

# PLYMOUTH TOWN BOARD MEETING

MARCH 11, 2024

6:30PM

**PRESENT:** *Supervisor Patricia Murray*

Councilman Frank Williams

Councilman Ray Elsworth

Councilman Robert Oehme

Councilwoman Kathryn Clemens

Highway Superintendent Louis Redenback

Supervisor Murray led in the pledge to the Flag.

She asked if there were any additions or corrections to the February minutes. There was one correction made. Mr. Williams made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction as sent. Mr. Elsworth seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with three yeases and no nos. Two Councilman seats were vacant.

Mr. Elsworth made a motion to accept the minutes from the three Special Meetings held on February 24 and 29 and March 7, 2024. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with three yeases and no nos. Two Councilman seats were vacant.

Mr. Williams read Resolution 14 of 2024 regarding the Appointment of Town Councilpersons to Fill 2 Vacancies. Kathryn J. Clemens and Robert Oehme were appointed. Mr. Elsworth explained the reasons the two people were chosen. Mr. Elsworth seconded the resolution. The

Board was polled and the resolution was passed with three yeses and no nos. Two Councilman seats were vacant.

Ms. Murray asked Mrs. Clemens and Mr. Oehme to be seated at the table with the rest of the Board. She introduced each one and asked them to give a little back ground about themselves. They did.

Ms. Murray informed everyone that the Town's bank accounts had been compromised. She said a police report had been filed. She is working to get to the bottom of the situation. She said Positive Pay has been applied to the Town's accounts to help protect them from further fraud. Ms. Murray introduced the new bookkeeper, April Ray. She answered various questions from the public.

**DOG CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT:** Mr. Brian Franklin gave the following report:

- 2/25/24 dog barking on Rt. 23
- 3/2/24 dog on neighbor's Inman Rd.
- 3/7/24 dog on neighbor's Rt. 19
- 3/11/24 responded to a call about a dog bite
- Informed the Board about a seminar in November. Plymouth will pay for one room. Pharsailia will pay for the course. Hopefully, Otselic will pay for the other room.

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

- Site visit 3303 St. Rd. 23 Mike Bishop, spoke with him about his property.
- 102 Henry Lane off from Reservoir Hill Rd. Property of Rosemarie Snell. Spoke with her nephew Austin Kirk about the junk and scrap around the property. Explained to him that a Junk Yard permit is needed to do what he is doing.
- Site visit 2735 State Hwy. 23. Spoke with Kurt Bradbury about his piles of scrap metal and demolition derby cars as well as his burn pile. He stated he recently had back surgery but will work on getting rid of the junk.
- Talking with Wayne Case about a new septic system on Reservoir Hill Rd.
- Issued an appearance ticket to Josh Kisner Plymouth N-Norwich Rd. apartment house. He is complaining about squatters in the building and not paying rent as the reason for the garbage.

Superintendent Louis Redenback presented the Board with a written discloser pertaining to the purchase of lumber by the Town from Mr. Redenback.

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

- Sanded and plowed nine times.
- Cut some trees and brush
- Put all new brakes on the interstate trailer
- Installed cameras inside and outside the garage
- Installed new software on his computer

- Cleaned ditches and cut shoulders
- Will present the Board with three estimates for a trailer that is needed to move the skid steer and pallets of stone for culverts.
- Turned in 5 bills for the General side of the budget for a total of \$6,514.55 and 14 bills for the Highway side of the budget for a total of \$18,282.94.

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

- Accepted Mr. Dick Schutt onto the Board with the approval of the Town Board.
- Received more records from other Towns regarding comprehensive plans. Working on a survey to be sent to Town residents.
- The offers that the Planning Board made to assist with the issues at Foster Park were denied. The Town Board will make the decisions. Mr. Manwarren strongly suggested that when a quote is requested, the Town must list the materials the Town wants used and present it with the quote request.

There was discussion about the repairs that were needed at Foster Park. Ms. Murray said that the Board had decided to table the decisions about Foster Park until next month.

**YOUTH PROJECT REPORT:** Mrs. Linda Powell-Owens reported that she wanted to do something different for the Easter Egg Hunt. It will be in the evening at the Fire House. The Rogers family will be helping with

games, snacks and the Easter Egg hunt. It will be held on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

Mr. Redenback suggested that more children would attend the Town events if the Town had their own Facebook page. Mrs. Clemens suggested that the Town have a newsletter to be distributed by inserting it into the Meals on Wheels packages and having it in the Post Office.

**BOARD CONCERNS:** Mrs. Clemens asked the Planning Board if they had comprehensive plans examples from surrounding Towns. Mr. Manwarren said yes. She said if the Planning Board was looking down the road to do grants, it would be great to do a coalition with surrounding Towns that have similar business plans. That would give the Town more points to increase the chance of getting funding. She suggested looking for small surrounding Towns to collaborate with.

