

PLYMOUTH TOWN BOARD MEETING

MAY 13, 2024

6:30PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Patricia Murray
Councilwoman Kathryn Clemens
Councilman Ray Elsworth
Councilman Robert Oehme
One seat was vacant
Highway Superintendent Louis Redenback

Supervisor Murray led in the Pledge to the Flag.

She asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. There were some corrections. Mrs. Brown will correct them. Mrs. Clemens made a motion to accept the minutes for both the April 8, 2024 and the April 23, 2024 meeting as corrected. Mr. Elsworth seconded it. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with four yeses and no nos. One Councilman seat was vacant.

Ms. Murray reported to everyone that the AFR had been submitted on April 23, 2024. Also submitted was the American Rescue Report on the same date. She also informed everyone that the Board had had a budget meeting to try to correct the budget to the new balances left after the tax cap money was removed from the equation and put in escrow.

Mrs. Ray, the bookkeeper, spoke about her recommendations to balance the budget. The General side was accomplished by reducing several budget lines and using some money from the unassigned fund balance. She also read her recommendations to correct the Highway side. Mr. Oehme made a motion to accept Mrs. Ray's recommendations. Mrs. Clemens seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with four yeases and no nos. One Councilman seat was vacant.

The question was asked if the Town had looked into working out some way to use some of the Capital Reserve. Ms. Murray said she was waiting to hear from the Town attorney about that.

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

- 4/21/2024 – Dog on neighbor's property on the Travis Road
- 5/7/2024 – Dog on Plymouth-North Norwich Rd.
- 5/11/2024 – Dog killing chickens on Pigeon Hill Rd.
- 5/13/2024 – Dog on neighbor's property on State Hwy. 23

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

- Site visit to Hutchings' junk yard. The curtains have been put back up on the fence.
- Spoke with Chris Bresee's wife at the Tinker Ridge camper. She stated that they were not using the bathroom in the camper.
- Talked with John Buffa about cleaning up his property on Rt. 16.

- Site visit to Quinton Kemp's property. Talked with him about unregistered vehicles. He said two of them were going to be moved after he got parts off them.
- Did a perc test on a property at 113 Old Rt. 23.
- Court appearance with Josh Kesner on the Plymouth-North Norwich Rd. at the apartment house. He asked for a public defender. He said the garbage piles are not his fault. The neighbors were dumping their garbage on his property. He was reminded that he has to provide garbage containers for his tenants. He said he did but the tenants stole them. Mr. Fox also asked him to work on getting rid of the containers of oil on his property. Mr. Redenback said the Highway Dept. would take it for their furnace if it did not have water in it.

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

- Started sweeping roads
- Cleaned some ditches on Pike Hill Rd.
- Changed 6' culvert on Pigeon Hill Rd.
- Cleaning ditches and changing pipes on Pigeon Hill Rd.
- Put in two 3' culverts on Old County Rd. 16, cleaned ditches, cut the shoulders and removed all the brush and sod that was growing out onto the road. Opened the road after not being in use for 22 years.
- Cleaned all the ditches on Country Club Lane
- Turned a portion of Jones Peck Rd. back to dirt

- Turned a large portion of Sherburne Four Road back to dirt and did some patching
- Removed the box culvert on Hoags-Childs Road and put in the 10' pipe that was bought for it 5 years ago.
- The crew is down to three men now.

Ms. Murray asked Mr. Redenback if an extension had been filed for FEMA. He said he had received an extension that day. She also asked when he would be submitting claims and what claims he would be submitting. He said he planned on submitting them on the 23rd of May and it would be for FEMA and Pave New York. She asked when the lights in the parking lot could be adjusted. He said he couldn't give her a date at that time. He said they would be working on Foster Park soon. Ms. Murray asked if he had the maintenance folders for each truck that they had talked about. He said he did not have folders. All that information was computerized. He said he could give her copies if she wanted. She said yes.

Ms. Murray asked if Mr. Redenback had signed up for any webinars for budgets, CHIPS or FEMA. He said no. His internet has been a problem lately. She asked if he still was willing to go with Spectrum. He said Spectrum had been at the garage and said they would not provide service up there.

Ms. Murray asked if the insurance for the equipment had been straightened out. He said they had worked on it but it was still not right.

