

PLYMOUTH SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022

REMOTE VIA ZOOM, PLYMOUTH, MA – 4:00 PM

4:00PM - CALL TO ORDER

Richard Quintal, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and asked Vice Chairman Cavacco to read the following statement:

In accordance with S2475, and pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish [to watch the meeting may do so](#) in the following manner: tune into PACtv government cable access channels Comcast Channel 15 or Verizon Channel 47 and watch the meeting as it is aired live, or watch the meeting live through PACtv's website at <https://pactv.org>. Members of the public who wish to PARTICIPATE in the meeting may do so in the following manner: contact the Select Board's Assistant, Chris Badot, [who is available prior to and throughout the meeting to provide public remote access](#), via the public call-in line, (508) 322-3383, or cbadot@plymouth-ma.gov. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts, we will post on the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Present: Richard Quintal, Chairman
Betty Cavacco, Vice Chairman
Patrick Flaherty
Harry Helm
Charlie Bletzer

Lee Hartmann, Acting Town Manager

4:00 p.m. Executive Session

The Select Board will hold an Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, and Paragraph 6, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property; if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining, negotiation, and the chair so declares. Following Executive Session, the Board will reconvene in open session.

- ❖ Holtec Negotiations
- ❖ Town Manager's Contract Negotiations

6:35PM – BACK TO OPEN SESSION

Chairman Quintal said the Board had been in Executive Session since 4:00pm and will not reconvene after Open Session has been completed.

6:38PM – PUBLIC COMMENT

Jonathan Beder, Public Works Director, came on and thanked the Board and said it is a pleasure to be here tonight. He said he was here tonight with Sheila Sgarzi, Town Engineer, Peter Gordon, Water Superintendent, Doug Pinard, Wastewater Manager, and Kendra Martin, Water and Sewer Engineer. He said Doug Pinard and Kendra Martin are both fairly new and come to Plymouth with a lot of experience. He said we are all here tonight to give and update on Water and Sewer and everything that has been going on.

Peter Gordon came on first and thanked the Board for allowing them to come in tonight and give this update. He said the water system in Plymouth is very complex so he will give a brief update on some key aspects. He said Plymouth pumps water from thirteen wells in eleven different locations. He said they use four booster pump stations and one valve control station to distribute the water. He said they send that water through over 250 miles of watermain pipes to about 15,000 accounts that serve about 43,000 in Plymouth. He said they store about 8.5 million gallons of water in 10 storage tanks primarily for fire protection. He said this represents a tremendous amount of infrastructure and it's a lot to operate and maintain and this presentation will give you an overview of that. He said the Mass Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has regulatory oversight as well as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and they are the governing bodies for water suppliers. They cover things like withdrawal permits and monitoring water quality. He said Plymouth draws water from a sole source aquifer which is the Plymouth / Carver Aquifer. He said this aquifer has several recharge areas also known as basins. He said based on each basin the DEP determines how much water we can pump from the area. He said there are other criteria such as potential growth in town as well as population use per capita. He said permits are renewed every twenty years. He said part of that is doing a risk assessment and have an emergency response plan. He said every year the EPA produces a list of contaminants that might be present in our drinking water, and we are required to participate in sampling which must be reported. He said the possible contaminants this year are PFAS and lithium. He then went over some of the operations such as SCADA Upgrades, Flushing Plans, and Emergency Power Upgrades. He also went of the basic plans for replacing the water main on Doten Road and Winter Street. He said they are also working on rehabilitating the Stafford Street Storage Tank. He said that part of the Water Master Plan is to upgrade the Pump Station as well. He said another large project is upgrading the Manomet Pressure Zone Pipe which will require replacing about 20,000 feet of undersized water mains. He said they also was awarded a grant through EDA and the design is currently underway and construction is set to begin around August of 2022 pending any delays. He said they are always exploring new water sources and are hoping to identify new sources before they are actually needed. He said they are being assisted with that under a contract with Horsley Whitten Group. He said they also have a newly formed Water Conservation Committee which was created in October of 2020 and they have already created awareness, investigation, and implementing conservation efforts. He said the committee hopes to create the "Town of Plymouth Water Conservation Plan" which will be a road map to reducing water production and consumption.

Chairman Quintal said that the next well is scheduled for 2027 and asked and then asked if there is a master plan in place so as we grow with developments like Redbrook, we can continue to open new wells, to which Peter Gordon said developments like Redbrook and Pinehills are responsible for their own water. He said our master plan does have plans for looking for new water sources, but the timeline might vary slightly because of the need to go to Town Meeting for funding to get any new wells up and running.

