

**MINUTES
PLAINVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL CENTER
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 20, 2019 – 7:00pm**

- I. PRESENTATIONS:**
- II. PUBLIC HEARING**
- III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
May 6, 2019 Regular Meeting
- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS – REPORTS**
- V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**
 - 1. Auditor Appointment
 - 2. Appointments and Re-appointments to Boards and Commissions
- VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON (3rd Monday Meetings Only)**
- VII. REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY**
- VIII. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER**
 - 1. FY2020 Budget Update
 - 2. Water Forum Discussion
 - 3. Road Bond Program Update
 - 4. Financial Dashboard
 - 5. Happenings
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- X. OLD BUSINESS**
- XI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Set Mill Rate
2. Tax Refunds - Addendum

XII. OTHER DISCUSSIONS OF INTEREST

XIII. MATTER APPROPRIATE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Pugliese called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Center, One Central Square. Also present were Council Members Wazorko, Morante, Gnazzo, Cox and Carrier, Town Manager Lee and Town Clerk Skultety. Vice Chairwoman Tompkins and Assistant to the Town Manager Colby were absent.

Councilman Carrier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. PRESENTATIONS

II. PUBLIC HEARING

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councilman Cox motioned to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2019 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gnazzo and passed 6-0.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS – REPORTS

Councilwoman Morante attended the Conservation Commission meeting and reported on the Quinnpiac River Clean-Up Project, Family Fest activities and annual hike for Trails Day. The Committee on Aging is busy with activities that included the conference for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and the Volunteer Brunch.

Chairwoman Pugliese commented on the BOE meeting and public comments that were made regarding saving Middle School sports. Discussion regarding the anticipated increase of additional ECS funds in the amount of \$15,700. She stated these funds would not be available until the State Budget is adopted, but proposed to the Town Council that if the Town did receive the funds that \$15,700 would be turned over to the BOE with the request that the funds be used for Middle School sports.

Discussion continued. The consensus was to support giving the funds, if received, to the BOE for Middle School sports but at the same time understanding that it would be the BOE's decision as

to where the funds would be spent. An opinion from the Town Attorney regarding this decision was requested.

V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATION

Finance Director Buden reported an Audit RFQ was sent out and three responses were received. After his review of the proposals and the respective bid estimates, Finance Director Buden is recommending staying with the current auditor BlumShapiro for this year's audit.

1. Auditor Appointment

Councilman Cox motioned to appoint the firm of BlumShapiro to conduct an audit for the Town of Plainville for the 2019 Fiscal Year. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gnazzo and passed 6-0.

VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON (3rd Monday Meetings Only)

Chairwoman Hardy's report included School Business Community Partnership opportunities for students to experience jobs and determine if it may be something they are interested in for the future. Chairwoman Hardy along with Board Member Peterson attended a Teacher Leader Fellowship program to see if it would be something the district would be interested in.

VII. REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

No report

VIII. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Lee presented and discussed the following topics:

- **FY2020 Budget Update**

Last Tuesday the second All-Day vote was held to consider the Education budget. There were 1,235 persons who voted (10.67%). The budget was passed overwhelmingly with 863 voting "yes" (70%) and those voting "no" totaling 369 (30%). Although the budget passed and the advisory question is not a factor, it is interesting to note that the majority felt that the budget was "too low" with a vote of 286 versus 260 who felt it was "too high".

The second budget vote had 60% more participation than the first vote (+467 – 1,325 v. 768). Almost the same amount of participants voted "no" on the Education budgets (384 v. 369) and the "yes" votes on the Education budget increased by 491 (372 v. 863).

Based on last week's vote, the total budget stands at \$61,780,822. This is a 2.9% increase over the current year's budget.

According to the Town Charter, the next step in the process is for the Town Council to set the mill rate (within 30 days of budget vote). Town staff is recommending a mill rate of 34.62 which is 0.78 mills higher than the current rate. It would increase taxes by 2.3%. This recommendation includes the \$100,000 reduction to the Education budget and a \$40K increase in “investment income” based upon the Town’s latest estimates.

