



Received For Record At Plainfield CT
On **MAR 15 2021** at **11:34am**
Attest: *Barbi J. Gardiner*
Barbi J. Gardiner, Town Clerk

TOWN OF PLAINFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes –March 8, 2021

Kevin Cunningham called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Member's present were Kevin Cunningham, Art Gagne, and Cathy Tendrich.

Minutes *Art motioned to approve the 3/3/2021 meeting minutes, Cathy seconded.
All in favor, motion passed.*

Public Comment none

New Business

1. Consider and act on tax refunds as requested by the Tax Collector totaling \$104.81 as follows:

Brian L. Caisse Jr.	\$29.40
Donald F. Gladding	\$75.41

Cathy motioned to approve the tax refunds totaling \$104.81, Art seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

2. Consider and act on line-item transfers.

Kevin reviewed the line item transfers. If approved, it will go to the Board of Finance for their approval.

Art asked about the ACO overtime. Kevin stated it was to cover vacation and the full-time employee had surgery so the hours needed to be covered.

Cathy motioned to approve the line-item transfers and send to the Board of Finance, Art seconded. All in favor, motion passed. (Attached)

3. Consider and act on reappointments to the Advisory Building Committee.

Kevin stated the terms were one year so they need to reappoint members. The reappointments would be:

Ed Corson, Rob Kerr, Mike Paquette, Seann Peterson, Ron Roberts, and Paul Yellen for a term 2/18/2021 through 3/13/2023.

Art motioned to reappoint Ed Corson, Rob Kerr, Mike Paquette, Seann Peterson, Ron Roberts, and Paul Yellen for a term of 2/18/2021 through 3/13/2023, Cathy seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

4. Consider and act on removal of a member of an appointed commission.

Kevin stated he spoke with Dawn Vancederfield and she can't give her all to the commission because of her job, she was ok with being removed from the commission per the charter 7-9.1.

Art asked what party she was affiliated with. Kevin didn't know and stated he will find out.

Cathy asked if the resignation was submitted in writing. Kevin stated via she submitted it through email.

Art asked if it was the Agricultural Commission. Kevin stated yes.

Art motioned to remove Dawn Vancederfield from the Agricultural Commission, Cathy seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Kevin asked to have Item 5(Purchase of radios at the Police Department) and Item 6(Security issue at the Police Department) to the agenda.

Cathy motioned to add items 5 & 6 to the agenda, Art seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

5. Consider and act on radio purchase the Police Department.

Kevin stated the Mario Arriaga, Police Chief and Finance Director, Kelly Vachon were at this meeting to discuss this. Kelly stated the State of Connecticut received Covid funds from the Federal Government and the funds can be used for our First Responders/Police Salaries. She can reduce the expenditures of the police salaries for \$95,000 for this year and that would free up some of the police salary funds.

Kevin stated they had a meeting with Chief Arriaga to go over what it could be used for and this was one of the ideas that came up. He stated the radios are needed.

Mario Arriaga, Police Chief, stated their radio system consists of mobile devices that each officer carries, mobiles for the cruisers and dispatch consoles. It is an analog system that is old and has fixed it over the years. It is their lifeline and is used every day. He stated there is a lot of static, you can't always hear and you have to repeat yourself.

The infrastructure is very antiquated, there is an antenna on Ekonk Tower, it's a state site they use and it has been fixed several times and it's costly to fix. They still continue to have problems even when it does get fixed.

With the analog system, there is a lot of interference with transmissions and that causes a lot of problems. They've tried replacing the radios and it helped very little, they've tried replacing the repeaters throughout the town and in the cruisers. They have band aid fixed it so much that there is nothing left to fix. This is one of the officer's biggest safety issues to get a call for help or a call for dispatch.

One option is to rebuild the whole system, that would include new towers throughout the town to ensure there is coverage, additional repeaters, and replace equipment. That would cost approximately 1 to 2 million dollars.

The second option is to piggy back off state system which is digital. It is free to municipalities and all law enforcement agencies. It offers better voice quality, the band width is more efficient, stronger coverage, eliminates static and background noises, and better battery life.