Chairman Quintal then asked if there was any land in and around the Holtec property that you might be interested in for future well sites, to which Jonathan Beder said we have contracted someone to work on new well site exploration for well over a year and they expect to be updating the Select Board on this in about six to nine months. He said they are focusing on town-owned land close to the water system but are not ruling out private land as well. He said their two main projects are the Darby well restrictions and the Manomet pipe upgrade. He said once the Manomet pipe upgrade is complete they will be looking to analyze West Plymouth in terms of that pressure zone because we are not really sure how the water will move once we finish the Manomet upgrade. He said they also may be working with Holtec on a valve station off of Rocky Hill Road as well. He said their main goal is to secure our water supply for the next ten to twenty years.

Selectman Bletzer said that he learned something new from Sheila Sgarzi about all of our conservation land. He said we have to be careful before designating land as open space conservation land because some of that property might be potential well sites. He said we also have to look at potential cemetery space before designating land as conservation, to which Jonathan Beder said they have been running into that in the past in terms of being a roadblock. He said the Town has done a great job at requiring open space, but a lot of that open space has conservation restrictions which can impede well development. He said they have had several conversations with the people most involved with keeping open space and conservation land letting them know that we really need another water supply. He said they have been excellent in terms of working with us on that and trying to limit the conservation restrictions on certain properties. He said as long as we keep this communication open, they think this will not be a problem when they do identify potential well sites.

Selectman Bletzer said he would like to commend them for being proactive, to which Jonathan Beder thanked him and said the reason for that was the 2016 drought. He said they had to declare an emergency during that drought which really opened everyone's eyes as to the seriousness of the water situation here in Plymouth. He then introduced Doug Pinard to begin the sewer update.

Doug Pinard came on and thanked the Board for having him in tonight. He said he has been the Sewer Manager for about ten months now and will be updating the Board tonight on some of the project that we have been working on. He began by talking about the groundwater discharge and how they are trying to maximize these groundwater beds rather than using the ocean outfall pipe. He said this requires evaluating the environmental impacts before getting the groundwater permits. He said their current permit requires them to discharge 1.75 million gallons per day of treated effluent to the ocean outfall before discharging to the groundwater disposal beds at the Camelot Drive Treatment Plant. He said Kendra Martin and he are currently working on a FOG Program (Fats, Oil, and Grease) as well as sewer regulations. He said a lot of municipalities are having growing problems with grease and oil which negatively impacts the treatment plant. He said they are looking at systems such as Greasezilla to clear and mitigate grease and oils which mainly comes from restaurants and private homeowners as well. He said they also treat approximately 100,000 gallons per day of hauled wastewater from septage trucks. He said they are working with Woodard & Curran on a FOG removal design and control program. He then said the CMOM Plan (Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance Plan) also ties in with FOG. He said they go out and power wash and clean all of their collection systems which is the equipment that carries the wastewater to the treatment plant. He said they also monitor for disrepair at the same time that they are cleaning the system. He said if they find any issues, they can either spot repair or reline the system if needed as preventative measures. He said this helps keep our collection system healthy and safe.

Doug Pinard then said just like the Water Department they use the SCADA System (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System) to monitor their pumps as well as chemicals within the system. He said this is very important for their infrastructure. He then talked about the Greasezilla Treatment System that separates FOG and produces a biofuel offtake. He said it is self sufficient and runs without additives, blending, or fossil fuels and could be a new revenue stream. He said this could increase what they charge for septage and also produce reusable oils which can also be sold as well so he supports this. He then talked about the Water Street Interceptor saying there were issues with that system which they have learned from and are moving on with improvements. He said the system is about 1,300 feet of gravity sewer and they are looking at some options such as micro tunneling and the conventional trenching. He said this project would bring the sewer system up onto Water Street and would abandon the current system along the harbor. He said they have already begun this process and will hopefully finish by fall of this year. He said he is hoping to lean towards the micro tunneling as it is the safest way to go and the most interesting way to go. He said this would consist of a 30-inch main at about 20 feet deep and it will be great to get that whole system up off of the beach on the intercoastal area of the harbor. He said the next project that they will have will be the flood wall around the Water Street Pump Station. He said this pump station was rehabbed and all other pump station in town empty into this station, so this is a very important part of the sewer system. He said this project is currently under design and consists of a flood barrier system that will protect the pump station from any future storm surge events. He then talked about the sewer extension at Camelot Drive. He said this will add about one mile of gravity sewer pipe onto Camelot Industrial Park. He said this will provide sewer service to over 30 properties and also includes eliminating an older sewer pump station on Long Pond Road near Camelot Drive. He said the design is almost completed and bidding is anticipated in next month. He said this will also include a new pump station and is a betterment that will also bring more revenue in for the Town. He then talked about the Plymouth Municipal Airport Treatment Plant and said he believes it is about twenty years old. He said this treatment plant has seen better days and the equipment is worn, outdated, and not efficient. He said the station is not up to current safety standards as well. He said the upgrades are in the design stage and construction is expected to begin in November of this year. He then said he will be happy to answer any questions that the Board might have and if not, he is always available to answer questions at any time with a call.