Mr. Elsworth read resolution #15 of 2024, Proposed Budget Amendment for March 2024 to Increase Budget Line A5010.4 – Highway Superintendent Contractual from Budget Line A1990.4 Contingent by \$2,700.00. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the resolution was passed with five yeases and no nos.

Mr. Williams read resolution #16 of 2024, Proposed Budget Amendment for March 2024 to Increase Budget Line A7320.4 Youth from Unassigned Fund Balance by \$4,595.00. Mr. Elsworth seconded the motion. The

Board was polled and the motion was passed with four yeses and no nos. Mrs. Clemens abstained.

Mrs. Clemens recommended that Plymouth have someone sit on the City Youth Bureau committee to monitor the numbers.

Ms. Murray cleared up the question about the bond that the Town holds. It was formerly believed that the bonds were for a skid steer and an excavator. They are not. They are for a Cat loader and an excavator. There are two payments left on the excavator and one payment left on the Cat loader. Payments are made once a year.

She is still waiting to get together with the SPCA Director to finally sign a contract with them.

The City Youth Contract is signed. Ms. Murray thanked the Rogers family for volunteering to help with the Youth projects.

The Tax Cap issue is still being reviewed by the Town Attorney and the Comptroller's office.

Ms. Murray said she reached out to another insurance company to see if the Town could get better rates. They recommended that the Town wait until it was time to renew their policies to avoid getting penalized by NYMR. They will meet with her in August to discuss rates at that time. She will also contact other insurance companies.

Mr. Redenback thanked Brendan and Renee Molloy for the pizza they provided to the highway crew. He also mentioned that someone had complained that a highway employee was dumping his personal

garbage into the highway dumpster. Mr. Redenback said he gave his permission. He reported that the garbage cost had already been reduced by eliminating the Town Hall pick and dumping the Town Hall garbage in the highway dumpster and by having the dumpster picked up every other week instead of every week. He said if there was room, it was okay with him. It was mentioned that it could be considered theft of services. Mr. Redenback said he would look into it. Ms. Murray's concern was overuse by the public.

**PUBLIC CONCERNS:** Ms. Rhonda Fairbanks asked Mr. Redenback for an update on the electrical issues at the Town Barn. She also said she saw a tree that had fallen at Foster Park and was hanging over the guiderails. She also asked Mr. Fox about follow ups on the issues in his monthly reports. Ms. Fairbanks asked the new Board members if either one of them were going to be working on grants for the new salt shed. Ms. Murray said that had not been discussed yet. Ms. Fairbanks asked for follow up answers to the previous month's Public Concerns going forward. Ms. Fairbanks also thanked the Town Clerk for providing the month's financial reports along with the agenda. She hoped that would continue.

Mr. Redenback said the tree at Foster Park was the State's responsibility. He also said that Palmer Electric would not be coming back to the Town Garage. The highway crew fixed the issue themselves.

Mr. Tim Manwarren said that the whole Board meeting had gone a lot better than the previous ones. He also thanked the Town Clerk for the updated financial records and Mrs. April Ray for preparing them.

He also expressed his disappointment about the way the new councilmen were chosen. He said he knew it was legal but he thought that the choices of three people vs. the choices of the whole Town went against the peoples' wishes. He said it seemed that for the Board, being outspoken at meetings was an undesirable trait. He asked why the new councilmen had not attended any previous meetings. He objected to other questions that were asked during the interviews. He said the Board should serve the people.

Mr. Molloy expressed that the previous meetings had been atrocious. He encouraged everyone to work together to achieve a better Town to live in. He asked for people to treat each other with kindness.

Mrs. Shelly Ciborowski objected to the time limit that had been applied to speakers during Public Concerns.

Ms. Sandy Pierce outlined her training working with people. She is upset by the behavior of some in previous meetings. She felt Ms. Murray has been disrespected because she is a woman in a leadership position. She ran out of time at this point.

Ms. Jackie Kreiner gave credit to the current Board for examining the bills carefully before signing them.

Mr. Tim Manwarren said that if the progress that has been made during the last month continues, we will have less and less to worry about.

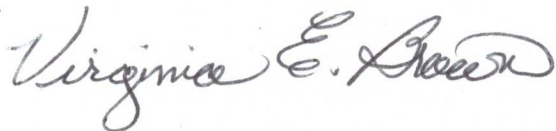


Mr. Steve Fox said that he does follow up with the items on his reports. The problem is that there is very little recourse. Mr. Fox has gone to the County Attorney for help with some of the worst cases. They are going to try to work with the Judge to get something accomplished. Discussion followed.

The Board reviewed and signed the bills. Mr. Williams made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Elsworth seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeases and no nos.

Mr. Williams made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Elsworth seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was approved with five yeases and no nos. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia E. Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Virginia E. Brown  
Plymouth Town Clerk  
March 26, 2024