

PLYMOUTH SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023

GREAT HALL, TOWN HALL, 26 COURT STREET, PLYMOUTH, MA – 5:30 PM
HYBRID PARTICIPATION IN-PERSON OR VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

5:30 PM - CALL TO ORDER

Richard Quintal Jr., Vice Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked Select Board Member, Harry Helm 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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pat McCarthy, Precinct 18 Town Meeting member, Plymouth Area League of Women Voters asked if she could speak after the budget discussion. Mr. Quintal obliged.

George McKay, Precinct 8 Chair, and Town Meeting member, expressed concern that the School budget has exceeded increased significantly since FY14 from \$500 per pupil less than the average in the State, to FY19 when Plymouth exceed the average cost per pupil in the State by \$1,250. Mr. McKay believed that the Select Board asked the Town to provide a level-funded budget, and the Town Manager complied with the request. Mr. McKay believes that the School District did not comply. Mr. McKay expressed concern that the current Charter carries the School budget as one single warrant article, rather than allowing debate on the floor about particular items.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE WARRANT ARTICLE REQUEST

Mr. Brindisi stated that the Board received a memo from CPC, and Mr. Brindisi read it into the record.

The Community Preservation Committee met on Monday, January 9th. The CPC took a vote to recommend 16A to the spring special town meeting warrant and move 16B

and 16C to the fall town meeting. The CPC also agreed regarding 16D that if it is a pledge of the Board of Select and if it can be legally placed on the spring annual town meeting warrant, the Community Preservation Committee has no objections. So, that's what's before the board for discussion this evening.

Mr. Helm asked if Town Counsel determined if the CPC can recommend to Town Meeting and not the Select Board. Mr. Brindisi stated that research shows that CPC recommends articles to Town Meetings. Mr. Brindisi stated that there's no relative language to the Select Board in the statute. Mr. Brindisi stated that it is Town Counsel's legal opinion that CPC had taken an affirmative unanimous vote on December 22, 2022. Mr. Mahoney is inclined to have article 16D go to the Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Helm said that this decision to add CPC warrant articles goes against the warrant article submission policy. Mr. Bletzer stated that the CPC wishes to have the articles at Fall Town Meeting, he said that he would like to adhere to the Town's policy.

On a motion by John Mahoney and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to not recommend Article 16D be added to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant
Voted 2/3 By Roll Call: Mahoney-Yes, Cavacco-No, Helm-No, Bletzer-No, Quintal-Yes

AGREEMENT WITH CLAREMONT PLYMOUTH LLC

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by John Mahoney, the Board voted to agree to waive all Town permit and building fees, in regards to the presented agreement with Claremont Plymouth LLC.
Voted 5/0 By Roll Call: Mahoney-Yes, Cavacco-Yes, Helm-Yes, Bletzer-Yes, Quintal-Yes

LICENSES AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to approve the Administrative Notes as a group,
Voted 5/0 By Roll Call: Mahoney-Yes, Cavacco-Yes, Helm-Yes, Bletzer-Yes, Quintal-Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

1. The Board will vote to approve the November 15, 2022, executive session meeting minutes.
2. The Board will vote to reappoint Michelle Arnold to the West Plymouth Steering Committee, for a term effective immediately until June 30, 2025.
3. The Board will vote to recommend the 2023 Annual Town Meeting Article 13; for the acceptance of the appropriation of \$1,246,406 to the FY24 Town Promotions budget, from receipts collected through the 6% Hotel/Motel Tax.
4. The Board will vote to recommend 2023 Annual Town Meeting Article 15; for the Town vote raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow \$400,000, for the purposes of financing the following water pollution abatement facility projects: sewer tie-ins or the repair, replacement and/or upgrade of septic systems, pursuant to agreements between the Board of Health and residential property owners; including without limitation, the payment of all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with approval the Board is authorized to borrow \$400,000 under G.L. c.44 or any other enabling authority, which amount may be borrowed through the Massachusetts Water

Pollution Abatement Trust or otherwise; and that the Board is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project.

5. The Board will vote to approve and execute an Assignment and First Amendment to Lease Agreement and terminate the lease with Lobster Tales, and transfer it to Plymouth Charters & Cruises d/b/a Lobster Tales for use of a ticket booth located on Town Wharf

Licenses

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to approve the Licenses as a group,

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

1. Bertucci's Restaurant LLC, 6 Plaza Way is requesting to change the manager from Richard Mooney to Adam Rameaka.

Mr. Quintal recessed the meeting for five minutes.

JOINT FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET MEETING - ADVISORY & FINANCE COMMITTEE – SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Kim Savery called the School Committee meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. with all members present.

