



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: May 17, 2021

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

Roll Call:

Selectman, Greg Taillon, Chair
Selectman, Jay DeRoche
Selectman, Darrell Britton

Selectman, John A. Blinn, Sr., Vice Chair
Selectman, Bill Coye
Mark A. Pearson, 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

J. DeRoche motions to approve the May 6, 2021 minutes. Seconded by B. Coye.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

J. DeRoche motions to approve the May 10, 2021 minutes. Seconded by B. Coye

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Public Comment

G. Taillon asks if anyone has a public comment other than for the public hearings.
There is none.

Public Hearing - Trash and Recycling

G. Taillon opens the public hearing at 6:34 p.m.

Mr. Peter Bracci, 2 Balsam Way understood this to be a public hearing to hear the Boards ideas for trash and recycling collection. He asks if he is wrong.

G. Taillon replies, the public hearing is more like a formal public comment. Residents have the opportunity to speak and present their ideas. The Board will listen and deliberate later in the meeting.

Mr. Bracci states has some questions for the Board to think about.

How many town owned dumpsters are there going to be, where will they be located and what size will they be?

Will any discounts be given to seniors, military, or any other groups of people?

What is the cost of containers and how will they be paid for?

Will recycling be put in carts or will residents use their own containers?

How will bulk items be picked up? Will there be a weight limit?

What is the specific cost of recycling on a bi-weekly basis?

Where will complaints be directed?

A policy should be created for white goods.

Can Plaistow residents use another town's transfer station?

Will the contract be put on the Town's website?

What is the policy for putting out trash during a snowstorm?

How will apartments and condos be apportioned? Will it be the same as individual houses? Is recycling mandatory?

G. Taillon thanks P. Bracci for his questions.

P. Bracci states trash and recycling is a hefty portion of the budget.

Isabel Gautreau, 185 Main St. is the Chair of the TRAC Committee. She states the committee is trying to have some representatives from Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) and Waste Zero come to speak to help with ideas on recycling and reducing waste.

G. Taillon thanks her and states he will work with her and the TRAC committee to try to get speakers in for a Board meeting with TRAC. Another option is to have them meet remotely.

J. DeRoche states TRAC has been meeting remotely however they can meet in Town Hall with invited guests and have the meeting televised. It is another option.

G. Taillon thanks her for her comments.

G. Taillon closes the public hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Discussion – Creating an RFP for Trash & Recycling

G. Taillon states we will start discussion and deliberation for the RFP. At 7:30 p.m. the discussion will be interrupted to hold the next two (2) public hearings. Following that deliberations will continue if needed.

G. Taillon asks J. DeRoche to begin.

J. DeRoche states the TRAC committee presented their recommendations to the Board a few weeks ago. He provides a quick review. Curbside, Town wide trash & recycle automated pickup should be provided by one vendor. Carts should be used for both trash and recycling. The carts should be purchased not leased. The vendor will bill the Town directly. Trash will be picked up weekly and recycling bi-weekly. They recommend 96-gallon carts for recycling and sending out a mailer for the choice of a 64- or 96-gallon cart for trash. An additional cart for trash will be available for purchase at a price to be determined. That is the basis for the RFP.

J. DeRoche states his own opinion is in line with TRAC however he would like pricing for leasing carts due to current budget constraints. He states we need a plan for bulk pickup since it will not be done weekly with an automated system. Perhaps an event once, twice or three times a year will work. He thinks white goods should be scheduled and paid for by the residents like it is done now. Also, he would like the trash vendor to provide options to access a transfer station. He thinks trash carts should be the same size for everyone.

Discussion continues with different ideas on barrel size. Should all barrels be 96 gallons or should a choice of 64 or 96 be given for both trash and recycling. Some information will be clearer when proposals from the RFP are received. We need to find out if the covers for 64- and 96-gallon barrels are interchangeable. We also need to know how many barrels a vendor will pick up.

G. Taillon would like to go through the questions asked by Mr. Bracci. Some policies will need to be created.

Does anyone know the number of Town owned dumpsters?

J. DeRoche thinks there are eleven (11) or thirteen (13) based on the last contract.

P. Bracci asked about possible discounts for seniors or military.

J. Blinn states we already have tax credits for seniors and Veterans.

The next question what is the cost of containers and how will it be billed.

We do not know the cost yet. It will be billed through property taxes. White goods will be a pay as you throw. Bulk items will probably be built into the contract.

Will carts be owned by the Town or by the residents.

The Town will own the carts.

Will the trash vendor only pickup Town owned carts?

G. Taillon asks J. DeRoche to have the TRAC committee investigate a method of disposing of or recycling barrels that are currently owned by residents.

Mr. Bracci wants to know the cost of recycling.

We do not know yet.

Who will handle complaints?

Beth will and she will need a contact person with the vendor.