The budget still includes a payment for the teacher’s pension as recommended in the Governor’s proposed budget (\$107,640) and does not include the increase in ECS to Plainville as proposed in the Appropriations Committee recommendation. (\$15,706). There are significant doubts that the State Budget will be adopted by the end of the Legislative Session on June 5th.

- **Water Forum Discussion**

On May 14th a Public Information Forum was held at the Middle School to hear a presentation of the “Valley Water Hardness Removal Evaluation” that was done by Tighe & Bond. Representatives from the State Department of Health, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and the Plainville Southington Health District were in attendance. In addition, approximately 35 residents attended the forum.

The study concluded that the most cost effective way to lower the hardness of the water was to put an ion exchange treatment system at both well locations. According to the study, this would lower the hardness from the “very hard” category (> 180 ppm) to the mid-range of the “hard” category (120-180 ppm).

The estimated cost of the treatment system is 3.66M and would increase operating costs by \$99K per year. According to Valley Water, rates would increase by 18% for the users. Residents that currently pay \$30 a month, would see their water bill increase by \$5.40. The increase would be higher for those whose monthly water bills are in excess of \$30 per month.

Valley Water is hesitant about installing this “Ion Exchange System” because they do not believe that the majority of their customers want to pay more for these improvements. Some residents attending the forum disputed the methodology used by Valley Water to survey their customers regarding the willingness to pay for the hardness removal equipment.

Town staff plans to meet with State officials and Valley Water representatives in the near future to discuss the public comments from the Forum and to determine what next steps, if any, would be appropriate.

- **Road Bond Program Update**

The last paving season for the 5-Year Road Bond is expected to be completed by July 1st. This project covered roads that were last repaved in the 1980’s.

Town staff is preparing a recommendation to propose a second 5-Year Road Bond Program for roads repaved in the 1990’s. Further details regarding Phase 2 will be presented in June.

- **Financial Dashboard**

Town Manager Lee reviewed highlights of the Financial Dashboard for April which is available on the website at www.plainvillect.com

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Katherine LaBella, 50 Pierce St comments included her opposition to Alignment C and voiced her concerns regarding recent police activity in the center of town and the lack of residents red alert notification.

John Kisluk, 65 Forestville Ave spoke about the BOE meeting and complimented Chairwoman Pugliese on her comments.

Gayle Black, 4 Cianci Ave commented on the notifications for the Water Forum, the need for a new pump on Woodford Ave and would also like to have Middle School sports reinstated.

David Spencer, 127 Milford St Ext asked the Town Council to consider a resolution condemning tolls similar to other towns and commented on the budget turnout and Middle School sports.

Joel Edman, 63 Hollyberry Ln. comments included his opposition to the trail and the negative impact it would have to wildlife.

Lou Frangos, 10 Fairbanks St comments included Police Overtime and the use of ECS funds.

Joanne Edman, 166 West Main St spoke in opposition to Alignment C and asked to consider Alignment D as an alternate.

Nicole Palmieri, 20 Julie Rd announced Steve LePage has been voted in as the new Superintendent, thanked the voters for coming out and graduation will be held June 18.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Set Mill Rate

Councilman Cox motioned to set the mill rate at 34.62 for Fiscal Year 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wazorko and passed 6-0.

2. Tax Refunds – See Addendum

Councilman Cox motioned to approve the tax refunds as listed on the Addendum. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gnazzo and passed 6-0.

XI. OTHER DISCUSSIONS OF INTEREST

XII. MATTER APPROPRIATE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:00pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Gnazzo and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Carol A. Skultety, Town Clerk
& Clerk of the Town Council

Refunds 5/20/2019

	Current Year	Amount
1 Militar, Daniel, 228 West Main St		\$634.84
Total		\$634.84

	Sewer User Fee	Amount
1 Sunset Rock Apartments LLC, Lakewood, NJ		\$892.80
Total		\$892.80