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Barbi J. Gardiner, Town Clerk



# **BOARD OF SELECTMEN** AMENDED (Pg. 5) MEETING MINUTES **AUGUST 23, 2021**

Kevin Cunningham called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Plainfield Town Hall.

Roll Call:

Kevin Cunningham, and Art Gagne were present.

Cathy Tendrich was absent.

Also present: Jordan Lumpkins - Grant Writer, MaryAnn Chinatti - Town Planner and

Tom Sinkewicz – BOF Chairman

### Approval of meeting minutes from 7/28/2021 and 8/9/2021

Art Gagne motioned to approve the meeting minutes of 7/28/2021 and 8/9/2021. Kevin Cunningham seconded. Motion passed.

#### **Old Business**

#### 1. Discuss and act on dispersion of America Cares/America Recovery Act monies.

First Selectman Cunningham stated that some items were voted on at the last meeting. WPCA upgrades were approximately \$3.2 million and will need to be increased to \$3.4 million. He reviewed the numbers for WPCA upgrades. He noted that many items are on the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. He noted that if all are completed, we would still have \$601,000 for other items that may come up. Mr. Gagne asked if it could go into Housing Hardship. Mr. Cunningham noted that if any more is needed, we have it.

Art Gagne motioned to approve WPCA items for \$3.4 million from the America Cares/America Recovery Act. Kevin Cunningham seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Cunningham reviewed the Economic Development small business loan fund which was reviewed by Economic Development Commission. MaryAnn Chinnatti, Town Planner has reviewed and modified the program. He said it mirrors the program that was done in the past. The program has been reviewed with town attorney. He questioned the interest rate, not to exceed 3 percent. Jordan Lumpkins, Grant Writer said he reviewed other loan programs which are typically 1-5 percent and noted that it is up to the board's discretion.

Mr. Gagne inquired about the approval process and \$50 non-refundable application if funds are not available. Mr. Lumpkins stated that the town would be transparent about the availability of funds. Mr. Gagne questioned "working capital" and if the amount is the same as last time. Mr. Lumpkins stated that they can use their own discretion and review each application. He added that many are due to Covid. He said the amount was higher last time but suggested if the maximum was used it would allow 10 businesses. He said it is used as a pilot. The Program Manager would be a designated agent. Mr. Cunningham said it would require a lien of the property. Ms. Chinatti asked what if they are not a property owner and what documentation was needed for working capital. Mr. Cunningham said it is up to EDC. He said back up data shows a hardship adding that many are staffing issues. He said he would prefer applications get through the process prior to BOS. Ms. Chinatti asked if EDC will go through the applicants 100 percent. Mr. Cunningham replied, yes. Sean Peterson asked about an outside agency. Mr. Cunningham said most was internal through EDC, along with attorney and banking. A resident asked if there is a policy. Mr. Lumpkins replied, yes.

Art Gagne motioned to appropriate \$250,000 to Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund from America Cares and America Recover monies starting October 1, 2021. Kevin Cunningham seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

#### Housing Hardship - \$100,000

Mr. Cunningham reviewed the low interest loan program to be administered by Jordan Lumpkins and Kelly Vachon. Mr. Lumpkins said he worked with MaryAnn Chinatti who reviewed the policy. He noted that it is separate from the other program. He said the loans would require approval of Building Inspector, Fire Marshal, Jordan Lumpkins and Board of Selectmen. Mr. Cunningham said the bidders will require license and approval. Mr. Lumpkins noted that the language includes board's discretion.

Art Gagne motioned to approve \$100,000 for Housing Hardship Loans from America Cares and America Recovery monies to start October 1, 2021. Kevin Cunningham seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Cunningham noted that Cathy Tendrich asked to discuss some other non-profits. He said he would like to meet with Eastern CT Land Bank to get more data. Regarding the Veteran's Coffeehouse, he said the program is only for non-profits and currently they are not a non-profit. He said they never filed for non-profit. He will discuss with them. Mr. Gagne added that the non-profits have been affected by Covid.

#### **New Business**

Consider and act on tax refunds as requested by the Tax Collector totaling \$1,308.94.