Will there be an option to use a neighboring community's transfer station?

An agreement would have to be made.

B. Coye states some places allow an out-of-town vehicle to use a transfer station. You would drive in and have your vehicle weighted, dump the load, weight the car again and pay for the weight of the dumped items.

Will the contract be put on the website?

Yes, it will.

A snow procedure will need to be developed. Trash collection might be cancelled on snow days.

Richard Anthony, 4 Village Way recommends carts be purchase soon as pricing will most likely increase.

D. Britton asks when the drop-dead date is to send out the RFP.

M. Pearson replies, the sooner the better. Vendors need time to get equipment ready. If the RFP goes out in June, results will come in July, the Board will choose a vendor in August and the chosen vendor will be notified in September. Also, the pricing of carts and availability is not known as he has not checked into it lately.

G. Taillon asks if M. Pearson needs any other information from the Board to draft an RFP.

M. Pearson he needs to know if the board wants to lease or buy additional carts and the size of them. Also, if a mailer is to be done or not. If we allow residents to choose cart sizes, he does not think a mailer is necessary. He does like the option of allowing residents to purchase a second barrel if they want.

We need to know if the vendor will pick up a 96 plus a 64-gallon trash barrel and recycling from one house if needed. The way to do that is to ask for a specific number of barrels in the contract. We may want to ask for 3200, 3300 or 3400 barrels.

G. Taillon states he must interrupt the discussion to open the next public hearing.

Public Hearing – Sell Property

G. Taillon opens the public hearing at 7:34 p.m.
The property being considered to sell is 13 Rose Avenue.
No one in the room or on Zoom has any questions.
G. Taillon closes the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

Public Hearing – Buy Property

G. Taillon opens the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.
The Conservation Commission would like to purchase a 4.32-acre piece of property abutting the Town Forest from Mr. Aaron Jackson. Both the Conservation Commission and Mr. Jackson have agreed to it.
No one in the room or on Zoom has any questions.
G. Taillon closes the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

Discussion returns to trash & recycling.

J. DeRoche recommends we reuse the prior RFP to obtain more carts and get the process started.
M. Pearson asks the Board how many carts and what size.

Laura Cafiso, 52 Kingston Road calls in. She asks if there is a choice of having two (2) trash barrels and no recycle barrel.

G. Taillon replies, the plan is for all households to get two (2) barrels. We can work out some of the small details later.

G. Taillon states we need to know the max number of trashes cart the vendor will pick up.

Kathleen Cravino, 68 Forest Street calls in. She would like smaller cart options for seniors. She thinks there should be a choice and she hopes the Board takes that into consideration. The Board agrees.

More discussion occurs regarding the size of barrels. The general opinion is we need both sizes.

G. Taillon states the final thing we need to decide is the mailers. He thinks it will delay the process to long.

D. Britton suggests getting an equal number of 64-gallon carts to go with the 96-gallon ones already ordered. If residents want a second cart, they will pay for it.

G. Taillon recommends making a final decision on May 24.

Bob Kincaid 76 Old County Road calls in. He states another option is to consider a 32-gallon cart. In Atkinson only 1 ½ % of the residents wanted a second cart. The town came up with requirements to get a second barrel.

J. DeRoche recommends deciding tonight and not waiting until next week.

G. Taillon states the conclusion is to purchase 64-gallon carts and covers.

Approval of an Aquatic Resources Mitigation Fee

M. Pearson states we thought the wetlands permit for the East Road Pump House was approved until today. In today's mail New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services sent a letter stating, "your project will be reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for possible approval under

Army Corps New Hampshire State Programmatic General Permit – SPGP.” No work should be done until we receive the approval notice from the Army Corps of Engineers. We should hear from them in thirty (30) days.

M. Pearson states this is a bit unusual. Generally, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services approval is enough. He is still asking the Board to approve the \$20,662.20 fee payable to the NH Department of Environmental Services Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund. It is a pass through. We will pay the fee from the water fund. We will be reimbursed from the State and the reimbursement will go back into the water fund.

B. Coye motions to direct the Town Manager, Mark A. Pearson to pay a fee in the amount of \$20,622.20 to NH Department of Environmental Service Aquatic Resource mitigation (ARM) Fund. The fee is to secure the permit to construct a drinking water pump house on East Road as part of the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project. The funding will come from the Water Fund, account # 12-4911-14-00. The fee is reimbursable from the State of New Hampshire Trust Fund. Seconded by D. Britton.

Discussion: D. Britton asks, what is plan B if we do not hear from the Army Corps of Engineers in thirty (30) days and if we send the \$20,622.20 at what point do, we get it back?

