,000.00

Monthly – Dog Control Officer - \$3,020.00

Town Clerk - \$11,000.00

Tax Collector - \$5,200.00

Justice - \$7,600.00

Registrar of Vital Statistics - \$300.00

Assessor - \$10,000.00

Code Enforcement Officer - \$3,200.00

Deputy Clerk - \$3,000.00

Supervisor - \$7,000.00

Annually – Town Council Members - \$1,400.00 each

Town Attorney - \$4,100.00

Volunteer Highway Advisory Board Members are:

Rodney Oakley

Gary Simpson

Dan Meyer

Shawn Cushman

Rick Alger

Mileage will be paid at the rate of \$.54.5 per mile.

The official Town bank is NBT Bank NA.

The official Town newspaper is The Evening Sun.



It was decided that the appointment of board members for the Code of Ethics Board will be done next month.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to adjourn the Organizational meeting. There was some confusion about what was being done. Mr. Paul O'Connor pointed out to the Supervisor that none of the appointments made had been approved by the Board, therefore, if the meeting was adjourned, no one would be appointed to anything.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to accept the Organizational minutes as written. Mr. Somers seconded the motion. Mr. Kreiner asked for discussion on the motion. He asked Mr. Simpson if his motion was to accept as presented. Mr. Simpson said yes. He stated that he would not support the motion because the appointments as presented were not correct. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with three yeses, Mr. Kreiner voted no, and Mr. Meyer was absent.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to reopen the regular meeting. Mr. Somers seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion passed with three yeses. Mr. Kreiner voted no. Mr. Meyer was absent.

Mr. Simpson asked Richard Rifanburg, the Town Assessor if he wanted to speak. Mr. Rifanburg reported on his findings about reassessment. He said that he was told by Mr. Steve Harris, that the reassessment would cost approximately \$50.00 to \$100.00 per parcel. At the present time Mr. Rifanburg said that the Town has about 1,419 parcels. That would put the cost of a reassessment between \$70,000 and \$140,000. The cost depends on how extensive the Town wants the process to be. He cautioned the Board to take into consideration the new Federal Tax Bill and how that will effect the economy and the effect the reassessment might have on the elderly in the Town. Mr. Simpson asked what Mr. Rifanburg's office hours were. Mr. Rifanburg said he would be in his office on Fridays between 10:00am and noon during the months of January and February. He also said that people could call him anytime.

Mr. O'Connor asked to hear something about the Cold War Veterans Exemption. Mr. Rifanburg explained who would be eligible to take advantage of it. The Town

Board would need to make a resolution in order for the veterans in the Town to be able to use the exemption. Mr. Kreiner asked for data to show what the impact of the exemption would have on the Town budget. Mr. Rifanburg said that he didn't know of a way to get any true data, but he suggested that the Board contact the other towns in the county to see what results they have had. The only way the Town would know who was eligible for the exemption would be for the individuals to let the Town know. Discussion followed on how to get the word out to the public. Mr. O'Connor suggested that an announcement be posted on the Town website. Another suggestion was to put an insert in with the property tax bills. Mrs. Brown said she would have to check into this because she thought that would be illegal. Mrs. Alger agreed to have Mrs. Brown put the announcement on the website. More questions were asked about the reassessment.

Mr. Hudiburg continued with his presentation. Mr. Kreiner asked what the plan was for the \$50,000 if the Town were to be awarded the grant from this project. Mr. Hudiburg suggested that the Town garage would be the number one candidate. Mr. Sweet said that the money would have to be spent on an energy savings project such as insulation or a new heating system for the garage. He also said that he felt the Planning Board needed to know what the Board was planning to do about the Highway garage before they could move forward. More discussion followed. Mr. Hudiburg will ask Tara Donadio for more specific information on the allowable use of the grant in question. Mr. Sweet asked if the Board would like the Planning Board to continue with this project. Mr. Hudiburg handed the Board the estimates that he had come up with and a copy of the proposed resolution. Mr. Simpson said he would like the Planning Board to continue. Mr. O'Connor asked if any money had been set aside in the new budget to cover the cost of meeting the requirements to be eligible for the grant. Mr. Simpson replied not at the moment. The Board wanted more data from the Planning Board.



**PUBLIC CONCERNS:** Mrs. Ginny Kreiner asked that either the Board or Mr. Oakley address the foul language that she heard being used on the truck radios. Mr. Oakley said he would have a meeting with his men.

Rhonda Fairbanks asked Mrs. Alger why she had to ask Mr. Simpson to make motions. She asked why Mrs. Alger couldn't make them herself. Mrs. Alger replied that motions were supposed to come from the Board. Ms. Fairbanks also asked about training that Mrs. Alger was going to take. Mrs. Alger said that she and Mr. Simpson had attended a training session on budgeting. Ms. Fairbanks asked if Mrs. Alger had taken any Supervisory training. Mr. Simpson said it was not compulsory. Mrs. Alger said she had been watching for an on line course and would take advantage of it when it was offered.

Mrs. Jackie Kreiner thanked Mrs. Brown for looking up the Town ordinance concerning junk accumulation on properties in the Town.

Mr. Tom Kreiner also thanked her. He expressed his disapproval of having to have a written complaint before the Board will take action. Mr. O'Connor pointed out that the ordinance states that any person MAY (not must) make a written complaint. Mr. Kreiner presented the Board with a copy of the ordinance and two written complaints.

The date of the next meeting is February 12 at 6:30pm.

Mr. Somers made a motion to review the bills. Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Mr. Kreiner asked why a motion was needed to review the bills. Mrs. Alger said she thought that was normal procedure. Mr. Kreiner said it was not. Mrs. Alger said okay. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with three yeses. Mr. Kreiner voted no. Mr. Meyer was absent.

Mr. Kreiner made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Somers seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with four yeses. Mr. Meyer was absent.

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Mr. Somers asked what was going to be done with the written complaints handed in by Mr. Kreiner. Mrs. Alger said she would pass them on to Mr. Burlingame.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kreiner seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with four yeses. Mr. Meyer was absent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Virginia E. Brown". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large, sweeping initial "V" and a decorative flourish at the end.

Virginia E. Brown  
Plymouth Town Clerk  
January 23, 2018