Kevin Canty called the Advisory & Finance Committee to order at 6:12 p.m. with members present: Gail Butler, Louis Cabana, Kevin Canty, Brian Dunn, Bruce Howard, Steven Keith, Joe Lalley, Timothy Lawlor, Christine Richards, Evelyn Strawn, and Robert Zupperoli.

Mr. Brindisi gave an overview of the Town of Plymouth's FY24 budget. Mr. Brindisi described the importance of excess levy capacity within the budget. Mr. Brindisi noted that the Town budget addressed the shortfall by decreasing the Town's budget by \$800,000. Mr. Brindisi noted that the School Committee's budget didn't include the \$800,000 to maintain existing operations. Mr. Brindisi described some of the position lay-offs and overtime cuts that occurred to decrease the Town's budget by \$800,000 to address the shortfall.

Dr. Christopher Campbell, Superintendent of Schools gave an overview of the School Committee's proposed School Budget. Dr. Campbell described that he presented a proposal of decreasing the School's budget by \$800,000 (reflective of the 50/50 split). Dr. Campbell stated that the School Committee voted to support the original FY24 which has an increase of 4.5%. Dr. Campbell noted that 15 positions were reduced through attrition. Dr. Campbell noted that entry-level teaching salaries are significantly lower than in neighboring communities. Dr. Campbell described the cut of school supplies. Dr. Campbell stated that for an additional cut of \$350,000 to reach \$800,000, the Schools would be forced to cut an additional seven certified positions or seven to ten non-certified positions. Dr. Campbell noted increased costs in student transportation, special education, and language programs.

Ms. Savery adjourned the School Committee meeting. Mr. Canty entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian Dunn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bruce Howard, unanimous vote to adjourn the A&F meeting at 7:24 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Quintal said that he is concerned about the American Cruise Lines ships docking in Plymouth Harbor. Mr. Quintal stated that he has experience running passenger boats in Plymouth for 50 years. Mr. Quintal said he has concerns about the total harbor impact and disruptions with fishermen.

Tom O'Reilly said that he is a commercial lobsterman and a commercial fishing representative on the Harbor Committee. Mr. O'Reilly said that he is concerned about how the ship will safely navigate the limited space available. Mr. O'Reilly is concerned about fishermen and lobstermen unloading live products in a reasonable amount of time.

Pat McCarthy, Precinct 18, Town Meeting member, provided a statement for the record:

The education goal of the Plymouth Area League of Women Voters is to advocate for a school system that will effectively educate all students to meet high academic standards and prepare them to become responsible citizens in the 21st Century. This includes advocating for appropriate funding to ensure that our local schools can provide a high-quality, well-rounded education. Services should include small class size technology music and art programs and staff such as classroom aides, nurses, counselors, mental health providers, and librarians to enhance the lives of youth in our community. Education should be fair and equitable for all students. And we've heard tonight a lot about our unfunded and mandatory mandates that we have to provide education, especially for our special needs students, but all students deserve a quality education.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Brindisi stated that the Emergency Management Director, Christian Horvath, held a pre-storm meeting with several departments to prepare for the winter season. Mr. Brindisi noted that one of the deficiencies was to have a trained staff to run an emergency shelter. Mr. Brindisi stated that Mr. Horvath held a sheltering course recently to train interested residents and staff.

Mr. Brindisi provided an update regarding Brewster Garden Stairs Project. The Project was held up due to extenuating issues, and the Town received word that those issues have been resolved. Mr. Brindisi stated that the construction will begin as soon as possible.

Mr. Brindisi stated that the closing date for the sale of 258 South Meadow Road is February 15, 2023.

Mr. Brindisi stated that legislation passed to change Plimoth Plantation Highway to Plimoth-Patuxet Highway has been approved.

Mr. Brindisi stated that the early indication is that the special legislation regarding the Holtec PILOT agreement is moving forward, and is anticipated to be approved.

Mr. Brindisi stated that the ice skating rink will be constructed a Sever Street Park, pending colder weather.

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

Mr. Helm asked what the status was of the updated and accurate red-line version of the Proposed Town Charter. Mr. Brindisi stated that according to Mass General Law, there is a statute that requires a mailed copy of the proposed Town Charter to all households with at least one person registered to vote in the Town of Plymouth. Mr. Brindisi stated that the mailing would include a QR code that takes interested residents to the website to learn more. Mr. Brindisi stated that there will be additional information in the mailing regarding how to register to vote, and when voting occurs.

Mr. Quintal asks Mr. Brindisi to add an agenda item regarding the American Cruise Lines proposed agreement. Mr. Brindisi obliged and stated that Town officials have been to multiple Harbor Committee meetings and that follow-up meetings are occurring to work through these issues. Mr. Brindisi stated that the cruise ships are a similar size to vessels that have been in Plymouth Harbor before. Mr. Bletzer said that the Harbor was dredged to provide the ability to bring in larger vessels.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to adjourn the Open Session at 7:40 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