

PLYMOUTH SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022

GREAT HALL, TOWN HALL, 26 COURT STREET, PLYMOUTH, MA – 6:00 PM
HYBRID PARTICIPATION IN-PERSON OR VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

6:00PM - CALL TO ORDER

Betty Cavacco, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked Select Board Member, Betty Cavacco to read the opening statement.

In accordance with S2475, and pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote means and in-person. 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 the PACtv website at <https://pactv.org>. Members of the public who wish to PARTICIPATE in the meeting may do so in the following manner:

Remote Participation: please go to the Town website under the Select Board page and click on the Zoom Webinar Registration box or simply click on the link below.

https://pactv.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-cge_yk_Q9KtC8f1ydH61g

Present: Betty Cavacco, Chairman
Richard Quintal Jr., Vice Chairman
John Mahoney Jr.
Harry Helm
Charlie Bletzer

Derek Brindisi, Town Manager
Brad Brothers, Assistant Town Manager

FIRE DEPARTMENT BADGE PINNING CEREMONY

- Captain Jeffrey DeLappe promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief
- Firefighter Patrick Larivee promoted to the rank of Lieutenant

Chief Neil Foley introduced the members of the Fire Department. Ms. Kelly McElreath swore in the candidates.

Ms. Cavacco recessed the Regular Session meeting for five minutes.

MUNICIPAL ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION UPDATE – ENERGY OFFICER, PATRICK FARAH

Patrick Farah gave a presentation to the Board. Mr. Farah stated that in October 2020, the Town signed a three-year contract for a standard rate of 9.807 cents per kilowatt-hour. Mr. Farah stated that the Town began the program in 2017, and currently the Town has 21,000 meters on the program, there is a total of 24,100 meters in total in Town. Mr. Farah stated that the six-month Eversource basic rate is 17.8 cents per kilowatt-hour, and will continue to increase in the coming months. Mr. Farah stated that the Town of Plymouth has saved the community over \$38 million since the start of the program. Mr. Quintal stated that he would

like Mr. Farah to come before the Board again to describe potential options to buy the streetlights in the Town, and make them more energy efficient (retrofit).

RECOMMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2024 TOWN BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Brindisi provided the Board with the FY24 Town Budget Presentation. Mr. Brindisi stated that the proposed budget is roughly \$278 million, a \$9 million increase from FY23. Mr. Brindisi stated that the Town has new revenues of roughly \$5.1 million. Lynne Barrett, Finance Director budgeted conservatively at \$3.0 million. Mr. Brindisi describes excess levy capacity, which generally doesn't need to be used unless there are new expenses. Due to new expenses, Mr. Brindisi stated that he recommends that the Town use \$2 million in excess levy capacity. Mr. Brindisi stated that he recommends the Town not use free cash to fund reoccurring budgetary expenses, he noted that free cash is generally used for one-time funds.

Mr. Brindisi recommended that the Town have a level service budget. Mr. Brindisi stated that half of the budget is allocated to employee salaries, 25% of the budget represents COLA, steps and grades, pension obligations and health insurance represents 25%, debt services is 8%, fuel, and utilities 1%, and 16% are other expenses (training, equipment, etc). Mr. Brindisi noted that over three-quarters of the budget is already fixed.

Mr. Brindisi recommends that \$2 million is allocated from excess levy capacity to balance the Town's budget. Mr. Brindisi stated that the Town is currently under a hiring freeze. Mr. Brindisi recommends a reduction in overtime, equipment, etc. Mr. Brindisi stated that the Town is going out to bid for insurances the Town has to acquire. Mr. Brindisi stated that he recommends to hire a full-time HVAC technician, to restore the position instead of contracted services. Mr. Brindisi stated that by cutting costs by outsourcing services, the Town would be able to hiring an Assistant HR Director at a net zero cost.

Mr. Brindisi described the upcoming PEC negotiations, and stated that the PEC existing health insurance contract is expiring at the end of FY24.

