

**MINUTES
PLAINVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL CENTER
REGULAR MEETING
March 6, 2023 – 7:00p.m.**

I. PRESENTATIONS:

II. PUBLIC HEARING

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

February 21, 2023, Regular Meeting

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS – REPORTS

V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

1. Police Sergeant Promotion
2. Police Officer Appointment
3. Firefighter Appointment
4. Inland Wetlands Resignation
5. 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. CTfastrak (East/West) Trail Alignment
2. 2022 Grand List
3. 2023 Plainville Fire Company Hot Air Balloon Festival
4. Assistance to Firefighters Grant
5. WPCF Drive Assembly
6. GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award
7. Happenings

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

X. OLD BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution regarding CTfastrak (East/West) Trail Alignment
2. Ratification of Assistance to Firefighters Grant Submission
3. Bid #2023-21, WPCF Drive Assembly
4. Tax Refunds - Addendum

XII. OTHER DISCUSSIONS OF INTEREST

1. Town Manager's FY2024 Proposed Budget – Presented by Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools

XIII. MATTER APPROPRIATE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Present were Chairwoman Pugliese, Vice Chairman Underwood, Council members Tompkins, Catanzaro, Morante, Rocco, Wazorko, Town Manager Paulhus, Assistant Town Manager Cirioli, Town Attorney Chomick, and Town Clerk Porrini.

Councilman Wazorko led the Pledge of Allegiance

I. PRESENTATIONS

II. PUBLIC HEARING

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to approve the minutes of February 21, 2023, Regular Meeting: The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS – REPORTS

V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATION

1. Police Department

- a.) Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to appoint Greg Arvai to the position of Police Sergeant effective March 7, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rocco and passed 7-0.
- b.) Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to appoint Anthony Horton to the position of Police Officer March 7, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rocco and passed 7-0.

2. Fire Department

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to appoint Zachary Parker, 79 Brace Ave., Bristol as a probationary firefighter for the Plainville Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

3. Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Councilman Catanzaro motioned to accept with regret the resignation of Sandra Talbot from the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

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

VII. REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

No report was given.

VIII. TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Paulhus presented and discussed the following topics:

- **RAISE GRANT – CT Fastrack (East/West) Trail**

At the last meeting, Rob Alosie from the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) made a presentation on the \$16 million grant for East/West trail alignment connecting the City of New Britain and the Town of Plainville. CRCOG will use the federal funding to construct the final gap in the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (FCHT) in Plainville and to construct a new trail connecting the FCHT through Plainville and New Britain to the CTfastrak trail at the Downtown New Britain station.

CTDOT has requested the Town of Plainville's support for the construction of a multi-use trail along the East-West CTfastrak alignment as identified in the Gap Closure Trail Study; and that the Town of Plainville acknowledges the need for a maintenance agreement between the Town and the State to be developed prior to construction which will establish agreed upon maintenance responsibilities that will be assigned to each of the parties.

There is an item under New Business to approve a resolution for the 2022 RAISE grant to support the East/West trail alignment and maintenance responsibilities.

- **2022 Grand List**

Sarah Carey, Town Assessor has filed the 2022 Grand list and is reporting a 2.19% increase over last year.

The Net Real Estate Grand List increased \$14,868,364 because of improvements to real estate. The Net Motor Vehicle Grand List increased \$17,231,320 because of an increase in the value of new and used motor vehicles. The Net Personal Property Grand List increased by \$3,901,708, for a total among all three categories of \$36,001,392. The year over year net gain in tax revenue is \$1.1 million.

The Top five taxpayers are: DT CT Commons, LLC; Americold; Tilcon; Manafort Brothers; and CL&P.

- **2023 Plainville Fire Company Hot Air Balloon Festival**

The Town and Fire Company have come together to develop a partnership in support of bringing back the Hot Air Balloon Festival for 2023 and for creating a strategy for long term sustainability of the festival.

- **Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)**

A FEMA grant solicitation was made available at the start of 2023 for the Assistance to Firefighter Grant. The AFG program provides funding directly to fire departments for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of the public and first responder personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

I wanted to let you know that I have successfully applied for the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) Program. The application is seeking \$792,173.95 in federal funding with a 5% local match of \$39,619.05 for a total of \$831,793. Funds are being requested for tele-communications equipment (portable radios, mobile radios, repeaters and pagers) for the Plainville Fire Department. To my knowledge, Plainville has never received funding under this grant program. The program is highly competitive, but communications equipment has a higher priority and more likely to be funded versus a request for a fire truck.