She asked if he had set a date for Town Cleanup Day. He said he did not have a set date yet, but it would be mid to late summer.

Ms. Murray asked Mr. Redenback to tell everybody about the incident on Pigeon Hill with Mr. McMullen. Mr. McMullen complained that the Highway crew got dirt about 2 feet onto his property while installing a culvert. Another incident on the Plymouth-North involving a guide wire had been taken care of.

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

- Welcomed Shelly Ciborowski to the Board which completed the Board at 7 members
- Reached out to Matt Gladstone who has agreed to attend a Planning Board meeting to offer some guidance and training.
- Provided a new form, designed by Rhonda Fairbanks to improve the Planning Board record keeping, to the Town Board for approval. Have gotten no response from anyone.
- Received no new correspondence or request from any resident for any Planning Board decision.
- Next meeting 6/3/2024 at 6:00pm

Ms. Murray asked if the opening on the Planning Board had been advertised. Mr. Manwarren said no.

Ms. Murray asked the Board to consider the new form that Mr. Manwarren had mentioned.

Ms. Murray asked if there had been any progress in developing a comprehensive plan. Mr. Manwarren said that Mr. Gladstone was going

to help them get started. He said the members had been reviewing paperwork that they had gotten to familiarize themselves with the concept.

She also asked if anyone had taken advantage of the training information she had sent them. Mr. Manwarren said the training was scheduled for the same night that Ms. Murray had scheduled the interviews for the Councilman seat, so it was tough for them to go. The Planning Board Chairman was uncertain about the dates.

Mr. Elsworth made a motion to approve the new Planning Board form that had been presented to them. Mrs. Clemens seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with four yeses and no nos. One Councilman seat was vacant.

BOARD CONCERNS: Mrs. Clemens read resolution 20, Town of Plymouth Ministerial Pre-Audit of Claims Processing. Discussion was had. Ms. Murray decided to table this resolution and discuss it at a later date. It was generally agreed to try the suggested pre-audit process to see how it would work.

Mrs. Clemens made a motion to have the Teamster members' time recorded in hours. Mr. Oehme seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with four yeses and no nos. One Councilman seat was vacant.

Ms. Murray reported on the progress of fixing the roof on the Foster Park pavilion. Mrs. Clemens said she had received a very good referral about NY Roofers. Mr. Elsworth wanted to be sure that the tin roofing will be retained by the Town. Mrs. Clemens made a motion to approve the contract with NY Roofers. Mr. Elsworth seconded the motion. The

Board was polled and the motion was carried with four yeases and no nos. One Councilman seat was vacant.

Ms. Murray brought up the issue of Foster Park mowing. She had had two people approach her about the job. She wants to get quotes from them. It was decided that it would be advertised on the Town Hall Board, the web site and one day in the Evening Sun. Ms. Murray said she would put it in the paper.

Ms. Murray received a publication from NYSEG reminding people to call them before they do any digging.

She introduced the Town Historian, Mr. Dale Pennington. He will be attending the Chenango County Conference of Historians the following weekend.

Ms. Murray said Mrs. Clemens had distributed the first newsletter. Ms. Fairbanks asked how it was distributed. Mrs. Clemens said by PDF, the website, Area Agency on Aging caseworkers were given copies to hand out and copies were offered at their office, some were given to Public Health, and copies were left at the Town Clerk's window. Ms. Fairbanks expressed her disappointment in the letter. She offered her services to help make it more interesting. There is no cost to the Town.

Ms. Murray said she had checked on the progress with Rodney Oakley's case. There is still no news.

She is still waiting to hear about the audit. She can get no information. There will be an annual Lead Walk in the village of Plymouth on June 11, 2024. This information will be posted.

YOUTH PROGRAM REPORT: Mrs. Linda Powell-Owens reported on the following:

- Trips offered by the Norwich Youth Bureau are Wonder Works, Ross Park Zoo, Rail Riders, Wild Animal Park and the Water Safari.
- All Norwich City Youth programs were printed in the Evening Sun. All Plymouth youth are eligible to participate.

