



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: May 10, 2021

Meeting Called to Order: 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Selectman, Greg Taillon, Chair

Selectman, John A. Blinn, Sr., Vice Chair

Selectman, Jay DeRoche

Selectman, Bill Coye

Selectman, Darrell Britton

Mark A. Pearson, Town Manager – Remotely

Greg Colby, Finance Director/Asst. Town Manager - Remotely

G. Taillon reads Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-004 allowing municipal boards to hold remote meetings during the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis.

Minutes

D. Britton motions to approve the April 26, 2021 minutes. Seconded by J. DeRoche.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Public Comment

None

Recognition of Past Serving Selectmen

J. Blinn states S. Ranlett has spent over thirty-five (35) years in service to the Town. Some of this included being a Police Officer, a Selectman, and a member of the Planning Board. He thanks S. Ranlett for all his service.

S. Ranlett states he thinks it is very important to give back to your community. In addition to the organizations mentioned above he has also donated time to the Historical Society and the Old Home Day Committee. He thanks the Board for the appreciation.

G. Taillon recognizes Julian Kiszka for his six (6) years of service to the Town as a Selectman. He had near perfect attendance. J. Kiszka served as a liaison for almost all our boards and committees. He had good advice and good points of view. People like J. Kiszka make town government work. He thanks J. Kiszka for serving the Town.

J. Kiszka thanks everyone for the appreciation. He knows he overextended himself at times. There is a lot to be done and people are needed to help. Converting the streetlights to LED is one of the projects he is proud of. LED lights were also put in Town Hall and the Library. It is good for the environment too. J. Kiszka states he is retired from the military in two branches, the Navy and Army.

Arbor Day Poem Contest Winners

G. Taillon is proud to announce this year's winners. They are Emma Bonfiglio, Cody Therrien, and Hannah Ahern. Each student reads their poem aloud. The Board thanks them for their hard work and applauds.

Introduction of New Budget Committee Members

G. Taillon introduces Katie Knutsen and Richard Anthony. Both are sworn in and complete the paperwork. The Board thanks them for stepping up to serve on the Budget Committee.

Timber Tax

J. Senter, Chair of the Conservation Commission state they are planning a maintenance cut of timber in the Town Forest. In normal circumstances a landowner pays the town 10% of gross proceeds from the sale of timber as a timber tax. In this case the town is the landowner. It has been recommended that the Board waive the tax. If this happened the loggers will bid and pay for the timber at full price. Otherwise, they hold back 10% to cover the tax. There is consensus amongst the Board to waive the timber tax for the Town Forest maintenance cut.

Donation Acceptance – Utility Trailer for the Fire Department

Fire Chief Knutsen states success is partially built on relationships with others. One of the relationships he has built is with the Southeastern New Hampshire Hazardous Materials Mutual Aid District (SENHHMMAD). The organization will donate a 2000 Haul Mark 26' enclosed utility trailer with an approximate value of \$2,500.00 to the Plaistow Fire Department. The trailer is free if the Board accepts. The Board of Directors from SENHHMMAD has already approved the donation. It is now up to Plaistow to accept it.

J. DeRoche motions to accept the donation of a 2000 Haul Mark 26' utility trailer with an approximate value of \$2500.00. Seconded by D. Britton.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Discuss the Sale of 13 Rose Avenue with St. Jean's Auctioneer's

M. Pearson states the Town has used St. Jean's in the past. They do all the marketing and advertising and take care of the deposit. It makes is easy for the Town.

Jim St. Jean states St. Jeans Auctioneers has been in business for thirty-nine (39) years and has handled 30,000 auctions. The auction of 13 Rose Ave can be done on a Thursday or Friday afternoon on site. Since this is a tax-deeded property a buyer cannot get title insurance. A quiet title will be obtained, and it can take months. Therefore, the buyer is usually a cash buyer who can close in 30-45 days. The property will be sold as is. The property looks structurally sound and appears to be a good starter home.

D. Britton asks if there are any liens on the property.

J. St. Jean replies, not that he knows of however, town counsel Attorney Kalman should be consulted to confirm it.

J. DeRoche asks if M. Pearson or G. Colby have any advice on a starting point for price.

M. Pearson states since it will need to be a quite title, he recommends \$250,000.00 as a minimum price.

J. St. Jean states if the Board is all set with \$250,000.00, we will move forward and schedule the auction date for June 18, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

J. DeRoche asks if the Board members should attend.

J. St. Jean replies, M. Pearson will need to come. It is optional for the Board members.

M. Pearson states, auctions have always gone well with St. Jeans.

M. Pearson and J. St. Jean will work out the details.

Introduction of Another New Budget Committee Member

G. Taillon introduces Philip Spitalere as a new Budget Committee member and swears him in. The Board thanks P. Spitalere for becoming a budget committee member.

Discuss Memorial Day

Memorial Day will be celebrated on Monday, May 31 with a parade from Pollard School to the Elm St. Cemetery. Following the cemetery, a program will be held on the Town Green at Plaistow Town Hall. Due to the tight budget G. Taillon asks the Board if there is consensus to forgo the flowers this year. The Board agrees. G. Taillon is happy to be a speaker if the Board agrees. They do.

