

PLYMOUTH TOWN BOARD MEETING

MAY 9, 2022

6:30PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Grace Nucero-Alger
Councilman Daniel Meyer
Councilman Frank Williams
Councilman Shawn Cushman
Councilman Garry James
Highway Superintendent Rodney Oakley

Supervisor Alger led in the Pledge to the Flag.

She asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the April meeting. Mr. James asked that the name of Mr. Sayles be corrected to read Zack Sayles. Mrs. Brown said she would correct it. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Mr. Cushman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was approved with five yeses and no nos.

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

- March 10th, dog attack on Stevens Crest
- Called on delinquent dog licenses

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

- Visited Matt Browning's place on Morley Road. (A complaint had been made at the March meeting about this property.) The complaint was unfounded. There was mostly farm equipment, a few piles of lumber and wood, all of which Mr. Browning used for the farm.
- John Buffa's property on County Road 16 is currently being occupied by his daughter Sherrie. Mr. Fox spoke to her about getting the place cleaned up.
- Ann O'Neil on Owens Road has piles of garbage again and some unregistered vehicles. Mr. Fox spoke to her and her boyfriend and they are going to work on that.
- Wyatt Ashcraft on Country Club Road has moved his pile of junk and debris.
- The farm on Doing Road had cleaned up a lot of the plastic that was laying around but he still has more to do.
- Had a septic complaint on Travis Road at a property owned by Brock Manwarren and Jim Cummings. Mr. Fox spoke with Jim about the problem. Jim said he would take a look at it.
- Had a few more inquiries about building lots on Pigeon Hill concerning Christmas and Associates property.

Mrs. Brown told Mr. Fox that the fence around the cell tower does not have any kind of gate. Also, that people are starting to use the area for a dump. She had observed household garbage and appliances there. Mr. Fox said he would let the County Code Enforcement Officer know about the gate which is a violation of regulations for cell towers. Mr. Fox said the dumping is a DEC problem. He will call them and he will go

up there and check it out.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Rodney Oakley reported the following:

- Started cleaning ditches on Inman Road, Underwood Road
- Worked on cleaning brush and branches blown down by the recent snow storm. Mr. Oakley announced that if anyone had branches and brush to get rid of, they could leave it by the side of the road and the highway crew will run it through the chipper. He only asked that people give him a phone call to make him aware of the need for the chipper.
- Mr. Oakley said he had signs in the back of the pickup that would be going in probably during the coming week
- People had inquired about a Plymouth Clean-up Day. Mr. Oakley called Shawn Frye. Mr. Frye e-mailed back that every year the Town has a \$250 credit with the dump. So far this year Mr. Oakley had used \$83.00 of it disposing of things such as tires and other disposable things from the garage. That leaves a balance of \$166.70. Mr. Oakley said the Town could send Mr. Frye a letter on Town letterhead, explaining that the Town plans to do a clean-up day event along with our wishes and requests concerning what we would like the tipping fee to be or request it to be free (which probably won't happen). Then Mr. Frye could let the Town know what his decision would be. Mr. Franklin suggested that Mr. Oakley contact the Town of Pharsailia and ask them about their guidelines that they have for their clean-up day. Mrs. Alger said she would write that letter to Mr. Frye.

- Worked on the beaver problems. Cleaned out a pipe on Inman Road, Blackman Road and Elmer Harris Road. There was still one partially plugged on Elmer Harris Road. Mr. Oakley said they would finish that one the next day.
- The paving date for Doing Road was moved from May to the end of June or the beginning of July because the supplier does not have the stock pile done yet.
- Also the 284 Agreement may have to be amended due to the dramatic increase in the cost of the materials. He said if the money could be found somewhere in the budget, he would still do what was planned.
- Mr. Oakley announced that FEMA sent out a letter saying that DHSES was taking over all the FEMA projects at this point. He had submitted the paperwork to DHSES to get the Town's identity number to be used going forward. They will be closing out some of the 2018 and 2019 projects that are still open.
- He got the permit to start work on the Old Rt. 23 site. They will start on that when the storm clean-up is finished.