The process is very competitive and will take several months. Getting past the electronic scoring is important and then it moves into the peer review cycle. It's here that the application must win its way onto the next steps. Fire service reps from across the United State read, review and score each application.

There is an item under New Business to ratify the approval for submission of the grant application and the town's commitment to provide a 5% local match of \$39,609.19 if awarded.

- **WPCF Drive Assembly**

The drive assembly is the remaining part for the Grit Classifier Unit which is in the process of being rebuilt in-house. The WPCF already purchased a new motor, gear reducer and lower bearing unit. Those three items totaled \$12,803. The purchase of the final part will bring the rebuild cost to \$47,620. This is a

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savings of about \$50,000 by not bringing in a contractor to do the rebuild. This unit was inoperable for several years, but the

Superintendent able to get it up and running but not properly or efficiently. The use of this equipment will add life to the WPCF influent pumps by reducing the amount of scouring the impellers get as well as increase the capacity of the SBR's by removing the material. Another small advantage is a reduction in sludge transported off site, which further enhances operations.

There is an item under New Business to waive the competitive procurement process and award Bid 2023-21: WPCF Drive Assembly to Lakeside Equipment Corporation in the amount of \$34,817.

- **GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has granted a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to Town of Plainville, Connecticut, for its Annual Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2022. The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

In order to receive the budget award, the town had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document; a financial plan; an operations guide; and a communications device.

Congratulations to the Finance Department and Cal Hauburger on this distinguished award. This is the 23rd consecutive year of recognition for the town.

- **Happenings**

Assistant Town Manager Cirioli reported on programs and activities with Town Departments. More information can be found at www.plainville.com.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

X. OLD BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution regarding CTfastrak (East/West) Trail Alignment

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to adopt a resolution entitled, "Approval of 2022 RAISE Grant Award: Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Connection to New Britain CTfastrak Trail." The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

2. Ratification of Assistance to Firefighters Grant Submission

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to ratify the Town Manager's submission of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant to FEMA and approve a 5% local match of 39,609.19, if awarded the grant. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

3. Bid #2023-21, WPCF Drive Assembly

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to waive the competitive procurement process and award Bid #2023-21, WPCF Drive Assembly, to Lakeside Equipment Corporation, Bartlett, IL, in the amount of \$34,817. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

4. Tax Refunds- See Addendum

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to approve the tax refunds as listed on the Addendum. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

XII. OTHER DISCUSSIONS OF INTEREST

1. Town Manager's FY2024 Proposed Budget – Presented by Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools

XIII. MATTER APPROPRIATE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:25 pm Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted by,



Cindy A. Porrini, Town Clerk
& Clerk of the Town Council

1-2023

Resolution

**“Approval of 2022 RAISE Grant Award: Farmington Canal Heritage Trail
Connection to New Britain CTfastrak Trail”**

WHEREAS, The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), in cooperation with the Town of Plainville, the City of New Britain, and Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) completed the Gap Closure Trail Study (the “Study”) that identified preferred routes for Farmington Canal Heritage Trail and CTfastrak Trail (also known as the Beeline Trail), known as “CTtrail Connections”; and

WHEREAS, The Study included a robust public and stakeholder outreach component in conformance with state and federal planning process best practices; and

WHEREAS, CRCOG applied for and was selected to receive \$16,366,554 in federal funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for use towards the design and construction of the identified CTtrail Connections; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the federal funding, CTDOT has committed State funding in the amount of at least \$13,800,000 to represent the entire non-federal share of funding towards the projects; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Plainville and the public will be afforded additional opportunities to review and comment during the design phase of the trail;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Town Council of the Town of Plainville supports construction of a multi-use trail along the East-West CTfastrak alignment as identified in the Gap Closure Trail Study; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Plainville acknowledges the need for a maintenance agreement between the Town and the State to be developed prior to construction which will establish agreed upon maintenance responsibilities that will be assigned to each of the parties.

| Refunds | | 3/6/2023 |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Current Year | | Amount |
| 1 | Figlewski, Leanna, 245 W. Main St | \$20.50 |
| 2 | Berlani, Rose Capen, 34 Hobart St. Apt 431, Southington, CT | \$828.94 |
| Total | | \$849.44 |