Discussion on Historical Society Building

G. Taillon states a discussion on the costs of running the Historical Society Building is a good idea. He also notes the previous lease is no longer valid. According to RSA 41:11-a, a lease can only be approved for up to five (5) years. A new lease will need to be agreed to. That will be addressed at a later date. A few years ago, the heating system in the Historical Society building failed. The Town replaced the heating system using money from the contingency fund. Over the last three (3) years the average cost to keep the building open and running is \$6300.00 per year.

G. Taillon states we are paying a lot of money to keep the building open.

J. DeRoche states they must take in money from donations and memberships as revenue.

G. Taillon agrees. They do collect dues and generally receive money from the Old Home Day vendors.

D. Britton states the money from Old home Day pays to keep up the artifacts.

G. Taillon states the Historical Society wants the Town to maintain the building.

D. Britton states a long time ago the Historical Society had a new roof put on the building and they paid for it themselves.

G. Taillon states they pay Bob Hobbs to scan old Town Reports. The Town has a document scanner and could do the work for a lower cost.

G. Taillon states it seems we could help save the Town money or help the Historical Society.

J. DeRoche states if you read the last page of the by-laws all the possessions in the building will go back to the Town if the Historical Society is dissolved.

Emergency Management Director

G. Colby states we do not have an Emergency Management Director right now. He recommends the Board appoint Dennise Horrocks as the Interim Emergency Management Director. She was the Deputy Emergency Management Director for eight (8) years and has all the qualifications to do the job.

G. Taillon asks what the pros and cons are of appointing a temporary interim director or just leaving the position vacant and working with the Deputy should an emergency arise.

G. Colby states in an emergency coverage is better with two people not one. The current Deputy is Fire Chief Chris Knutsen. According to NH law the Emergency Management Director is appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Deputy is appointed by the Director.

G. Colby also states in this case it is easier to appoint an Interim Emergency Director rather than have the current Deputy step down, appoint an interim and have the interim select a Deputy. During an emergency both the Director and Deputy work together.

D. Britton asks if the appointment will be temporary.

G. Colby replies, yes.

D. Britton thinks it makes more sense to have the Fire Chief become the Director and have him choose a Deputy.

J. Blinn agrees and states the Fire Chief is better equipped to fill in. The Deputy should be the next in line.

B. Coye agrees with D. Britton and J. Blinn.

G. Taillon recommends we see if D. Horrocks gets three (3) signatures and go from there.

Town Manager's Presentation of Completed Goals

M. Pearson has prepared a power point presentation for the Board. He begins with listed short-term goals. The completed list includes:

- Pollard Road Culvert
- Public Works Salt Shed
- Town Hall LED Lighting
- LED Street Lighting
- Annual Budget for 2021 to the Board
- Palmer Property Roadway
- Elm Street Cemetery Layout in Conjunction with the Cemetery Sexton
- Town Manager Reports on the Website
- Mt. Misery Trail Network

The following are non-listed project work items that are in progress:

- 2020 Vision Contract Dispute
- Trash and Recycling Contract
- Plaistow Police Collective Bargaining Agreement Negotiations
- Regional Waterline Meetings
- Wentworth Avenue Reconstruction

The following are non-listed project work items that are completed:

- Public Works Garage Audio & Visual Improvements
- Public Works Garage Parking Improvements & Generator
- Town Hall Annex
- Solar Panels for the Salt Shed (note a few contract issues are still being worked on)
- Moving the Town Hall Server to the Public Safety Complex
- Landfill Cover/Cap Project

The following are listed long term goals:

- Potable Water Continuation – work continues
- RFP Review in Timely Fashion
- Staffing Plan including Organizational Chart and Optimum Positions

The following are non-listed long-term goals:

- Contract Operations for Potable Water – work continues
- Part-time Water Clerk – the position will be proposed in conjunction of “going live” with potable water in the spring of 2022.
- Spring of 2022 Potable Water Start-Up – work continues
- South and North Loops
- Water Connection Incentive Program - Bond

Town Managers Report

- Land Purchase – Conservation Commission
- Water Project
- Regional Waterline Partners Regional Waterline Project Meeting
- East Road Turn Around
- Highway Safety Committee Meeting
- Town Hall Computer Server
- Salt Shed Solar Panels Contract
- Salt Shed Doors
- Norm Major Dedication
- T-Mobile Cellular Contract Agreement
- Budget Committee Meeting
- Landfill Cap/Cover Pre-Construction Meeting
- St. Jeans Auctioneers

D. Britton motions to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (A) Public Employee; (B) Hiring; (C) Reputation; (D) Property Transactions; (E) Pending or Threatened Litigation; (I) Emergency Functions; (J) Confidential Information in Adjudicative Proceedings; (L) Consideration of Legal Advice. Seconded by G. Taillon.

Board Polled: G. Taillon = yes, J. Blinn = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes, D. Britton = yes. Motion carries 5-0-0.

G. Taillon adjourns the public meeting at 8:01 p.m.

The public meeting reconvened at 8:57 p.m.

B. Coye motions to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Seconded by D. Britton.

Board Polled: G. Taillon = yes, J. Blinn = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes, D. Britton = yes.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

As there is no further business G. Taillon adjourns the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hossack

Recording Secretary