Selectman Helm said with the state of the Airport Treatment Plant has there been any further discussion about expanding the Town sewer system to include that area, to which Jonathan Beder said yes, they have met and talked about that possibility. He said we already appropriated funding for the Airport system at Town Meeting and since then we have secured ARPA Funding for the full rehab of that facility. He said Kendra Martin has drawn up a design for a sewer extension out to South Meadow Road and for us to get that done we would have to modify their Comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan which they are going to do. He said their goal was to get the treatment plant out to bid and get everything ready and then come back to the Select Board and present these modifications. He said yes, we can get the sewer system out to South Meadow Road, and they have put together some schematic plans.

Kendra Martin came on and said it is a little premature to go into details because we are dealing with a very preliminary schematic right now, but she said with a gravity sewer we won't quite make it to all of the side streets along South Meadow Road. She said this involves a more comprehensive look at the schematic to see if we could mitigate that with any pumping stations. She said this is a much bigger question than simply asking if we can bring the sewer system all the way out to the Airport, to which Jonathan Beder said we do know that we could generate additional revenue to offset operational costs at the Airport.

Jonathan Beder then recapped the projects which included the Airport Treatment Plant, the Water Street Interceptor, The Water Street Pump Station Flood Barrier, and the SCADA System are all ARPA Fund projects and are all moving forward. He said they have learned a lot about the ARPA Funds from the CARES Act and have been working with Town Counsel to make sure we follow the appropriate federal procurement laws. He also said they have already been in front of the CIC with their capital projects and will be presenting to the Finance Committee on February 9th and then in front of the Select Board sometime in February to talk about things like Greasezilla where Woodard and Curran will be fronting all of those costs. He then said there are two projects that he would like to elaborate on. He said the EENF (Expanded Environmental Notification Form) for the groundwater beds is underway. He said they were hoping to have this submitted in September, but it is an extremely cumbersome process so now we are hoping to have it submitted in another month or two. He said this is the first step in modifying our permit and get it adjudicated. He said they would like to be able to utilize the groundwater beds for the full amount permitted. He said the second project is the Camelot Drive Sewer Extension. He said the design is almost complete and they have not applied for any outside funding on this project yet, but once we have the design, the plans, and the bid ready to go he will meet with the New Town Manager and talk about how we will assess that neighborhood. He said we need to be very cautious on how we pursue grant money. He said they are putting together a plan and a presentation and will come before the Select Board once again at a future meeting.

Chairman Quintal asked if the treatment plant that we are doing over at the Airport was because of a lack of maintenance or some sort of oversight, or was that just because of normal aging, to which Jonathan Beder said it is a combination of a few different things. He said one was the original design of the treatment plant. He said we need to take a look at long-term sustainability when designing things like this. He then said yes, lack of maintenance is a recurring theme and some of that attributed to this as well.

Chairman Quintal said there is potential development on the wood lot and asked if the Camelot Main could be built to handle that growth, to which Jonathan Beder said he would look into that. He said what we do not want to do is build a force main that is too big and never gets to full flow which is what happened with the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said everything has to be sized accordingly for future growth but not be oversized.

Chairman Quintal then said he wanted to thank Jonathan Beder and his staff for all of his help they provided with the County Covid Test Kits. He said about twenty-six pallets were delivered to the County and they called out to you and both you and your team were a great help, to which Jonathan Beder said they were happy to help and DPW did a great job.

Selectman Bletzer said he got a call from Matt Hanley from the County, and he was at Camelot and said DPW was there with forklifts and unloaded 400,000 Covid Test Kits. He said that Matt wanted him to thank you and your staff for all of your help with that.

Vice Chairman Cavacco said it was mentioned that the Town also received their Test Kits and asked how we would be distributing those, to which Lee Hartmann said we received 21,150 Test Kits. He said they have talked about this many times and thinks their plan would be to pick an upcoming Saturday and allow residents to pick their test kits up here at the Town Hall or at the Emergency Management Office in Cedarville. He said they would like to limit them to Plymouth residents only and they will probably limit them to six Test Kits per person. He said after that, they will probably make them available at both locations during regular business hours depending on what they have left. He said there is a second shipment due in soon which will be made available to residents as well.

