



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

**Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes**

**Date:** June 7, 2021

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

**Roll Call:**

Select Chair, Darrell Britton

Select Vice Chair, John A. Blinn, Sr.

Selectman, Greg Taillon

Selectman, Jay DeRoche

Selectman, Bill Coye

Mark A. Pearson, Town Manager – Phone/Remote

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

Also present: Bob Hobbs, President, Historical Society, Jim Peck, Treasurer, Historical Society and Beth Hossack, Recording Secretary.

D. Britton 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**

***B. Coye motions to approve the June 1, 2021, minutes. Seconded by J. DeRoche.***

***Vote: 5-0-0***

***Motion carries.***

***B. Coye motions to approve the June 3, 2021, minutes. Seconded by J. Blinn.***

***Vote: 4-0-1 (abstain G. Taillon)***

***Motion carries***

**Public Comment**

None

**Audit Discussion**

G. Colby, Asst. Town Manager/Finance Director states the 2020 audit is complete. The report was recently received, and everything looks good. For the year ending December 31, 2020, Plaistow has received an unmodified opinion which is the highest level of opinion an entity can receive. We have a healthy fund balance. Total revenues and other funding sources exceeded estimates by over \$250,000. and total expenditures were less than anticipated including all voted warrant articles. The fund balance as of December 31, 2020, is \$2,675,809. Pages 21-46 show the basic financial information. It is a good read. The purpose of the Governance Letter is to provide communication from the audit firm to the Board in even more detail. It summarizes the auditor's interactions with the Town staff responsible for the audit. A management Letter is only received if issues are found

that should be addressed. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020, no management letter was necessary.

**Conservation Commission – Timber Cut at Town Forest**

Deferred to a future meeting.

**Select Alternate BOS Representative to the Highway Safety Advisory Committee**

D. Britton state G. Taillon is the primary representative. He asks if anyone is interested in being the alternate.

J. DeRoche volunteers to be the alternate.

D. Britton states he was speaking with M. Pearson today about waste management.

JRM is willing to extend their contract beyond December 31, 2021. If the Board choses this it will allow more time to research carts and finalize an RFP.

G. Taillon states, he does not think the Board should hold off. The Board should move forward with it.

J. DeRoche agrees. He also states Bob Kinkaid found a grant we could apply for. If the grant were received it would help pay for carts. It might be as much as \$50,000.

Rob Taylor from Recycling Partnership also did some research and determined there should be more of a demand for recycling material in the future.

J. DeRoche states we should look for other grants that may help with the purchase of trash carts.

Stratham is one of the towns receiving a grant. Information and recycling tips are part of the grant.

G. Taillon states at the last meeting the Board decided to allow the recycling vendor to keep any proceeds from recycling material. Since the demand for recycling may increase, he asks the Board if they want to change that section of the Request for Proposal (RFP).

J. DeRoche believes it should be left as is. There is consensus to leave it as it.

D. Britton tells M. Pearson to move forward with ordering the carts and sending out the RFP.

M. Pearson asks which company the Board wants to go with for carts. There is consensus to go with Cascade. The first lease payment will be due in October. There will be enough money to cover the three months of lease payments for 2021.

M. Pearson refers to RSA 33:7-e Lease Agreements of Equipment. There is an appropriations clause in the contract for carts therefore the Board can legally enter into a multi-year contract with Cascade.

D. Britton asks M. Pearson to talk about the email regarding Water Mains.

M. Pearson states he has been working with Underwood Engineers to have plans ready for water main extensions which may be eligible for a grant. There is funding from the Federal Government for “shove ready” projects. If Plaistow were to get funding both the North and South loops could be added to the water system. The north loop would be from Kingston Road to Old County Road to Route 125. The southern loop would connect Westville Road to Main Street and down to Chandler Ave. Submitting the application is not an obligation to do the project. It is required to get on the priority listing for possible funding. Underwood will submit the application for us. The water main extensions would attract more customers, increase the quality of water, and bring the system to the next level.

