

PLYMOUTH SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY, JANUARY 02, 2024

IN-PERSON / VIRTUAL HYBRID VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
GREAT HALL, PLYMOUTH TOWN HALL, 26 COURT STREET, PLYMOUTH, MA 6:00 P.M.

6:01PM CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Quintal called the meeting to order and asked Vice Chairman Kevin Canty to read the following:

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, signed into law on March 29, 2023, 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 9** 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:

In-Person: Great Hall located at the 2nd Floor, at Plymouth Town Hall, 26 Court Street, Plymouth MA

Remote: Click the following Zoom link to participate in the meeting remotely:
<https://pactv.zoom.us/j/91695140644?pwd=UGhFZVJmaHVwQmIxa0pVYjRDMlozZz09>

Webinar ID: 916-9514-0644
Passcode: 121500

Present: Richard Quintal Jr., Chairman
Kevin Canty, Vice Chairman
Charlie Bletzer, Selectman
John T. Mahoney, Selectman
Harry Helm, Selectman via Zoom Participant Link

Derek Brindisi, Town Manager
Brad Brothers, Assistant Town Manager
Lynne Barrett, Director of Finance

6:04PM AMERICAN LEGION POST 40 – TELEPHONE POLE FLAGS PROJECT

Ms. Beth Lynch, Director of Operations for the Post, explained the project to the Board. The plan is to hang approximately 100 flags on telephone posts all through downtown, side streets and the waterfront. It is hoped that the flags will be up by Memorial Day and remain through Veterans Day in November. Ms. Lynch confirmed that the materials are of a weatherproof quality so that a proper appearance will be maintained and managed by the Post on an ongoing basis. There are no costs to the Town.

The Board thanked Ms. Lynch for taking on this worthy project and wished her every success with it.

6:08PM LICENSES AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

The Chairman asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board about the licenses and administrative notes listed on the agenda. None were offered.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Canty and seconded by Selectman Mahoney, the Board voted to approve the license applications as a group.

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

The Chairman asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board about the Change in Manager requests and Administrative Notes (3 listed) listed on the agenda. None were offered.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Canty and seconded by Selectman Bletzer, the Board voted to approve the Changes in Manager and Administrative Notes as a group.

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

6:10PM FISCAL YEAR 2025 SELECT BOARD BUDGET

The Chairman invited Derek Brindisi, Town Manager, to the podium to make his presentation. Mr. Brindisi discussed in detail the recommendations and overview of the budget and the details for 2025. Mr. Brindisi suggested that there be no consideration of voting at this time so that the Board would have sufficient time for review. The Board agreed with this suggestion. Mr. Brindisi noted that state aid figures were not currently available and therefore certain assumptions to compensate for this were being built into the budget model. The total General Fund for the Town was reported as \$280,342,437 which represents a 4.5% increase over the prior year. Mr. Brindisi also noted that even with the proposed tax increase, Plymouth's overall rate remains under the State average. Mr. Brindisi noted that most municipalities perform their budgeting work later in the year when the State funding is known and a change in Plymouth's timing schedule should be considered.

Mr. Brindisi emphasized that the proposed budget, while conservative, strives to achieve the Town's stated goals and priorities. It fully funds the School Department's requests while still providing much needed funds for long-term infrastructure investments. Mr. Brindisi, and his team, offered to meet with any Board members to go through the budget in sufficient detail to facilitate a vote on January 9th.

Chairman Quintal, Vice Chairman Canty, Selectman Mahoney, Selectman Bletzer and Selectman Helm asked questions for clarification and Mr. Brindisi provided responses to their satisfaction. Chairman Quintal made a firm commitment to getting the budget inline with Town goals and getting Plymouth on a path for growth for the future. Selectman Bletzer echoed his sentiments and the commitment towards fixing known problems to make this a better town as well as improving staff retention.

Having no further questions, the Chairman invited members of the audience to comment. Mr. Tom Pinto, Precinct 2, speaking on behalf of the Education Association of Plymouth and Carver, expressed the group's concerns about the upcoming budget. Mr. Dale Webber, President of the Collective Bargaining Relief Association, representing his constituency, expressed similar concerns, and was pleased to note that a vote would not be taken tonight so that more discussion could occur. He expressed particular concern regarding a lack of

adequate staffing for essential roles but was pleased with many of the comments expressed by the Board at this session.

Selectman Helm was excused at 7:18 PM.

Vice Chairman Canty responded to the comments offered and noted that the budget is putting more money towards collective bargaining and staffing to the greatest extent possible, and he believes that this budget will lead to a better quality of life for all. Selectman Bletzer confirmed that the School Superintendent's budget is satisfied by this budget proposal.

7:25PM RECESS

The Chairman adjourned the meeting and called for a 5-min recess.

7:31PM SPRING SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE DISCUSSION

The Chairman called the meeting back to order.

The Board had nothing to discuss on the Warrant at this time.

7:32PM PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chairman opened the floor to the public for comments.

Mr. Steve Lydon approached the podium to make comments regarding the lack of standardized signage across the Town. He believes this is something to be standardized and asked for the Select Board to take the matter under advisement.

Mr. Everett Malaguti approached the podium to make comments regarding sources of greenhouse items from alternative vendors/growers. He also made comments about the overall condition of Cherry Street and the flooding which has occurred. He asked that the Select Board look into the situation. The Town Manager agreed to research the matter and respond.

Selectman Bletzer requested that outdoor dining become an agenda item over the next few weeks. Mr. Brindisi agreed to schedule same. The Chairman noted that the Town need to know what position the State is taking on this activity before it makes its own plans.

7:37PM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Chairman Quintal requested that the Town Manager make his report.

The Town Manager had the following topics to bring to the Board's attention:

- Receipts from the Hotel/Motel tax increased by 6.9% over last year. Collections totaled over \$2.8MM.
- Stephens Field is progressing forward. The Pickleball courts have been completed. New construction has been halted temporarily due to the discovery of an AC pipe which needs to be cleared.
- The Bartlett Road Bridge is officially closed for reconstruction until approximately April 1st. All abutters have been notified.

- CPC Update – the Rocky Hill Road parcel Rocky Pond Road parcels have been closed, the agreements for the Memorial Hall roof and Center for the Arts projects have been drafted.
- Station 2 Fire Station renovations are on track and under budget with a planned move-in date for the firefighters during the week of the 16th.
- January 13th election plans are in good order – early voting will begin on January 6th then January 8-10th at Town Hall and then at regular polling locations starting on the 13th.
- The Historic District Commission is holding a meeting on the 3rd to discuss District Expansion which is open to the public.

Responding to a question from Selectman Bletzer, Mr. Brindisi confirmed that electronic signage will be placed throughout Town to publicize the January 13th election details.

7:42PM SELECT BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS/LETTERS/OLD BUSINESS

The Chairman mentioned a letter received by the Select Board from a member of the public and asked the Town Manager to look into the details. Mr. Brindisi agreed to review the details.

7:45PM ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman offered condolences to the Phillips Family on the loss of their child on Christmas Eve and asked for the community's continued support. He also thanked the first line responders for all they do especially at difficult times.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Canty and seconded by Selectman Bletzer, the Board voted to adjourn the Open Session at 7:45pm

Voted 4/0 By Roll Call: Quintal – Yes, Canty – Yes, Bletzer-Yes, Mahoney-Yes

Recorded by:

Ginny Flynn
*Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager & Select Board
 January 9th 2024*