7:40PM – ARTICLE 10

Jonathan Beder came on and said Article 10 is a capital request from the Department of Public Works and is part of the road pavement preservation plan. He said they have been working on this since 2012 and it is a \$5,000,000 capital request and supplements the Chapter 90 funds. He said the Chapter 90 funds are about \$1,400,000 which is not enough to maintain or improve our road network which included accepted streets, unaccepted streets, and sidewalks. He said \$3,500,000 would go towards accepted roads and \$1,500,000 would go towards unaccepted roads. He said if this passes, they anticipate using these funds during the 2022 and 2023 construction season. He said funding this request would allow them to utilize the road program to its fullest extent and begin to invest in our paved roads on a detailed and dedicated schedule. He finished by saying they got full support from the Finance Committee and respectfully ask for the Select Board's support.

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by Betty Cavacco, the Board voted to recommend Article 10 to the April 2, 2022 Spring Town Meeting. *Voted 5/0*

7:43PM – ARTICLE 13

Lee Hartmann came on and said Article 13 is the Town's annual appropriation of funds into the promotional account. He said in 1992 there was a special act that requires the Town to set aside 45% of the hotel / motel tax and put it towards promoting Plymouth as a tourist destination. He said this year we saw a 117% increase compared to last year which is partly due to the pandemic. He said even though, this has still been the most that the fund has received during any other year. He said that \$1,109,928 will go into the promotion fund this year and will be used to support the Visitor Center along with some advertising that Lea Filson does through See Plymouth. He said it can also be used to support many of the different events that go on in the community and helps keep them safe as well. He then went over a list of events that have been helped through this fund such as July 4th Fireworks, Halloween, Bark in the Park, and First Saturday to name a few. He also said that this is a small amount of money that is invested in the community as additional funds come from several other local groups as well.

Lea Filson came on and said that all of the money and time spent on their advertising can be attributed to the increase this year. She said when you look at the actual science around who you want to direct the advertising to, and things like what to advertise and how to advertise, it really does contribute to the growing number of visitors to Plymouth.

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by Patrick Flaherty, the Board voted to recommend Article 13 to the April 2, 2022 Spring Town Meeting. *Voted 5/0*

7:49PM – ARTICLE 17

Lee Hartman came back on and said that our sign bylaw was written over forty years ago and it needs to be updated which they are doing under this Article. He said he has worked with this bylaw for over thirty-four years, and it has always been very confusing. He said that the Building Department also has problems understanding the bylaw as well. He said the Town also had some issues last year with non-commercial political signs and freedom of speech. He said that is when they decided to take a look at this bylaw and attempt cleaning up some of the language.

Lee Hartmann said they worked with the Building Department, the Fore Department, and Town Counsel to revise this bylaw. He said they also worked with Attorney Rich Serkey who has also worked in depth with this bylaw and got his input as well. He said they also asked for comments from Zebra Visuals and Brenner Sign Company as well as the Historic District Commission, so we have had a lot of valuable input into these bylaw changes. He then went over the basic changes and said it was reduced from 12 pages to only 6 pages. He said not only have they addressed some of the free speech issues, but they simplified it as well.

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to recommend Article 17 to the April 2, 2022 Spring Town Meeting. Voted 5/0

7:52PM – ICE SKATING RINK

Vice Chairman Cavacco came on and said she would like to discuss and possibly vote to allow non-profits to set up and sell hot cocoa or snacks. She said our bylaw is pretty clear about what we can allow but said she thinks the Board should talk about allowing these non-profits to set up and fundraise at the Skating Rink.

Lee Hartmann came on and said that staff has discussed this and said if we wanted to select a business or a vendor then we would have to go through the bidding process. He said there are two options, and one is to just let people set up as most outside food vendors do not operate in the winter. He said the other option would be to let any interested non-profits take out Special Event Permits so they could set up and sell their products.

Selectman Bletzer said he is all for a non-profit and local businesses, but he thinks food trucks are not fair to local restaurants who are trying to make a living year-round. He said allowing this at the Skating Rink would also open up the doors for food trucks to set up at other locations during busier times of the year which would not be good.

Vice Chairman Cavacco said the Board has allowed food trucks at Nelson Park as well as other areas of town, to which Selectman Bletzer said yes, through a bidding process. He said even so, he is not crazy about that idea either as it takes business away from our restaurants.