M. Pearson replies, he cannot speak to either question specifically. The pump house is needed for the water project and he cannot imagine that New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services would not allow it to pass.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries

M. Pearson asks the Board if he should sign the “Notice of Awards” to Lewis Builders D/B/A Hampstead Area Water Company (HAWC) or hold off. Hampstead Area Water Company and Lewis Builders were very disappointed to hear the news.

G. Taillon asks if there is a financial impact if we hold off.

M. Pearson replies the funding has already been approved by the State. There should be no impact on signing the agreement or holding off. He can meet with Town Counsel and add a clause to the agreement if the Board would like. However, Plaistow is not the holder of the money the State is.

M. Pearson states there is no harm, no issue to hold off.

G. Taillon recommends tabling it until May 24. All Board members agree.

Approval of Prior Non-public Session Minutes

D. Britton motions to approve and keep sealed the non-public session minutes of April 12, 2021, session #1. Seconded by B. Coye.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

J. DeRoche motions to approve and unseal the non-public session minutes of April 12, 2021, session #2. Seconded by D. Britton.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

J. DeRoche motions to approve and keep sealed the non-public session minutes of April 26, 2021. Seconded by D. Britton.

Vote: 5-0-0
Motion carries.

G. Taillon motions to approve and keep sealed the non-public session minutes of May 6, 2021, session #1. Seconded by J. DeRoche.

Vote: 5-0-0
Motion carries.

G. Taillon motions to approve and keep sealed the non-public session minutes of May 6, 2021, session #2. Seconded by B. Coye.

Vote: 5-0-0
Motion carries.

G. Taillon motions to approve and keep sealed the non-public session minutes of May 10, 2021. Seconded by B. Coye.

Vote: 5-0-0
Motion carries.

G. Taillon thanks the Board for their involvement in working on the trash and recycling issues. He thanks J. DeRoche for working with the TRAC committee and all of their hard work.

M. Pearson states he met with Dennise Horrocks, Health Officer today. Her recommendation is not to change the current Covid-19 protocols. She has emailed the Board information from the CDC and the State of NH. The State of NH is not necessarily in agreement with the latest CDC guidelines. Any Board member may contact her with questions.

M. Pearson states there is a copy of a letter from the law firm representing Visions. This is for the Board's knowledge only. He is working with Town Counsel and a work session with the Board will be held before any decisions are made.

Jennifer Gusler, Recreation Director received a Field Use Form from Haley Bush, Chair of the Old Home Day Committee. They would like to use P.A.R.C. on August 28, 2021 for an Old Home Day Event. The field is available that day.

M. Pearson states at the next meeting on May 24 there will be a public hearing on Discretionary Preservation (Barn) Easement. There is paperwork in the folders that should be read so the Board will be prepared for the public hearing.

J. DeRoche would like our Health Officer to be invited to the next meeting to discuss Covid protocols. He supports her.

B. Coye recommends deciding tonight on the use of the recreation field for Old Home Day.

J. Deroche asks if the Board is the one to make the decision.

M. Pearson wants the Board to be aware of it and asks if there is consensus to allow the field usage. The Board agrees.

J. DeRoche states the organizer of the Road Race for Old Home Day wants to know if there is approval to do this.

M. Pearson states the Board should make the decision. He does not want to make a unilateral decision for the Board. There is consensus to move forward with the Road Race.

D. Britton states at the last meeting there was a discussion about appointing an Interim Emergency Management Director, however no action was taken.

D. Britton motions to appoint Fire Chief Knutsen as acting Emergency Management Director in the absence of the Police Chief. Seconded by J. Blinn.

Vote: 4-1-0 (no = G. Taillon)

Motion carries.

J. DeRoche motions to remove G. Taillon as Chair due to a vote of no confidence. Seconded by D. Britton. J. DeRoche states two (2) recent events have made him question his confidence in the Chair. When an employee was placed on leave, he found out by reading it in the newspaper rather than from the Chair. He also found out from the newspaper that the Post Cane Award was given to a resident. The Board should have been notified by the Chair. These events are very disconcerting.

G. Taillon replies the Post Cane Award is done by the Historical Society not the Board. He just handed the cane to the resident. He told J. Blinn about the event. He also states to serve as Chair he will comply with State Law. We are not above State Law, shame on you.

J. DeRoche states news articles are not the way the Board should be notified. It could have been handled through an email using the Bcc (blind copy) feature.

G. Taillon states information on the server is public information and subject to the Right-to-Know Law.

J. DeRoche states an email is following the law. You can notify the Board using Bcc, we all went to the training. What should be avoided is "reply all". It is important for the Board to know these things.

D. Britton states, G. Taillon could have asked B. Hossack to schedule a meeting. He heard the news at a hardware store.

G. Taillon states the Board was advised by counsel as to what to do. What if they did know ahead of time, what could be done? He is very disappointed.

Vote: 4-1-0 (no= G. Taillon)

Motion carries.

G. Taillon adjourns the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hossack

Recording Secretary