The state controls the infrastructure and the town doesn't have to do anything with it. If a tower goes down, Plainfield PD is not liable. There is no maintenance for the Town.

Our costs would be to replace portable radios, mobile radios, and the dispatch consoles. Once they are placed, we would be on the state system. It would cost approximately \$110,000 for the equipment.

Kevin stated we could utilize \$95,000 from what the town was given for the Covid funds. Mario stated the remaining \$15,000 would come from the salary line item.

Kevin stated according to the town charter, the Board of Selectmen would have to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance, if Board of Finance approves, then a Town Meeting, and a referendum.

Mario stated the current estimate is \$108,249.80.

Art asked if there was a monthly or yearly fee. Mario stated there are no monthly or yearly fees, it's a 5-year contract that is renewable for free.

Art asked about if the town ever goes with regional dispatch and how that would affect this. Mario stated that is a lengthy process out and if they did go regional, they will make it work.

Art asked if the 5-year contract could be adjusted. Mario stated yes.

Cathy asked about backup and if the state system went down. Mario stated there are multiple backups with the state.

Mario stated they have a couple of the new radios and have been testing them around town and they are very clear.

Kevin stated this has been ongoing issue and has been discussed at Police Commission meetings.

Art asked Kelly if the \$95,000 would go to police salaries. Kelly stated yes.

Kevin stated Kelly and Mario kept track of all expenses.

Mario stated he made file for every expense due to covid.

Cathy asked what will happen if the radio purchase doesn't get approved. Kevin stated they would look for other items they would want to purchase and it would have to come back through this process.

Cathy stated she believes this is a great opportunity and much needed.

Cathy motioned to send the radio purchase of \$108,249.80 to the Board of Finance, Art seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

6. Consider and act on security issue at the Police Department.

Kevin stated this would go into executive session with the Police Chief, Mario Arriaga.

Art motioned to go into executive session at 7:30 pm, Cathy seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Cathy motioned to come out of executive session at 7:40 pm, Art seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Kevin stated no action was taken. Kevin stated they are looking to upgrade the security cameras at the police department and go to bid for it.

Cathy motioned to go out to bid for the upgrade of the security cameras at the Police Department, Art seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Other

Covid-19 testing at the Senior Center will only be on Thursdays from 3-7pm due to the state funding.

The Conservation Commission is working with the Agricultural Commission on an Open Space Survey. It is available online or at the Town Hall.

Kevin is working with a company for health & safety training for residents.

Bike Night is July 15, 2021

PBA is August 7, 2021

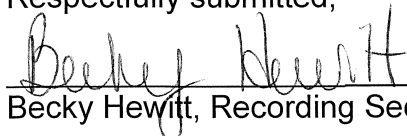
VJ Day Parade is August 8, 2021

Coordinating with DKH to have a vaccine clinic at the Town Hall

Adjournment

Art motioned to adjourn; Cathy seconded. All in favor, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm. This is a summary of the meeting and the recording is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Respectfully submitted,


Becky Hewitt, Recording Secretary

Line item transfers: Request for 3-8-21

Expended :

10-6414-52	\$3,644.00	Vehicle Purchases – FY20 (Capital Expense) \$67,644.00 total minus \$64,000 budgeted
10-6238-24	\$18,000.00	Highway – Overtime (Multiple February storms)
10-6102-38	\$4,000.00	Animal Control Salaries (Cover Hours)
10-6272-42	\$4,000.00	Tax Refunds (one abnormally large refund due to settlement on back year)
10-6352-48	\$2,100.00	Town Revaluation (NECCOG RFP not signed until 2021)
	\$ 31,744.00	

Transfer from:

10-6238-24	\$5,000.00	Highway – Motor Fuel
10-6138-40	\$5,000.00	Unemployment Benefits
10-6242-30	\$3,644.00	Police Dept – Vehicle Expense
10-6426-24	\$10,000.00	Highway – Sand and Gravel
10-6252-24	\$5,000.00	Highway – Bituminous
10-6203-10	\$3,100.00	Legal Notices/Advertising
	\$31,744.00	