Vice Chairman Cavacco said this would be very specific to the Skating Rink and not other locations in Town. She said this is not about food trucks but rather for some non-profits to have the ability to set up a little stand and try to raise some funds for their cause.

Selectman Helm came on and said he has visited the area and said he agrees it would be valuable for someone to have some sort of concession. He said this will not affect any of the local restaurants or businesses around there as it is fairly isolated right there.

Selectman Flaherty came on and said he is in favor of allowing non-profits setting up and selling products that can raise funds for their cause. He said if people want to do this, he will not want to put up too many barriers because he doesn't see this as an issue that will spread to the waterfront and downtown area.

Lee Hartmann came on again and said if this were to be a special event without a food truck then we could approve that internally like we do other special events where we have all departments approve the application. He said if someone did request the use of a food truck then would have to bring that back before the Board for discussion and a vote for approval. He also said that he strongly feels that this should only be opened up and offered to non-profits, to which the Select Board agreed.

8:09PM – TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

COVID At-Home Test Kits

Lee Hartmann said we currently have 21,000 At-Home Covid Text Kits that we will be distributing to our residents. He said they will pick an upcoming Saturday and let everyone know that date, time, and location that they can pick up their Test Kits.

Conservation Commission Rules and Regulations

Lee Hartmann came on and said they have been working on these new rules and regulations and talking with the community and he has selected the BSC Group as the consultant to perform the peer review. He said they also have an attorney onboard to provide a legal review as well. He said they will report back to the Board as this peer review progresses.

Procurement Office

Lee Hartmann said that the Procurement Office has been doing some amazing amounts of work recently. He said they in 2021 they did 52 bids, 68 contracts, and 4,500 purchase orders which is the highest volume ever produced.

Fire Department Grant

Lee Hartmann said that the Fire Chief was awarded a grant for \$26,128.77 to be used for safety equipment within the Fire Department. He said it focuses on personal protective equipment and turnout gear for firefighters.

8:11PM – PUBLIC COMMENT

Irene Caldwell came on and said she has lived in Plymouth for about sixteen years. She said she has been a lobbyist against nuclear power plants for over seventy years because no one can figure out what to do with the nuclear waste or the spent water supply. She said on January 31st there is a meeting to discuss whether or not we want to allow one million gallons of radioactive water being dumped into our coastal waters. She said she cannot believe that there aren't any signs or banners protesting this. She said it is frightening that our community is silent about this situation. She said she does not understand why people aren't protesting. She said we need a mass public outcry from all communities that will be affected by the dumping of this radioactive water and waste.

Chairman Quintal thanked Irene Caldwell for her comments and assured her that the entire Select Board has had these conversations. He said we can't talk about everything here tonight, but he said this is all a part of their plan and asked her to stay tuned for future announcements and information coming from the Select Board. He said we will need her help as well as the help from residents and other communities.

8:21PM – LICENSES AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by Betty Cavacco, the Board voted to approve a One Day Wine and Malt License for **Spectacle Management** for a Concert being held on February 9, 2022 from 7:00pm to 11:00pm at Memorial Hall. *Voted 5/0*

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Patrick Flaherty, the Board voted to approve a One Day Wine and Malt License for **MAR Promotions** for a Cage Titans Event being held on February 5, 2022 from 5:00pm to 12:00am at memorial Hall. *Voted 5/0*

On a motion by Harry Helm and seconded by Betty Cavacco, the Board voted to approve a Comprehensive Entertainment License (Group 1 – Radio, TV) for **Franciscano’s of Plymouth Inc d/b/a Ocho Café Tacos & Tequila**, 275 Colony Place. *Voted 5/0*

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Patrick Flaherty, the Board voted to approve the Open Meeting Minutes from the January 4, 2022 Select Board Meeting. *Voted 5/0*

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to approve and execute a License Agreement with NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy related to the installation and maintenance of electric and telecommunications transmission equipment that will service town-owned property at 240 Samoset Street (West Plymouth Fire Station) identified as Lots 41A and 42A on Plymouth Assessor’s Map 103. *Voted 5/0*

8:23PM - COMMITTEE LIAISON / DESIGNEE UPDATES

None

8:24PM - OLD BUSINESS / LETTERS / NEW BUSINESS

None

8:25PM - ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to adjourn the Open Session at 8:25pm.

Voted 5/0 By Roll Call: Quintal-Yes, Cavacco-Yes, Flaherty-Yes, Helm-Yes, Bletzer-Yes

Recorded by: Christopher Badot

Administrative Assistant, Board of Selectmen