The Board described the School budget broadly, in regards to student transportation and special education services. Ms. Cavacco stated that the Town should focus on a capital improvement plan and strategy and an overall services study.

Al Dinardo, Vice Chair, Precinct 17, believes that the State is not investing enough in funding local services, which is creating budgetary constraints in municipalities.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Brindisi gave an update regarding Stephens Field. Mr. Brindisi stated that the DPW is at a 100% design phase. Mr. Brindisi stated that the design plans now include 3 tennis courts instead of 4, a bath house is now included in the design, an old storage facility is being replaced with a more contemporary storage facility. Mr. Brindisi stated that if there is extra funds available, a baseball field, basketball court, and lights and fencing will be considered.

Mr. Brindisi stated that the Zoning Board of Appeals approved a special permit for the Claremont development, with 202 units that are for ages 55+. Mr. Brindisi stated that at the next Board meeting, there will be an administrative note to approve the development agreement with Claremont.

Mr. Brindisi stated that the hybrid town meeting special legislation has been approved. Mr. Brindisi stated that the Town Clerk, Town Moderator, PACTV, OTI, and others, will be meeting to discuss plans for a hybrid Annual Town Meeting in April 2023.

Mr. Brindisi stated that the Seaport Council awarded the Town with a \$1 million grant to rehabilitate the Town's boat ramps. The Town already approved \$600,000 at a previous Town Meeting. Mr. Brindisi anticipates that the project would break ground in early March 2023.

Mr. Brindisi stated that the Town has acquired three electric vehicles, and will be adding four more EV charging stations.

Mr. Brindisi shared some early design plans for the Allerton Street Park rehabilitation project.

Mr. Brindisi stated that on January 2, 2023, Town Clerk's Office is where candidates can pull papers for the upcoming Annual Town Election in May 2023. Mr. Brindisi stated that in this year's census mailing, dog re-licensing information will be including in the mailing.

Mr. Brindisi stated that Fire Department Station 2 construction is occurring on time and on budget, with an expected completion date of December 2023.

LICENSES AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

On a motion by Harry Helm and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to approve the Licenses and Administrative Notes as a group, with the removal of the Plymouth Ascend Inc. License, to be tabled to a future date (see page 5 for updated vote).

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

Licenses

1. Plymouth Ascend Inc. 300 Colony Place Road, Hung Chen, Owner, requested a Common Victualler (New) License.
2. The Parkhurst Group Inc d/b/a Green Shuttle South Shore, 1 Monisa Kay Drive (Jeffrey Parkhurst, Owner) is requesting the following new licenses/permits:
 - Applying for one (1) Vehicle for Hire Business Permit
 - Livery o Applying for one (1) Vehicle
 - Livery (Inspected)
 - Applying for one (1) Vehicle for Hire Operator License, Jeffrey Parkhurst, 1 Monisa Kay Dr.
 - Issuance of the above licenses is subject to submission of all the required paperwork.
3. Habilitation Assistance Corp, 434 Court Street, is requesting the following renewal licenses/permits:
 - Applying for one (1) Vehicle for Hire Business Permit - Taxi/Livery/Bus
 - Applying for five (5) Vehicles - four (4) Livery, one (1) Bus (All Inspected)
 - Applying for five (5) Renewals for Vehicle for Hire Operator Licenses: Alfred Thomas, 4D Stephens Lane, Allen Eddy, 68 Conifer Hill, Stephen Eddy, 17 Tilton Street, Scott Adams, 2 Columbus Road, Harold Gagne, 11 Webster Reach
 - Issuance is subject to CORI background check and driving record.