Dorothy B. Bodo \$72.75 Holly H. Deojay \$10.12

Edward S. Fitzgerald	\$7.99
Mohan LLC	\$191.37
Daniel P Oneil	\$9.89
Rice Landscaping LLC	\$500.31
Rice Landscaping LLC	\$97.43
Kevin R. Sabourin	\$6.49
Elizabeth V. Saros	\$14.88
Elizabeth V. Saros	\$8.81
Kathleen R. Silveira	\$5.55
Ryan A. St.Jean	\$21.28
USB Leasing LT	\$318.15
Dominic P Zeppieri Jr.	\$43.92

Mr. Cunningham reviewed the tax refunds.

Art Gagne motioned to approve the tax refunds totaling \$1,308.94. Kevin Cunninham seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

2. Discuss and act on authorizing the First Selectman of Plainfield power and authority to sign the DECD financial assistance for the InterRoyal Site Brownfield Assessment project.

Kevin Cunningham read the resolution to authorize First Selectman to authorize DECD financial assistance for the InterRoyal Site Brownfield Assessment Project.

Art Gagne motioned to approve the Resolution for DECD financial assistance for InterRoyal Site Brownfield Assessment project as read. Kevin Cunningham seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

3. Discuss and act on Opt-out of 8-2 Sec. 4B (d) (9) pertaining to parking spaces.

Mr. Cunningham reviewed the State of CT Opt-out for changes to Planning and Zoning. He said Planning and Zoning Commission decided to Opt-out and suggested we keep what we have. Mr. Gagne inquired about publication of the decision. Ms. Chinatti said it will be published.

Art Gagne motioned to Opt-out of 8-2 Sec. 4B (d) (9) pertaining to parking spaces. Kevin Cunningham seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

4. Discuss and act on Opt-out of 8-2 Sec. 6 pertaining to accessory apartments.

Mr. Cunningham noted that we have zoning regulations.

Art Gagne motioned to Opt-out of 8-2 Sec. 6 pertaining to accessory apartments. Kevin Cunningham seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

# 5. Review and approve the "Ordinances and Special Acts of the Town of Plainfield" printed handbook, as revised.

Mr. Cunningham stated that copies of ordinances are available, the booklet is to simplify. He said we are not looking to change ordinances it is to make corrections. He stated that Art and June Gagne put together a packet noting typos data, etc. He said once complete it can be put out to the public and online.

Mr. Gagne stated that many dates are missing from the handbook, one was wrong and there are many typos in the book. He said each ordinance should be numbered in chronological order. There are 3 numbering amendments, and in the book the numbering stopped. He noted that some things have to be changed in the future, other than typos.

Louisa Trakas noted the hard work involved and said the plan was to have ordinances reviewed by an attorney. She said the historic records came from the Selectman's office. She said when an ordinance gets approved it gets stamped in the Town Clerk's Office. Sometimes they did not have dates. She inquired if a town attorney reviewed and approved each change. Mr. Cunningham replied, yes. Ms. Trakas requested to be on record that any change would not change the meaning of the ordinance. She mentioned that a grammatical error correction years ago, brought the Town of Plainfield to court so we must be careful. She added that the ordinances were approved by electors of the town so why not have a town meeting. Mr. Cunningham noted that the town attorney advised we did not have to. She questioned if the date of meeting could affect the date of the ordinance.

Mr. Gagne said the meeting dates came from the vault and the changes are just to the book. Ms. Trakas asked if there will be a comment of the date of this meeting, that a simple change was made but no change of the ordinances. Mr. Cunningham said it was noted in 2009 so would also be noted of this meeting. Ms. Trakas said the book was just typed from the original ordinance book. Mr. Gagne stated that the typos are from the retyped book. Ms. Trakas said as long as they are simple errors. She asked if the old and new book would be online. Mr. Cunningham said just the new one to avoid confusion, adding that another meeting would be for the ordinances. He appreciated the input and said we are not changing ordinances. Hard copies are still available. A resident asked about the publication. Mr. Cunninham said it will be the full copy, then index for each.

Art Gagne motioned to approve "Ordinances and Special Acts of the Town of Plainfield" printed handbook, as revised. Kevin Cunningham seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

#### Other Business

Mr. Cunningham said we got through the storm (Henri), not too bad. He said we did take a look at the EOC and it went well. He said 14 houses are currently out of power and thanked Eversource for their assistance.

Mr. Cunningham noted a Patriot Day Candlelight ceremony on 9/11/21 at 7 pm. at Veterans' Park with unveiling of a monument. For more info contact VFW Post 9446.

## <u>Adjournment</u>

Art Gagne motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm. Kevin Cunningham seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dodie Mineau

**Acting Recording Secretary**