

*Preliminary Minutes*

**Town of Plymouth, Vermont**

**Select Board - Regular Meeting**

**Monday, February 3, 2025 @ 6:00 PM**

**Municipal Building Meeting Room**

<b><u>Board Members Present:</u></b>	Jay Kullman	Rick Kaminski	Keith Cappellini
<b><u>Staff Members Present:</u></b>	Angela Kissell	Natasha Bochkov	Beth Graves-Lombard
<b><u>Others Present:</u></b>	Frank Vetere Rick Martin Elaine Pauley	Dave Olster Carol Goodwin Henry Shipman	Rich Ruggiano Bruce Pauley Patrick Cody (OVTV)
<b><u>Zoom Attendees:</u></b>	Craig Obriskie Thomas Kohn Margo Marrone Naomi Moyer	Joy Donnolly Mary Jane Cratty Adriana Curutchet	Margaret Tucker Joe Ellis Mike Neville

1. Call to Order:
  - a. Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Jay Kullman.
2. Consideration of Any Changes, Additions, or Removals to Agenda:
  - a. Jay Kullman wanted to add the following items to Agenda
  - b. Update on STR Ordinance
  - c. Southend Road
3. Approve Meeting Minutes:
  - a. **Jay Kullman made a motion to approve the January 13, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Rick Kaminski seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
4. Citizen Comments:
  - a. Carol Goodwin asked about when the next Select Board meeting was going to be held and when Annual Reports were going to be out.
  - b. Jay Kullman said since February 17<sup>th</sup> is a holiday there would not be one schedule. He added that, if there is business pressing, we can schedule a meeting.
  - c. Angela Kissell said the reports should be mailed out soon.

5. National Resources Conservation Service (email from Leslie Wright) – Update on Money Brook:
  - a. Keith Cappellini read an email that the Town Clerk received after making an inquiry. It read: “I met yesterday with the team that will be conducting the preliminary investigation. They are putting together a bid and will have that to us by February 11. After we come to an agreement (NRCS covers 100% of the cost of this investigation), the group will begin. They will kick it off with a stakeholder meeting to make sure they are addressing your concerns. The project manager has lots of experience with these investigations. He indicated that the Money Brook problem seemed to fit the program rules. He was more skeptical about the dam repair. I asked him to look into it anyway just to be sure. Let me know if you have any questions. I’m glad this is finally moving forward and hopeful that we’ll be able to assist.” Les Wright
  - b. Richard Ruggiano added his thoughts pertaining to the email and next steps.
6. Town Building Renovation Update:
  - a. Rick Kaminski gave an update to the work being done on the Municipal Building. Rick broke down the Phases of the project. He added that the Town is going to be the General Contractor for the completion of the final Phase. VMS was the only bidder on the project, but due to a multitude of reasons, it is in the towns best interest to move forward with the project acting as its own GC. Rick said there is a kick-off meeting later this week and they’re ready to charge ahead to get the project completed.
  - b. There was additional conversation about who was being hired to do the work and specifications around the grant requirements.
7. Discussion on Lawsuit(s) Pending Against the Town of Plymouth:
  - a. Jay Kullman opened by mentioning the lawsuit and Rick Martins name as it appeared on the legal documents that the Town received.
  - b. Rick Martin responded by saying that he had nothing to do with the Lawsuit against the Town and that it was an attorney error when documents were being prepared. Rick Martin also added that a scribe error was coming.
  - c. Jay Kullman also added that Pepper Tepperman was a Plaintiff in the Lawsuit against the Town of Plymouth with regard to the decision/town vote to waive education taxes for Bethany Birches, LLC.
  - d. Rick Martin referred to a letter that was addressed to the Listers Office of the Town of Plymouth dated back in 2017.
  - e. Keith Cappellini responded by saying the burden of proof is on Bethany Birches. He also added his interpretation of the statute. He also added that he is not a lawyer and is only sharing his opinion and maybe some of the property could be tax exempt based on the verbiage, but again, just his thoughts.
  - f. Richard Ruggiano also added that it may cost the Town more in legal expenses to deal with this.
  - g. Keith Cappellini added that the Plaintiff is requesting that a Stay be put in order on the decision.
8. Possible Update on Campground Road:
  - a. Rick Kaminski says there is a new owner of a property on Campground Road and she says that the Town cannot turn around in her driveway anymore. Rick also added that the Towns attorney was in Town last week doing a site visit as well as research to see if anything can be done. Also, looking right-of-way.

b. Still working on Town Ordinance that addresses the turn around radius of all new builds.

9. Discussion on Elimination of Lister(s) Position and Assessor Being Added to Ballot:

- a. There was a lengthy, heated discussion about the possible elimination of the elected Lister(s) position and the vote and possible appointment of an assessor.
- b. Natasha Bochkov spoke about her current responsibilities and what an assessor does.
- c. Some members of the audience talked about the benefits of having a three (3) person elected position board versus one (1) appointed position.
- d. Others talked about the benefit of a qualified appointed person versus someone with no experience who can run and be elected without any knowledge.
- e. Henry Shipman strongly expressed his concern about errors with his property assessment and things that had happened in the past that he felt were inappropriate.
- f. Natasha Bochkov stood up and spoke about the current situation in the Lister's Office. She also, spoke directly to Mr. Shipman about his concerns.
- g. It was also said that there is turmoil in Listers Office between the elected/appointed persons.
- h. Keith Cappellini said that ultimately, it will be up to the voters to decide at Town Meeting.
- i. Bruce Pauley added additional comments of how the upside might out weight the downside. The Select Board will have recourse, it might save money and produce results.

10. Update on the Grader:

- a. Jay Kullman did not have anything to add, at this time, on the grader.

11. Review and Sign Certificate of Highway Mileage Form:

- a. **Jay Kullman made a motion to approve the Certificate of Highway Mileage Form. Rick Kaminski seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

12. Other Business:

- a. Jay Kullman added that the tickets for the Short-Term-Rental Ordinance have arrived and we will begin issuing citations for persons who are not in compliance.
- b. Henry Shipman spoke about Bridge 113 and that it is the culvert north of his house. The stream is not currently named according to the state. He is proposing to name it the CCC Creek. He is trying to keep everyone up-to-date.
- c. Carol Goodwin asked why Michael Coleman and Michelle Pingree we not there tonight especially if Mike is in favor of an assessor.
- d. Jay Kullman said Michael may speak about it at the Town Meeting.
- e. Jay Kullman added that state will be coming to do engineering for the Southend Road. Engineering should be started in the Spring.

13. Sign Warrants and Review Mail:

14. Possible Next Select Board Meeting Date:

- a. Nothing scheduled before Town Meeting. If something important comes up we will have a meeting.

15. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

a. None

16. Executive Session:

a. Not applicable

17. Adjourn:

a. **Jay Kullman made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm. Rick Kaminski seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted.

Angela Kissell  
Recording Secretary  
Town Clerk

**Select Board**

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Jay Kullman, Chair

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Rick Kaminski

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Keith Cappellini