

~ PLYMOUTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN ~

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2014

1749 COURTHOUSE, TOWN SQUARE

The Selectmen held a ceremonial meeting on Monday, November 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the 1749 Courthouse in Town Square.

Present: Kenneth A. Tavares, Chairman
Anthony F. Provenzano Jr., Vice Chairman
John T. Mahoney, Jr.
Sean P. Page

Melissa Arrighi, Town Manager
Michael Galla, Assistant Town Manager

Absent: Selectman Mathew J. Muratore

PROCESSION

Members of Cub Scout Den 20 of Pack 47 led the procession of flags into the historic court room, and the Board of Selectmen took their place at the head of the room.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tavares called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the Selectmen's Ceremonial Thanksgiving Meeting.

Jared Cole, a student at Plymouth South High School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Shae Helminiak, a student at Plymouth North High School, sang the *National Anthem*.

OPENING PRAYER

Rabbi Lawrence Silverman offered an opening prayer and provided both a spiritual and historical perspective on the meaning of giving thanks.

PRESENTATION OF OFFICIAL CITATIONS

Congressman William Keating and Senate President Therese Murray (joined by Senator-Elect Vinny deMacedo and Representative Tom Calter) presented official legislative citations honoring Plymouth's significance in the history of Thanksgiving.

THE CONTINUING HISTORY OF THE 1749 COURT HOUSE

Donna Curtin, chair of the 1749 Court House Committee, provided the Board and the audience with a number of interesting historical facts about the 1749 Courthouse.

THE MEANING OF THANKSGIVING

Charlotte Bachman, Emma Kulbok, Bryan Lehmann, Alex Lucibello, Autumn Marinelli, and John DeSouza of Nathaniel Morton Elementary School used the letters of the word “thanks” to offer thoughts on the meaning of Thanksgiving.

TWO VOICES OF THANKSGIVING POETRY

As members of the Class of 2020, Noah Brewster, student at Plymouth Community Intermediate, and Julianne Morse, student at Plymouth South Middle School, impressed the audience with original poetry relating to the Thanksgiving tradition.

REFLECTIONS FROM WILLIAM & ALICE BRADFORD

Richard Pickering and Jessica Guyon of Plimoth Plantation offered a historically accurate portrayal of William and Alice Bradford.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

Richard Pickering, portraying William Bradford, led the lighting of the candle with the famous Bradford quote, “Thus out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by His hand that made all things of nothing, and gives being to all things that are, and as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many, yea in some sort to our whole nation...”

Chairman Tavares rose from his seat and lit a single, white candle. Vice Chairman Provenzano, Selectman Mahoney, and Selectman Page each lit a candle from the flame of Chairman Tavares’s candle.

CLOSING OF THE CEREMONIAL MEETING

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Chairman Tavares offered his sincere appreciation to all those who joined with the Board in reflecting upon the meaning of Thanksgiving and the unique quality of Plymouth’s history that, nearly 400 years later, continues to inspire the nation.

Shae Helminiak of Plymouth North High School closed the ceremonial meeting with a performance of “God Bless America,” and the Board adjourned its Ceremonial Meeting.

Recorded by Tiffany Park, Clerk to the Board of Selectmen

A copy of the November 24, 2014 meeting packet is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen’s Office.