YOUTH PROGRAM REPORT: Mrs. Linda Powell-Owens talked about her plan for the youth activities for this year. She said COVID has prevented the Town from having a roller skating event. She hoped that Breakfast with Santa will happen this year. The Fire Department helps with that event. The date for the Enchanted Forrest trip had not been set yet. She said she tries to work the trip in to a date that would work with summer school dates and return to college dates.

Mr. Anthony Testani, the Norwich Youth Bureau Director, spoke about the activities planned for this summer. All the activities are free to the families. The City contracts with the Town who pays a fee to cover the cost of these activities. There will be swimming lessons at the Kurt Beyer Pool, a Summer Fun Club, soccer, tennis, basketball, softball, baseball, flag football and cheer. Trips planned are Water Safari, Rosamond Gifford Zoo, Rail Explorers, Corning Museum of Glass and Animal Adventure. Winter programs are also available. Everyone can sign up and learn more about the activities on line by searching for City of Norwich Youth Bureau. Mr. James asked for a list of activities and a signup sheet for the Board to have on file.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Mr. Jim Earing said that he and Rodney, Jack Adams and Karrie Kron worked to put together a spread sheet of all the things that have to be done to the old Town garage, and what it would take to start over. Mr. Earing, Mr. Adams and Mr. Oakley went out and looked at 20 different properties. Mr. Earing presented the Board with a spread sheet showing how those properties measured up against the requirements for a new Town Highway Department location. Mr. Oakley thanked Mr. Earing, Mr. Adams and Ms. Kron (who donated her services) for all their work on this project.

Mr. Earing also reported that he had looked into having a free dump day for the Town. The Chenango County Landfill said they would look into the idea. They might be interested.

Mrs. Alger reported that the Winchell property was no longer a possible location for the Highway Department.

Mr. Kreiner asked if it was possible for the public to get copies of the spread sheet showing the properties that Mr. Oakley and Mr. Earing looked at. Ms. Fairbanks volunteered to make copies for people. The question was asked if the spread sheets could be published on the website. Mrs. Alger gave her approval.

Ms. Kron explained to everyone how to read and interpret the spread sheets that the Planning Board, Mr. Oakley and Ms. Kron had created.

LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS: Mrs. Alger reported on activities at the County Supervisors' Meeting. She said the Board had authorized the creation of ten temporary positions for the period of June 1 to September 1, 2022 for the Department of Public Works. There is concern that the Highway Department has lost a significant number of employees. Mrs. Alger encouraged everyone to spread the word about these openings. Mr. Oakley asked if the applicants would need a CDL for these jobs. Mrs. Alger said the County would love to have people with CDLs, however, they don't have to have one. Mr. Cushman said he understood that the temporary positions were basically for flag people. Ms. Patty Murray asked what the starting pay would be. Mrs. Alger said for these positions would be \$15.31 per hour.

Mrs. Alger informed everyone that the first quarter's sales tax check had been received. It was for \$64,577.62. She also said she had received a check from Judge Fox for \$815.00 for April's fines.

She reported that she had received information from the County on a Lead Walk for 2022. The Chenango County Department of Health will be visiting residents to raise awareness about lead in the environment.

They will be hanging gray and purple door knob hangers on the doors containing information about the hazards of lead poisoning. Additional information about rabies prevention will also be distributed. This will start on May 16th.

Mrs. Alger gave people an update on Foster Park. She said Garry James has picked up the stain for the pavilion. He and John Marshall planned to stain the pavilion in the coming weekend.

At the last meeting, Ms. Fairbanks had asked if the Board had checked into possible foreclosures. Mrs. Alger said she check with the local banks. They said that because of the COVID restrictions, they don't have any right now. However, Mrs. Alger got in touch with Barb Strier in the Delinquent Tax Department. She gave Mrs. Alger a listing of three parcels that will be up for tax sale foreclosure at the end of May. If those taxes have not been paid by then, Mrs. Alger said she would share the location of those properties with the Planning Board so they could look at them.

