

PLYMOUTH TOWN BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

6:30PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Patricia Murray
Councilman Frank Williams
Councilman Shawn Cushman
Highway Superintendent Louis Redenback
Highway Deputy Superintendent Brett Wightman

Supervisor Murray led in the Pledge to the Flag.

She asked if there were any additions or corrections to the August minutes. There were none. Mr. Cushman made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with three yeases and no nos. Mr. Meyer and Mr. James were absent.

DOG CONTROLL OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Brian Franklin was not present, so Ms. Murray read his report. Mr. Franklin had made one visit to County Rt.16 in response to a dog welfare complaint on August 24, 2023.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Steve Fox gave the following report:

- Spoke with Peter Hudiberg about allowing the neighbor to install a septic system on his property. Advised against it, but if he does, to make sure the proper paperwork is in order.
- Josh Kisner has stopped taking my calls. No dumpster in place yet. This case is currently being handled at the County level.
- The usual stops at 119 County Rt. 21. The septic line was broken, now it has been repaired. One of the tenants is in jail and the other is going back and forth between Oxford and Plymouth. Garbage is piling up again behind the camper. Clay Webb is trying to help. One camper is leaving as soon as they can get someone to move it. Spoke to the owner on record, Marie Pittsley. She is inspecting the house and trying to help get things cleaned up. She is going to try eviction again. Progress.
- Site visit 3303 State Hwy. 23, Mike Bishop, reminded him to keep things picked up.
- Septic complaint 161 Cottage Lane, a new leach field put in over the weekend right next to the lake. No one was around the site when I got there. I will probably turn this over to Environmental Health at the County.

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

- Finished paving Ashcraft Road with help from Pharsalia, Otselic, North Norwich and Georgetown.
- Hauled stone from Oriskany Falls and Canastota for paving projects with help from North Norwich and Georgetown.
- Will start working on shoulders on Reservoir and Ashcraft Road.

- Have used up 1,500 tons of grader patch. Still have a few roads that need attention before winter.
- Turned Balf Road back into dirt
- Some of Owens Road will also be turned back into dirt.
- Mowing is done. Mowers have been returned.
- Dump has been mowed.
- Truck #1 is back from TNR Repair. Still has same issues that it went with. Sent to another shop.
- Truck #2 had emission and brake work done.
- Started cutting shoulders on a few roads.
- Brett has been doing a lot of work inside the Town Barn
- Have spec'd and priced a few new trucks – not sure this is something the Town will be able to afford.

Mr. Mark Bennett asked if Ashcraft Road would be oil and stoned. Mr. Redenback said yes.

Mr. Tim Manwarren asked if the Highway was going to do anything to Pigeon Hill. Mr. Redenback said the plan was, yes. He didn't think the whole thing would be done this fall because of money shortages.

Mrs. Sandy Pierce expressed her feelings against paving Pierce Road. She asked if Pierce Road could remain a dirt road. Mr. Redenback said it would stay dirt for a while.

Ms. Rhonda Fairbanks asked if they would be fixing the end of Morley Road. Mr. Redenback said the whole road was going to be worked on the following week.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Mr. Tim Manwarren reported that they had a meeting on September 20, 2023. Unfortunately, they did not have a quorum so no business could be conducted. The next meeting will be on October 2, 2023.

Mr. Jim Earring has resigned. Mr. Cushman made a motion to accept his resignation. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with three yeses and no nos. Mr. Meyer and Mr. James were absent.

Mrs. Brown informed everyone that Mrs. DeSha would be unable to work for an extended amount of time due to health issues. Mrs. Brown wanted to grant Mrs. DeSha an unpaid leave of absence for three to six months at which time a final decision would be made about her ability to continue as Deputy Clerk. In the meantime, Mrs. Brown will need a replacement for her. She asked that if anyone knew someone, to please have them come in to the Town Clerk's Office and talk to her. The Board had no objections.

Ms. Murray conveyed to everyone that the Town Clean-up Days were a success. She thanked Mr. Redenback and Mr. Wightman for doing all the work for this event. They filled one and a half 40 yd. dumpsters. They thought it was a worthwhile project.

Ms. Murray also thanked Mr. Kevin Ray. He did a great job of power washing the Town Hall building.

Ms. Murray reminded everyone that the October meeting would be on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 instead of Monday due to the Columbus Day Holiday.

Ms. Murray reported that the Board had had one Budget Workshop and would have another one on September 26, 2023. The public is invited, but public comments cannot be heard. She thanked Mr. Jerry Kreiner for his help with the Budget.

Ms. Murray said the Town had finally received a credit from Frontier for \$654.17.

