



*Town of Plaistow ♦ Board of Selectmen*  
*145 Main Street ♦ Plaistow ♦ NH ♦ 03865*

**PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:**

**DATE:** January 27, 2014

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 6:37 PM

**SELECTMEN:**

Chairman, Robert Gray  
Selectman, Michelle Curran  
Selectman, Daniel Poliquin

Vice Chairman, John Sherman excused  
Selectman, Joyce Ingerson excused  
Town Manager, Sean Fitzgerald

**AGENDA:**

**MINUTES:**

*Motion by M. Curran to approve the minutes of January 13, 2014 as written.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> D. Poliquin*

*Vote: 3-0-0*

*Motion passes.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chief McArdle states saw an article regarding Comcast. Inquires if public comment is being sought.

R. Gray states yes, public comment is always welcome.

S. Fitzgerald states the town will be negotiating with Comcast and the sooner the comments are received the better and they can be addressed.

P. Bealo speaks adding further public comment. He has experience and knowledge in the field of technology and suggests the alternative NASA channel can be utilized in the area and it is a free service.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT APPOINTEES: CRYSTAL BRADSTREET, SHAWN HERZOG, JON THORGILSSON**

Crystal Bradstreet – became an EMT with the department in 2011, completing her training in 2012 and now is nationally registered. She is married to Firefighter Scott Bradstreet. She works at Rite Aid as a Pharmacy Technician while studying paramedics at Northern Essex.

Shawn Herzog – Following Army service he began attending training sessions in 2012. He enrolled in the NH Fire Academy Fire I class and is currently enrolled in an EMT course. He currently works for North Atlantic Power as the warehouse manager and inside sales.

Jon Thorgilsson began attending training sessions in 2011. His EMT license in Mass was transferred to a national register. Jon currently works for, When Seconds Count in Salem MA, teaching First Aid and CPR courses. He also assists with EMT courses.

They are sworn in by Maryellen Pelletier – Town Clerk.

**TIMBERLANE REG. SCHOOL DISTRICT – DR. EARL METZLER, PETER BEALO**

P. Bealo introduces Dennis Heffernan from the Budget Committee, Mr. Stokinger the Finance Director at SAU, Dr. Metzler the Superintendent, and Rick Blair, school board member.

Dr. Metzler states he is here to share the budget committee process. Meeting the needs of everyone is difficult but a goal worth achieving. Any questions can be addressed tonight or you can contact me.

G. Stokinger states that the operating budget in Article 2, Operating Budget does not include the SAU budget. That is a separate Warrant Article. The Proposed Budget figure does not include the SAU cost, which is Article 3 (SAU Budget).

Dr. Metzler states that the removal of the SAU budget created a surplus. The SAU budget has increased due to Health Coverage costs. The SAU budget may go back to the overall budget.

G. Stokinger states the operating budget as you see it on the warrant without the SAU would increase the Plaistow Tax Rate estimated at \$0.25 cents and the SAU warrant article would increase it by approximately \$0.41 cents. Article 6 is a smaller warrant article, an article for the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Para Educators, which are support staff for the teachers budget increases the budget approximately \$.09 cents. A total increase of and estimated \$.75 cents. If all of them were to pass.

Dr. Metzler continues that Article 7 (Authorization for Special Meeting on Cost Items), the passage of that article would be special meeting. If Warrant Article 6 (One Year Collective Bargaining Agreement TSSU) was defeated and people were encouraged not to vote for Warrant Article 7, that gives us the right to have a special meeting, there would be a lot of costs associated with that special meeting for attorney fees and court costs. The two articles should not be tied together.

R. Gray states that he is happy that the schools have gone back to testing and college day.

P. Bealo states that in the past they would have to send their students to other schools to experience College Day. This year over 125 colleges participated. Virtually no cost to host this event.

Dr. Metzler states that he is very impressed with the staff and students at Timberlane. Tripod study K-12, were able to give feedback on the progress going forward and with action plans.

R. Gray questions the capital reserve fund deposit wording on Article 4 (Capital Reserve Fund). Feels the wording is confusing, “Shall the Timberlane Regional School District raise and appropriate up to \$350,000.00 to be placed in the School Building Construction, Reconstruction Capital Improvement and Lane Purchase Capital Reserve Fund established in 1996, with such amount to be transferred from the June 30, 2014 undesignated fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1 of this year? Does that mean you are taking the money from the surplus fund that is existing and depositing it in a different fund on July 1<sup>st</sup>. It doesn’t seem clear to me.