BOARD CONCERNS: Mr. Garry James reported that Mr. Peter Hudiburg had stepped down from the Planning Board. Mr. James made a motion to accept Mr. Hudiburg's resignation. Mr. Cushman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos.

Mr. James read a resolution to fill the vacant position left by Mr. Hudiburg. He resolved that Mr. John Carroll be appointed to the Planning Board. Mr. Williams so moved. Mr. Cushman seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos.

Mr. James read a resolution to approve the Investment Policy. Mr. Cushman made a motion to approve the Policy. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos.

Mr. James made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos. The Board went into Executive Session at 7:07pm. Mr. Cushman made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:18pm. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos.

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Mr. Tom Kreiner asked if Mr. Anderson had any luck getting in touch with Mr. Matt Beckwith concerning expanding service on the cell tower. He had not. Other people had also tried to contact Mr. Beckwith with no success. Mr. Anderson said he would continue to try. Mr. Kreiner asked that someone stay on top of this. Mrs. Denise Rothwell said the Board members should be the ones to push this issue. Mrs. Alger assured Mrs. Rothwell that the Board would follow up on this.

Ms. Rhonda Fairbanks asked if anyone had checked the surveillance cameras to see who had damaged the Town Offices sign in the front of the Town parking lot. Ms. Jackie Kreiner said she would ask Mr. Patterson to view the films. Ms. Fairbanks asked if it would be fixed and by whom. Mr. Oakley said he could call Mr. Tim Manwarren, but he was not the maintenance man anymore. Mrs. Alger asked Mr. Oakley to follow up with Mr. Manwarren.

Ms. Fairbanks reported on what she found out about a mass mailing that was discussed at the last meeting. She found the cost would be approximately \$900.00 for the design and printing of the post cards plus postage. Mrs. Alger asked Ms. Fairbanks to send her the information. Ms. Murray also pointed out that people could google various County websites for more information concerning the Town. Ms. Fairbanks informed Mr. Fox that the new owner of the house on the corner of the Plymouth/North Norwich Road and County Rt. 21 was from Homer, NY. Mr. Earing said he talked to the new owner who said he was going to remove the barrels that have caused concern. Mr. Earing said he had a phone number for the new owner.

Ms. Fairbanks said she had received the Financial Reports from Mrs. Brown. She asked for some clarification on how to interpret them. Mrs. Alger said she would meet with Ms. Fairbanks and explain them to her.

Ms. Fairbanks asked about the COVID relief money that was discussed at the last meeting. Mrs. Alger said the first installment that the Town received was \$87,743.00. The Town will receive the same amount again in June or July. Mrs. Alger said by April 30th, the Towns had to send in a plan of what they wanted to use the money for. Mrs. Alger said she had met that deadline. After discussing the issue with the Town's attorney, she is hoping to use that money towards either refurbishing the existing garage or towards building a new garage. The Town's plan can be changed at any time. The money must be spent by 2024.

Mrs. Alger asked if anyone had any questions for Mr. Testani. Mrs. Charlene DeSha asked if any transportation would be available for kids that do not have a way to get to the program sites. Mr. Testani said the Norwich school system is going to help provide transportation for the kids that are signed up for the school's morning programs. The school will feed the kids lunch and then transport them. The sign up for that will be on the school's website. Mr. Testani also mentioned that his Department tries to hire High School and College kids for the summer. They will help out with instructing the various activities. He also is looking for life guards and attendants. Mrs. Alger thanked Mr. Testani. Mrs. DeSha asked Mrs. Powell-Owens if there was anything else that she had looked into for the kids. She suggested getting a group to do things like plant flowers at the Town Hall or Foster Park, do bottle drives, participate in getting Plymouth Field Days going again. She said that everyone complains about the properties that people don't take care of, with problems like garbage and weeds. She feels that as responsible citizens, we need to help the children in our Town learn how to make their homes and their community a better place to live. Mrs. Powell-Owens said she wasn't sure kids would show up for work related activities when they won't come for the fun activities. Ms. Kron suggested that the people interested in doing things with kids, get together with a group of kids from the Town and ask them what they would be interested in doing. Mrs. Anderson said she had experience with a group of teenage kids during COVID and they wanted to get out and socialize with other kids. She also suggested working together with the Fire Department and other Towns. Ms. Murray felt that part of the problem was communication about activities that are available.