Ms. Murray went over the mowing situation at Foster Park. She had hired someone to cut the trees and brush along the bank by the road. They agreed to the price of \$300.00. When the person that was hired realized there was more involved than he thought, he submitted a bill for \$450.00. He also took seven weeks to do what he did. The Highway crew stepped in and finished part of it. They still want to get the rest done when they have time. It looks very nice.

There was some discussion about how much to pay the person that was hired to do it. There was no contract. Mr. Williams made a motion to offer the landscaping person \$375.00. Mr. Cushman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with three yeses and no nos. Mr. Meyer and Mr. James were absent.

A sign is being created to put up at the Park so people will know who to call for reservations.

Ms. Murray said she had distributed a Code of Ethics to be signed by all Town officials and anyone involved in Town Hall and Town Highway activities. She announced that on October 2, 2023 at 9:300am, there would be Workplace Violence and Sexual Harassment Training given at the Fire Hall. This training is required.

Ms. Murray had made some adjustments to the Towns insurance coverage (adding and removing people).

Correspondence regarding Senior Citizens Income Levels and Disability Exemptions. Ms. Murray will check into this.

Ms. Murray made some copies of surveys that the County has asked people to complete to give them a picture of how people view our County.

The Youth Bureau of the City of Norwich will be raising their price for signing a contract with them to \$4095.00. Further research needs to be done as to whether this is worth the cost.

Ms. Murray informed everyone that there were a couple of bonds due which were taken of. There is still one payment left on the skid steer and two payments left on the excavator. Ms. Fairbanks asked about how these pieces of machinery were holding up. Mr. Redenback said that the excavator was still having issues after the wrong additive was added to the oil. He said he was advised to get rid of the machine.

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Mr. Tom Prisco complained that he had called the Highway Department several times, but no one called him back. Mr. Wightman said he had placed Mr. Prisco's name on the board at the

garage for fill requests. Mr. Prisco also said that someone had left a lot of garbage on the side of the road on Tinker Ridge and knocked down the sign. He also asked if the lights at Foster Park had been fixed. Mr. Williams said no. Mr. Prisco asked about cameras. There are no cameras there now. Discussion followed. Ms. Murray said she would have a talk with the insurance company about the use of cameras.

Discussion turned to the land that borders the Ashcraft property and was deeded to the Town by one of Mrs. Pierce's relatives. Mrs. Pierce and Mr. Redenback will get together and work on the issues.

Mr. Wightman apologized for telling everyone at the last meeting that Pike Hill would be getting done. He said now that it would not get done.

Mr. Wightman also raised the question of an Ethics Board. Ms. Murray said she is working on it.

He also said that Ms. Murray had no authority over the Fire Department/District concerning the Violence in the Workplace/Sexual Harassment Training. Mr. Murray said she supplied the Fire District with the paperwork as requested by the insurance company.

Mr. Wightman complained about Ms. Murray's interruptions during the recent accident scene activity involving a Town truck. Ms. Murray said she was asked to get information by the insurance company.

Mr. Wightman said that Town Law says that when someone resigns, they need to turn their resignation in to the Town Clerk. He asked where Mr. Earrings' resignation was. Mrs. Brown said Ms. Murray had given it to her that night. Discussion followed.

Mr. Wightman brought up the issue of his work hours. He said that he figured up the hours he had put in and the pay he got. It figured up to about \$15.00 per hour. He said he could not continue to do plumbing and electrical work for that wage. He asked the Board to change his hours to one day a month. Mr. Wightman said he was asked to make a list of everything that needed to be done to the building. He did and was then told that he couldn't do the work because it would be a conflict of interest. Ms. Murray said she had checked with the Association of Towns who told her it would be a conflict of interest. Mr. Wightman wanted a new arrangement to be made. Options were discussed. It was suggested that Mr. Wightman act a consultant for 8 hours per month at \$25.00.

Mr. Wightman was concerned about electricity grounding out at the Garage. He wants NYSEG to come and check things out. Ms. Murray said she has contacted them.

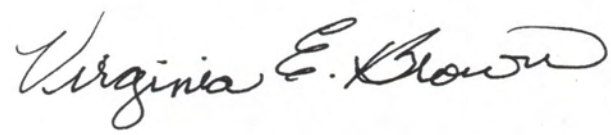
Ms. Fairbanks asked if the truck was totaled in the recent accident. Mr. Redenback said it was not known yet. The Town Highway is now down to 3 trucks.

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 carried with three yeses and no nos. Mr. Meyer and Mr. James were absent.

Mr. Williams made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cushman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with three yeses and no nos. Mr. Meyer and Mr. James were absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia E. Brown". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Virginia E. Brown
Plymouth Town Clerk