G. Stokinger states that it has been passed by DRA and their attorney, the June 30<sup>th</sup> surplus and move whatever has been approved by the voters and move it to the capital reserve fund.

M. Curran inquires if \$350,000.00 was approved at town meeting this year, then you would take that money from the surplus, would you be asking for it the following year?

R. Gray states that the Article 4 language is confusing for the average person. Recommends adding a graph that states the amount to be raised, the amount coming from the surplus and the amount to be raised by taxes.

M. Curran inquires if this is a one year expenditure. Does it concern you to have that kind of surplus? It is a large amount of money to anticipate.

Dr. Metzler responds that the budget of approximately \$60,000,000.00 and 18 months out, the district is accustomed to an approximately \$2,000,000.00 surplus consistently every year. If we were to come here without the surplus the tax rate would be hit hard the following year.

M. Curran states that as a tax payer it concerns her that there is as large a surplus and the tax rate increased. Having a cushion is understandable but you should be looking at cuts rather than building the account.

Discussion occurs regarding language of articles.

R. Gray recommends that a chart be added to Article 5 as well. The power point can be added to the website for residents who have questions.

### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY – JIM PECK**

President of the Historical Society Bob Carolan introduces Jim Peck, Treasurer and Roy Jeffrey, Vice President.

J. Peck thanks S. Fitzgerald and the Board of Selectmen for the support and the forum to present awards. Thanking the Board for its continued support of the Historical Society especially now in the Town's 265 years of history. This past year some we have been looking at the histories of several homes in town. There are over 120 houses built before 1900 and are still in Plaistow today. About 25 homes in town are over 200 years old built in the 1700's. The oldest house in town was built approximately 1740, the Hurd house on Sweet Hill. Preservation of these great houses and buildings is important and these awards are to recognize the persons responsible for this preservation, for the first time being these awards are being presented. For 2013 we have two recipients, first is Jeff Oligny and Jackie who have done an outstanding job. His home was built in the mid to late 1700's by the Bradley Family. He has preserved the wide floor boards, the hand hewn beams and the door hardware. The barn is across Chandler Ave. and the breezeway as shown in the photo, is no longer there. His plaque reflects the photo of his home.

J. Oligny state his deed reflects 1730 which would be 283 years old. He thanks J. Peck for the research and support.

J. Peck states the second recipient is John and Christine Gifford. This classic New England Farmhouse located at 148 Main Street. This house was built approximately 1940-1850, built by Josiah Bly for his daughter Isabella before she married James Newell George a railroad executive. He named the Westville Depot. The town's people have responded tremendously that they have and are restoring this house.

Photos are taken of the recipients with their plaques and the Board of Selectmen.

J. Peck states that the status of the Historical Society is focusing on Membership, Activities, Town Resources, Facilities, and a possible future move.

- Membership, 42 members, (including 5 lifetime members) you can become a lifetime member for \$200.00 compared to \$10.00 for a single membership and \$16.00 for a family membership. 23 paid dues of \$280.00 in 2013. Average of 4 to 8 attendees at the monthly business meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday from March – December). Only 2-4 members active on a weekly basis. We need to increase active membership. Anyone interested please contact us.
- Activities include the Toddler Trick or Treat, Town Elder Project, History of the Baptist Church, Old House Histories, Isaac Merrill Diary 1828-1879, Digitation of all old Town Reports with UNH. Preservation Awards, Facebook page.
- Historical Society: A Town Resource, History of the Plaistow Police Department, History of the Plaistow Fire Department, Planning Department – proper history, Library, Genealogy for current & former townspeople.
- BOS/BUDCOM resource, for example the Cemetery Fence.
- Facebook, Great information on Plaistow's History, Frequently updated, Community News, Moderated, [www.facebook.com/PlasitowHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/PlasitowHistoricalSociety)
- Reviews images of historical significance on the power point presentation of a painting, Custeau's Super Market, School House #1, Hi Brow Beverages, Town Hall Corner Stone, Main Street Circa 1910, Old Meeting House Circa 1910.

Tom Cullen featured WWII Veterans and now Citizen of Ireland.