4. Special Occasion Limousine, 61 Camelot Drive, Diane Dockery, Owner is requesting the following renewal licenses/permits:
 - Applying for one (1) Vehicle for Hire Business Permit – Livery
 - Applying for fifteen (15) Vehicles – Livery (All Inspected)
 - Applying for three (3) Vehicle for Hire Operator Licenses, Bryan Bouzan, 12 Narragansett Drive, John Chase, 82 Ellisville Drive, Patricia Carter, 4C Marc Drive
 - Issuance is subject to CORI background check and driving record.
5. Skoolie Inc., 19 Debbie Ct., Matthew Collard, Ellen Collard, Owners, are requesting the following new licenses/permits:
 - Applying for one (1) Vehicle for Hire Business Permit – livery
 - Applying for one (1) Vehicle – Livery, Converted School Bus (Subject to Inspection)
 - o Applying for one (1) Vehicle for Hire Operator License, Matthew Collard, 19 Debbie Court.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

1. The Board will vote to approve and execute an Assignment and First Amendment to Lease Agreement and terminate the lease with Lynruba, Corp and transfer it to Fragal, Inc. for the use of property located at 132 Warren Avenue.
2. The Board will vote to open the 2023 Special Town Meeting warrant on Tuesday January 3, 2023, at 7:30 a.m. and close on Friday, February 3, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Serkey, Precinct 2, described Ms. Cavacco's comments to Mr. Serkey during a previous Board meeting. Mr. Serkey believed that his filing of Open Meeting Law violations due to a contract with the former Town Manager. Mr. Serkey believed that the settlement paid to the former Town Manager, was a high amount. Mr. Serkey stated that he attended the Open Session portion of a Board meeting, before Executive Session occurred. Mr. Bletzer commented on the professionalism of the proceedings with the former Town Manager. Mr. Helm and Mr. Bletzer noted that Board of Directors normally buy out Executive Directors/Presidents contracts. Mr. Serkey asked why the Board held an Executive Session for a contract negotiation. Mr. Helm stated that contract negotiations can occur in Executive Session. Mr. Mahoney stated that in past practice, the Board does not have to respond during Public Comment at a public meeting. Ms. Cavacco stated that she will not stay silent when someone attacks the Board. Mr. Mahoney stated that if this much of a discussion occurs during public comment, it may make sense to add this as an agenda item, if so inclined. Mr. Quintal asked Ms. Cavacco to move on from the subject at hand.

George McKay stated that the U.S. Postal Service 2020 produced a stamp showing the Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor. Mr. McKay stated that the remaining stamps will be destroyed by December 31, 2023. The U.S. Postal Service produced a total of \$25 million in stamps.

SELECT BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS/LETTERS/OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Helm stated that the MassDEP is in the process of making amendments to Title V regulations. Mr. Helm stated that some of the potential amendments, may require property owners, that are on a septic system, install and upgrade the septic systems to nitrogen reducing systems. Mr. Helm stated that the approximate costs can be as high as \$35,000. Mr.

Helm stated that another option could be for municipalities to hook up owners to wastewater treatment systems. Mr. Helm recommends that the Board consider this as an agenda item at a future meeting in January.

Mr. Quintal is expressed concern regarding recent tagging/graffiti incidents, and would like the Town Manager to make this a priority. Mr. Brindisi stated that Town vehicles parked in Town Hall parking lots were tagged, Mr. Brindisi stated that surveillance cameras are in the process of being upgraded. He noted that arrests have been made recently. Mr. Brindisi stated that a Task Force will be formed with stakeholders.

Mr. Mahoney noted that the Chair of the Water Conservation Committee resigned. Mr. Mahoney noted that the Town should make it a priority to utilize the Committee's recommendations. Mr. Quintal stated that he was concerned by tiered water rates.

On a motion by Harry Helm and seconded by Richard Quintal, the Board voted to approve the license for Plymouth Ascend Inc. 300 Colony Place Road, Hung Chen, Owner, requested a Common Victualler (New) License.

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

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Richard Quintal and seconded by John Mahoney, the Board voted to adjourn the Open Session at 8:35 p.m.

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

Recorded by: Anthony Senesi
Assistant to the Select Board/Town Manager