

PLYMOUTH TOWN BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 28, 2025

6:30PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Patricia Murray
Councilperson Ray Elsworth
Councilperson Tim Manwarren
Councilperson Rhonda Fairbanks
Councilperson Brett Wightman
Highway Superintendent Louis Redenback

Supervisor Murray brought the meeting to order. She led in the pledge to the Flag.

Mr. Wightman read Resolution #13 to Add a Desk to the Town Supervisor's Office for Use By Town Board Members. Discussion was had. Questions and answers were voiced. Mr. Manwarren seconded the resolution. The Board was polled. Mr. Elsworth, Ms. Fairbanks and Ms. Murray voted no. Mr. Manwarren and Mr. Wightman voted yes. The Resolution failed.

Mr. Manwarren read Resolution #14 to Allow Town Board Members Read-Only Access to All Town of Plymouth Bank Accounts. Discussion was had. There was concern that this action would open up the Town accounts to fraudulent activity. Mr. Manwarren raised an objection to the move of Town funds to other accounts without the full Board's knowledge. Ms. Murray said she would forward all the bank statements each month to all the Board members. Mr. Manwarren said that had not been the case the last time he requested them. He was missing one

of the accounts. Ms. Murray asked that the Resolution be tabled until we can get a chance to talk to the Bank and clarify that they can guarantee that Mr. Wightman agreed. Mr. Manwarren said they could table the Resolution longer if Ms. Murray included everybody in the financial statements at the end of the month, before the next meeting. Resolution #14 was tabled.

Resolution #15 to Allow Town Board Members Account Access to All Town Security Monitoring Accounts was tabled until more information was gathered from the Court System. The reason for proposing this Resolution was that the security system in the Town offices had been tampered with. Ms. Murray said she had no knowledge of the removal of electronic equipment by the State Troopers and the return of said equipment to the Town Hall. Mr. Wightman said the State Trooper told the people who were present on January 11, 2025, not to say anything to anyone that was not present at the time until the investigation could be completed. Mr. Manwarren informed the Trooper that there was a Supervisor that maybe should be apprised of the situation. The Trooper said that if she did not have any more power than the other Board members, he wanted it to remain among the people that were present. Ms. Murray asked why the electronics were not put back in the utility room. Mr. Manwarren said they did not have a key to that room. Ms. Murray said she would help them move the equipment back into the room. Mr. Wightman said he had been informed that the investigation had been closed. The State Troopers' office said that if anyone wanted information about the case, they would have to FOIL it from the State Troopers.

Mrs. Clemens stated that two resolutions were not posted. She stated that the Board members knew that resolutions were supposed to be posted. She revealed several modifications to different resolutions that had been made. She said resolution #12 had not been posted. Timing had been an issue. Resolution #8 to remove the position of Deputy Supervisor was not posted. Mr. Wightman said he had called the Comptroller's attorney and was advised that he would be called back. Mr. Wightman waited to the last minute to get an answer by the January meeting. That is why the resolution was not posted.

Mrs. Clemens said she had received a letter from Mr. Wightman asking for information on the grants. She said she had contacted NYSERDA and asked them to change their contract. Ms. Murray has all the information. Ms. Murray asked who would like to work with her on the grants. Mr. Manwarren volunteered.

Mr. Jerry Kreiner asked if the Town had an investment policy. The answer was no. He also asked Mr. Manwarren who worked on the resolution that did not get posted in time. Mr. Manwarren said Ms. Murray, the bookkeeper and himself.

Mr. Wightman said that he was asked two questions at the last meeting and he would like to answer them. He found out that the Town does not regulate pools. That is handled by the County Code Enforcement and they require a written complaint. He also said Mr. Kreiner asked what authority the Board had to eliminate the Deputy Supervisor position. Mr. Wightman presented Mr. Kreiner documentation. Ms. Murray said that Judge Collier needed to go to mandatory training on March 18 and 19. She asked if the Board needed any additional information from her.

The Fire Commissioners had asked to have their minutes added to the Town's website. Ms. Murray asked the webmaster who said there would be no additional charge. Ms. Fairbanks made a motion to allow the Fire Commissioners to post their minutes on the website. Mr. Wightman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos.

Mrs. Brown read the letter of resignation from April Ray, the Town's bookkeeper. The Board decided to table accepting Mrs. Ray's resignation until Ms. Murray can try to convince her to remain as the Town's bookkeeper.

Ms. Murray reported that the Note of Anticipation of Revenue had been paid in full in December.

Ms. Murray asked the rest of the Board if she could close the American Rescue accounts. She said she would also like to close the escrow account which was for the tax cap money. Mr. Manwarren made a motion to close all three accounts. Ms. Fairbanks seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos.

Ms. Murray reported that the audit in the case against Mr. Oakley is still ongoing. Mr. Tom Kreiner asked why the Attorney General had not been involved. Mr. Wightman said he had written the Attorney General when all this was started and they did not even acknowledge him.

Ms. Murray said she had received a letter from the SPCA. The agreement has been extended for three months. Ms. Murray has been exploring some options.

There was some discussion about an official undertaking. She said she had been talking to our insurance company. Mr. Wightman said he

wanted to see the policy. Ms. Murray said there was no official undertaking.

Ms. Murray asked Mr. Redenback if he had a job application to give her. He said yes, he would get it to her.

Ms. Murray informed Mr. Redenback that she had sent back the check for \$300,000.00. She said the Town would be getting \$292,000.00. Mr. Redenback said the Town could have a truck in three months, but he could not get a body and a plow for 2 to 3 years.

Ms. Jackie Kreiner asked if the Town was limited to dealing with just one bank. Ms. Murray said NBT was our official bank. The Town could name more banks as their official banks if they so choose.

Mrs. Linda Winton said she would like to see more input from Mr. Elsworth and Ms. Fairbanks.

Mr. Manwarren asked if Mr. Redenback could order a new truck now.

Mr. Redenback said it would have to be used as a haul truck because he couldn't get snow plow components for 2 to 3 years.

Ms. Murray asked about the salt inventory. Mr. Redenback said the problem was delivery. He has involved OGS. The supplier is not living up to their agreement.

Ms. Murray announced that a fifth man has been hired for the Highway Department. Mr. Redenback said the overtime has already decreased.

Mr. Kreiner asked where the Code Enforcement situation stood. Mr. Wightman said he had reached out to a couple of people about it. One said he couldn't do it and the other one was looking into it. Mr.

Manwarren objected to the amount of money that was budgeted for the Code Enforcement job if all the person was going to do was inspect septic.

Mrs. Winton expressed her feelings about wanting a new assessor, because she doesn't feel Mr. Rifanburg is doing a good job.

Mr. Manwarren made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Elsworth seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses an no nos. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Virginia E. Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Virginia E. Brown

Plymouth Town Clerk

February 19, 2025