

*Preliminary Minutes*

**Town of Plymouth, Vermont**

**Select Board - Regular Meeting**

**Monday, January 13, 2025 @ 6:00 PM**

**Municipal Building Meeting Room**

**Board Members Present:** Jay Kullman Rick Kaminski Keith Cappellini

**Staff Members Present:** Angela Kissell Cherry Nicoll

**Others Present:** Patrick (OVTV) Dave Olster Carol Goodwin  
Elaine Pauley Bruce Pauley

1. Call to Order:
  - a. Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Jay Kullman.
2. Consideration of Any Changes, Additions, or Removals to Agenda:
  - a. None
3. Approve Meeting Minutes:
  - a. **Jay Kullman made a motion to approve the December 16, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Keith Cappellini seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
  - b. **Rick Kaminski made a motion to approve the December 20, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes. Jay Kullman seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
4. Citizen Comments:
  - a. Carol Goodwin asked about the lack of coverage in Plymouth from the Vermont Journal since the person who was covering the Town of Plymouth has left. Carol said she called the Vermont Journal expressing her concern.
  - b. Bruce Pauley shared his thoughts with regard to property and education tax. He feels the schools tell us how much they want us to pay then the Town votes on it. Bruce added that the real issue is people are made to feel guilty or like they do not care about a child's education if they question the cost. He also said that our education system is not working. It's not producing results and schools are middle of the road. Students should have the best education possible, but they're not getting it. We need to take a stand that we are not in favor of it.
  - c. There were additional comments about the teacher-to-student ratio.
  - d. The Select Board talked about the re-appraisal for the Town and how it will probably affect the 2027 property tax bills. Jay Kullman added that we live between two ski resorts. He said that values have doubled and people are leaving the area because of the property taxes.

- e. Rick Kaminski talked about having to opt out of the district, if we want to make a stand, but need approval. He also added that if we want to see changes, we need to make solutions such as re-negotiate teachers contracts or something.
- f. Bruce Pauley added that we have bureaucracy Towns around us that are doing ok. Don't know if any Towns say no.
- g. Jay Kullman commented that there are a couple houses, across the road, that are for sale and will probably become seasonal.
- h. Carol Goodwin asked if Coolidge pays taxes. Jay answered, they make a payment in lieu of taxes.
- i. You have to give up something if you want to live here, Bruce Pauley said.

5. Final Review and Approval of Budget:

- a. Jay Kullman added that they were able to reduce taxes by \$12,000.00. He also added that there was a \$100,000 loss in the general budget due to the flood.
- b. Carol Goodwin asked what Highway Retreatment is? Jay Kullman answered, paving.
- c. There was additional comments pertaining to the General Funds and watching them so they do not roll. We need a new grader as well, but we already have the funds for that. We are hoping that there will be another grant program available, Jay added.
- d. **Jay Kullman made a motion to approve the changes to the budget. Keith Cappellini second the motion. The motion carried.**

6. Approve and Sign Town Meeting Warning:

- a. **Jay Kullman made a motion to approve the Warning. Keith Cappellini seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

7. Discussion on Equalization Study Rate:

- a. There was a discussion on the CLA for the Town of Plymouth which is 48.80%. Jay Kullman said that properties with a value of approximately 150,000 – 200,000 will most likely double and have an estimated fair market value of 400,000.

8. Discussion and Possibly Approve Phase II – Energy Conservation Project Bid:

- a. Rick Kaminski said that bids were over budget and he was making some adjustments. He is trying to help by re-negotiating the terms. He said VMS is overworked and understaffed. He is doing a bunch of leg work on his own to help with regard to heat pumps in the entire building and radiant heat in the garage. He is checking with individual vendors and will need a couple more weeks to get there. Rick also added that there could possibly other grant income.

9. Discussion on Annual Report:

- a. Angela Kissell gave an update on the Annual Report. She said it is 75%-80% complete, but we need a few more reports.

10. Pancake Breakfast – Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am to 10:00 am – Sponsored by BRGNs.

- a. Angela Kissell reminded everyone about the free Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning. There is no cost to the Town as food was donated by Black River Good Neighbor Services, Angela added.

11. Other Business:

- a. Rick Kaminski talked about an issue with a resident on Campground Road. They are new owners and don't want us to turn around near their driveway/house when plowing the road.
- b. Jay Kullman added that there is a conflict with the owner after speaking with them.

12. Sign Warrants and Review Mail:

13. Next Select Board Meeting Date:

- a. Monday, February 3, 2025.

14. Agenda Items for Nex Meeting:

15. Possible Executive Session:

- a. The Select Board went into Executive Session at 7:00 pm to discuss Personnel/Elected Officials.
- b. The Select Board came out of Executive Session at 7:58 pm.

16. Adjourn:

- a. **Rick Kaminski made a motion to adjourn at 7:59 pm. Jay Kullman seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted.

Angela Kissell  
Recording Secretary  
Town Clerk

**Select Board**

---

Jay Kullman, Chair

---

Rick Kaminski

---

Keith Cappellini