- Facilities, Museum Building @ 127 Main St., Lease from Town, approximately 4,500 sq.ft., Very good support by Town and David Bowles, Issues-HVAC, roof leaking, parking, no internet.
- Move to Library?, Critical preservation by knowledgeable archivist and librarians, Temperature controlled storage, Increased exposure to Town history & museum artifacts and documents to townspeople young and old., Consolidate historical items now in Library with items in Town Hall and in PHS. Library has room for expansion. Support from Town Officials & many others. Ad hoc Committee to study feasibility., Funding?

Plaistow Historical Society Contact Information, address: 127 Main St., Plaistow, NH  
Open: Thursday 10 am – 12 pm, Phone: 603-382-1675, Email: [info@plaistowhistorical.org](mailto:info@plaistowhistorical.org)  
Website: [www.plaistowhistorical.org](http://www.plaistowhistorical.org).

### **READING ASSIGNMENT OF THE 2014 WARRANT ARTICLES**

Article P-14-01 – TO ELECT ALL NECESSARY TOWN OFFICERS FOR ENSUING YEAR

Article P-14-02 – OPERATING BUDGET – K. Savage

Article P-14-24 – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT (Police Union) – R. Gray

Article P-14-09 - ESTABLISHMENT OF A RECREATION PLAN CAPITAL RESERVE FUND  
AND ASSOCIATED DEPOSIT – D. Poliquin

Article P-14-23 – REPLACEMENT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMAND VEHICLE – J. Sherman

Article P-14-07 – REPLACEMENT OF POLICE DEPARTMENT AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED’S) – J. Ingerson

Article P-14-10 REPLACEMENT OF FIRE DEPARTMENT CARDIAC MONITOR AND AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) – J. Ingerson

Article P-14-04 REPLACE POLICE DEPARTMENT MOBILE RADIOS – J. Sherman

Article P-14-19 TOWN FOREST – ADDITIONAL PARCELS & CONSERVATION EASEMENT – J. Ingerson

Article P-14-03 HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND DEPOSIT – M. Curran

Article P-14-05 HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND DEPOSIT – M. Curran

Article P-14-06 COMMUNICATIONS RADIO DISPATCHING SYSTEM CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT AND ASSOCIATED DEPOSIT – D. Poliquin

Article P-14-08 FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND DEPOSIT – M. Curran

Article P-14-11 CELL TOWER MAINTENANCE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND DEPOSIT – J. Sherman

Article P-14-12 BUILDING SYSTEMS CAPITAL RESERVE FUND DEPOSIT – R. Gray

Article P -14-13 ENGINEERING ACTIVITIES FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM FIRE PUMPS AND PUMP HOUSE – D. Poliquin

ArticleP-14-14 FIRE SUPPRESSION PUMP AND PUMP HOUSE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND DEPOSIT – D. Poliquin

Article P-14-15 REPLACEMENT OF THE WATER DEPARTMENT TRUCK – J. Sherman

Article P-14-16 REPLACE FENCE AND SIGN AT THE TOWN CEMETERY – R. Gray

Article P-14-17 TRANSMITTER EQUIPMENT FOR THE CABLE DEPARTMENT – J. Ingerson

Article P-14-18 CONSERVATION FUND DEPOSIT – J. Ingerson

Article P-14-22 TOWN CLERK AND TAX COLLECTOR WARRANT ARTICLE – R. Gray

Article P-14-21 DISPOSING OF TAX DEEDED PROPERTY – J. Sherman

Article P-14-20 REDUCTION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS – J. Sherman

## **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Deferred

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

M. Curran states the electric bills have gone up significantly and she has had many people asking what is going on.

S. Fitzgerald states that we can have someone from Unitil come in.

M. Curran states a letter can be sent if Unitil has no action regarding our concerns seriously.

R. Gray states that he would like a representative to address the rate hikes.

R. Gray continues stating that he has received several letters and phone calls regarding the methadone clinic. A letter will be going out to the Mayor of Haverhill and it states; "Dear Mayor Fiorentini, Please accept our appreciation for your leadership and opposition to the proposed methadone clinic. The Town of Plaistow is opposed to the location of a methadone treatment center. We understand all too well the challenges of substance abuse, however, we encourage Spectrum to consider the possible adverse effects on the both of our communities.