Ms. Murray reported on the following:

- Announced that the Chenango County Treasurer's Office gave her a letter concerning the sales tax so far this year. The letter said that Sales Tax at the end of March was not keeping up with inflation.
- She said there is no Town law concerning fencing in animals. This was in regards to a previous complaint about chickens on a neighbor's property.
- The Fire Department used the American Rescue money that the Town had given them (\$20,000.00) to purchase fire gear.
- She had asked the Association of Towns if a meeting between two members of the Town Board fell under the Open Meetings Law. They said it did not.
- Ms. Murray said she had been doing some training and she had made information about online training available to the Town Board as well.
- Spoke with the insurance company about taking down the gate at Foster Park. They recommended that the gate remain in place.
- The salt shed grant will have to wait until the Town has a comprehensive plan.

- Mrs. Clemens informed everyone that there had been three grant proposals that have been presented to the Board. The obstacles preventing action on these grants are the lack of a comprehensive plan, monthly reports from the Fire Department which have not been done for quite a while, and the fact that some of the grants require money put up by the Town before they can receive any grant money. Right now, the Town does not have that money to spare.
- Ms. Murray had reached out to Mrs. Margaret Kreiner concerning the Watershed Committee.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

- Mr. Douglas Brown asked if the Town was obligated to rebuild a fence if they had torn it down. Mr. Redenback said the Town had only taken down one post. He said he would meet with Mr. Brown to look over the problem and come to an agreement.
- Mr. Manwarren commented on a statement that was made by Mrs. Clemens which Mr. Manwarren claimed was false. He said he spoke with the party that was involved and he disagreed with her statement. She was asked to clarify her statement about who she said had been harassing the involved party, but she refused. She did not call the person she was accusing by name during the meeting, but after the meeting, told people that it was Brett Wightman. Mr. Manwarren asked the Board for zero tolerance for such behavior. He said the Board should ask Mrs. Clemens to step

down from her appointed position and demand a public apology to Mr. Wightman.

- Mr. Brett Wightman said he spoke to the person that Mrs. Clemens had approached and asked to apply for the open Board seat. Mr. Wightman said that person said he had never mentioned any names. Mrs. Clemens said she never mentioned any names to anyone. Ms. Fairbanks said Mrs. Clemens had told her. Mr. Wightman said he was going to sue Mrs. Clemens for slander. He also said that if the Board did not remove her, he would take action against the Board as well. He said he had received dirty and threatening texts from someone who told him to stay away from the Town meetings. He said he was not going to be stopped from attending meetings.

- Mr. Mark Bennett questioned if was not safe to have a playground because of a possible flood zone at Foster Park how could it be safe to have people meet there for anything. Ms. Murray said she would ask questions and see what she could find out.
- Mrs. Shelly Ciborowski said she would like to see a Youth Committee formed instead of one person being in charge. She also asked that since the City of Norwich has a Water Safari trip, why should the Town also have one. She suggested doing something different. Ms. Murray said she would look into it.
- Ms. Rhonda Fairbanks asked when the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss the vacancy on the Board. Ms. Murray said after this. Ms. Fairbanks also asked when work was going to begin on Foster Park. Ms. Murray said she had to talk to the contractor. Ms. Fairbanks suggested that a group of

volunteers go to the Park and work on cleaning it up. Ms. Murray said no because of the liability.

Mrs. Clemens made a motion to go into Executive Session to review the candidates to fill the vacant Board seat and select a person. Mr. Oehme seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with four yeses and no nos. One Councilman seat was vacant. The Board went into Executive Session at 8:28pm.

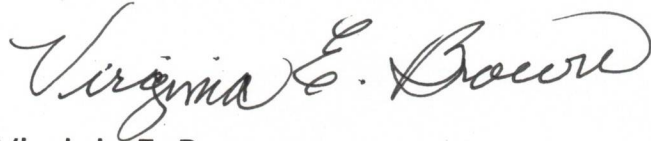
Mrs. Clemens made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Oehme seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with four yeses and no nos. One Councilman seat was vacant. The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:09pm.

Ms. Murray announced that no decision had been made. The Board would like to meet with the candidates again. Ms. Murray asked if they would be able to meet on May 28, 2024 at 6:00pm. One person said no, one person said maybe and one person said yes.

The bills were reviewed and signed. Mr. Elsworth made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Oehme seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with four yeses and no nos. One Councilman seat was vacant.

Mr. Elsworth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Oehme seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with four yeses and no nos. One Councilman seat was vacant. The meeting was adjourned at 10:57pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

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

Virginia E. Brown

Plymouth Town Clerk

May 28, 2024