Mr. Brian Franklin asked if the rabies clinic had been finalized. Mrs. Alger said she had not seen anything.

Mrs. Brown thanked the Board for listening to the people of Plymouth concerning the proposed purchase of the Winchell property. It was decided not to purchase the property. She also assured everyone that the minutes published on the Town website are transcribed directly from the things people say at the meetings. Nothing is added. So people can trust what they read.

Mrs. Alger encouraged everyone to ask the Board or Mrs. Brown if they have any questions and not to believe everything they hear. Mr. Carroll asked if the decision was made by facts or by what happened at the last meeting. She said the Town had sent a contract to Mr. Winchell about the purchase of the property. He came back with another contract that was different. The Board could not agree with that.

Mr. Tom Kreiner asked why Mrs. Alger assumed that everyone there knew about the decision not to buy the property. He asked where it was posted. Mr. Oakley said it was not posted because the decision had been made only a couple of weeks before this meeting.

Mr. Kreiner also asked what Mr. Oakley was talking about when he said that if the Town had purchased the property, there was a possibility that the Town could make \$60,000.00 a year from it. Mr. Oakley said the Town was looking at leasing property to someone that would pay \$1000.00 per acre for a solar field. Mr. Oakley and Mr. Earing decided not to publicize the idea because it wasn't a sure thing yet.

Mr. Aldrich encouraged the Board to keep a look out for any grants that the Federal Government might offer under their infrastructure initiative.

Ms. Kron spoke about the fact that she is convinced that the Planning Board and Mr. Oakley are going about this project in the right way. She felt privileged to work with them.

Mrs. Aldridge asked if the Town was in a big rush about the new garage project. She cautioned being in too big of a hurry and maybe missing some opportunities for free money and maybe cheaper land. She asked if there was ever any money left at the end of the year from the Highway Budget. Mr. Oakley said sometimes. Mr. Oakley said he was looking at a 5 or 6 year build out plan. Mrs. Alger added that the Town has a Capital Reserve Fund that is solely for the purpose of purchasing land or buildings. Mr. Oakley said there was \$398,312.00 in the account right now. He also said that if there was any money left in the budget at the end of the year, he would ask the Board to pass a resolution to put the money in that account.

Ms. Jackie Kreiner commented to Mr. Fox that property on Chan-Aldrich was disgusting. She asked Fire Chief Ray if there was a fire there the previous week. He said yes. He said he had talked with the home owner about the violations he saw, but didn't think it made an impression on him. Mr. Fox said he had had that owner in the court room several times with no success. Ms. Kreiner asked the Board to make a resolution to have an offender jailed if they do not comply with local laws. Mr. Fox said that can't be done because of the State Laws. Mr. Oakley asked that his home phone number be removed from the Town website.

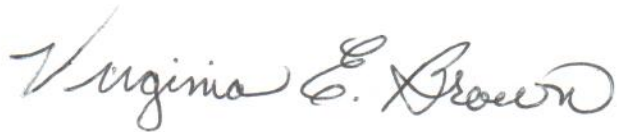
He asked if there was a Historical Society in Plymouth now. No one was sure. It was suggested that someone contact Mr. Denny Bates.

The bills were reviewed and signed. Mr. Cushman made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos.

Mr. Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. James seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with five yeses and no nos.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

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

Virginia E. Brown

Plymouth Town Clerk

May 24, 2022