In numerous letters, residents of Plaistow have presented concerns related to the potential impact that such a clinic could have on the neighborhood, State Line Plaza business, as well as both law enforcement and emergency medical services resources of both communities.

- Spectrum Health Systems is not required to follow the municipal zoning regulation or apply for special permit because it claims to be an "educational corporation". (Paul Holtzman, legal counsel for Spectrum, has stated it was formed "exclusively for education and charitable purposes"). However, it is clear that in this instance, their primary function will be to serve as a methadone dispensary. Although there may be some educational aspects to their services, it is not their primary purpose.
- From 2005 – 2010 Methadone held the distinction of leading the most overdose deaths in the State of New Hampshire.
- A significant amount of prescription narcotics always ends up on the street, notably at parties & in student's lockers. Many believe that this is how methadone became the number 1 killer drug in New Hampshire for 5 years. Additionally, it may have tragic and unintended consequences in our community due to its unpredictable and dangerous nature.
- Though methadone isn't the leading cause of drug deaths in Vermont – the painkiller oxycodone, often sold under the brand name OxyContin, holds that distinction – nearly three quarters of the 80 drug-related deaths last year involved the class of drug to which both oxycodone and methadone belong.
- In New Hampshire and Maine, methadone has become the leading cause of drug-related deaths, overtaking cocaine and heroin.
- We are simply at a pint in time where in New England and the Eastern Seaboard, methadone is the drug with 'street cred' right now, whereas methamphetamine leads the pack elsewhere, said Dr. Thomas Andrew, New Hampshire's medical examiner.
- Heroin addicts are methadone clinics customers – Many addicts inevitable commit crimes to score their next fix. Sitting this facility right next to a busy commercial plaza, with relatively quick access to Interstate 495, will inevitably bring collateral impacts to existing businesses. One source of black market methadone is people who are handed the narcotic at the clinic and then attempt to sell or swap it.

Liquid methadone used to help addicts abate withdrawal symptoms as they quit heroin or other opiates is making its way, illegally, into street sales via take home doses.

- Dropping a methadone clinic on the state line will undoubtedly impact public safety in southern New Hampshire, while denying town residents and local officials of the due process typically encountered with land use impacts.
- Methadone is cheaper than other prescribed painkillers and is easily diverted to the black market.

As far as Plaistow's due process involvement, we have asked our Town's Counsel, Attorney Sumner Kalman, to evaluate the merits of Massachusetts's Dover Amendment and to explore the legal grounds that would grant this "educational" exemption from municipal review.

As communities, both the Town of Plaistow and City of Haverhill have been denied the normal due process of a site plan review and the time honored municipal reviews that help assess municipal and neighborhood impacts of developments.

While we all believe in the importance of rehabilitation services for those who have fallen into the cycle of substance abuse and addition, this particular location is simply not well suited for this specific treatment center.

We stand ready to support you and the City of Haverhill to preserve the rights of due process for not only the residents and businesses in this neighborhood, but for all of the citizens in our region, who could ultimately be negatively impacted by this facility.

D. Poliquin inquires regarding the certificates of insurance for the snowplowers. Questions whether it covers liability or worker's compensation insurance?

S. Fitzgerald will review the certificates.

R. Gray states that anyone working for the town should have worker's compensation insurance. Anyone hiring a sub-contractor should carry something.

### **SIGNATURE FOLDER**

R. Gray notes the Signature Folder and Manifest are going around.

### **SELECTMENS REPORTS**

D. Poliquin states that there will be some upcoming trips to view Police Departments in other areas.

R. Gray requests the Deliberative Session be posted under a meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Saturday morning. The YMCA is having its Grand Opening on Wednesday at 4 pm.

S. Fitzgerald states he recommends to move to issue the 2014 warrant to the Tax Collector to process the 2014 Water Assessments as outlined in the Town Manager report dated January 27, 2014.

Motion by M. Curran to issue the 2014 warrant to the Tax Collector to process the 2014 Water Assessments

2<sup>nd</sup> D. Poliquin

Vote 3-0-0

Motion passes.

R. Gray states the next agenda should include the Welfare Guidelines as a public hearing, also add an item to review the deliberative session, taking place here on Saturday at 10 am.

Public meeting adjourned 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Kerry Lee Noel