D. Britton asks M. Pearson to provide an update on the Pump House.

M. Pearson states The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found long-eared bats in the area. Now they want more information including a wildlife study. They want to know how many trees will come down and exactly which trees. There was a similar problem when the Public Safety Complex was being built. This is the cause of another delay that we did not need. Hopefully, construction will be approved after mating season.

### **Historical Society Discussion**

Jim Peck, Oak Ridge Road, Treasurer and Historian for the Historical Society is present along with Bob Hobbs, Haverhill, MA, Historical Society President. They are here to provide some history regarding the Historical Society.

Recently the Historical Society awarded the Boston Post Cane to resident Alan Stone. His nickname is Stoney. Stoney is 95-years old and will turn 96 in August. He was excited to receive the cane. His family was thrilled and sent a Thank you note to the Historical Society.

J. Peck states the Historical Society used to come to a Board meeting about every two (2) years to talk about the status of the group. This has not happened in recent years. He suggests scheduling something for a future meeting. The board agrees.

J. Blinn asks when the Historical Society Museum is open for visitors.

J. Peck replies they are open to the public on Thursday's from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. They would like to be open more often however they do not have many people who are available to assist.

J. Peak discusses the lease. The Historical Society was formed in 1975 and it is a separate entity from the Town. In 1983 the new fire department building was complete and in 1986 the Historical Society Museum moved into the old fire department building. A twenty-five-year lease which was approved by Town Counsel and signed by the Town Administrator at the time. From 2012 – 2013 no lease was in place. In 2014 Town Manager, Sean Fitzgerald signed a 10-year lease which was again approved by Town Counsel as far as he knows. Recently it has become clear that a 10-year lease is not legal, and a new lease needs to be written.

Everyone agrees that a new lease is necessary.

D. Britton asks M. Pearson to work with the Historical Society and Town Counsel to write a new lease for \$1.00 per year like it has been in the past.

The last point the Historical Society wants to make tonight regards the Board of Selectmen Representative for the Historical Society. They do not think G. Taillon has the best interest of the Historical Society in mind.

J. Peck gives a petition to D. Britton signed by many residents regarding the current representative.

G. Taillon volunteers to step down as the representative.

J. DeRoche volunteers to be the representative.

J. Peck is disappointed that the Board discussed Historical Society finances at a prior meeting without inviting the Historical Society.

D. Britton asks M. Pearson to review the Notice of Intent to Construct a Solid Waste Management Facility letter in the folders.

M. Pearson states this is just for the Board's knowledge. The letter is stating we are allowed to move forward with the repair of the landfill cap/cover. He signed the first disbursement request for construction to begin.

**Town Managers Report**

- Application to State Revolving Fund (SRF)
- Water main Extensions – SRF Pre-Application
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding
- Salt Shed Solar Panel Contracts Signed
- Landfill Cap/Cover Construction Notice of Intent
- Town Forrest Logging Applications with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES)
- Budget Committee Meeting, May 25, 2021
- Waterline Construction – East Road
- Unitil Gas Line Construction
- Southern New Hampshire Regional Waterline Partners Monthly Meeting
- Water and Electricity Connections to the Elm St. Cemetery
- CART(S) Lease/Purchase
- Trash and Recycling Contract
- Trash and Recycling Power Point on the Town Website
- JRM Letter
- Visions Assessing
- Meeting with Attorney Kalman

**Approve Prior Non-Public Session Minutes**

*G. Taillon motions to approve and keep sealed the non-public session minutes of May 24, 2021.*

*Seconded by B. Coye.*

*Vote: 5-0-0*

*Motion carries.*

*G. Taillon motions to approve and keep sealed the non-public session minutes of June 1, 2021.*

*Seconded by B. Coye.*

*Vote: 5-0-0*

*Motion carries*

D. Britton asks M. Pearson if there is anything else to discuss tonight.

M. Pearson replies, no.

D. Britton adjourns the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack

Recording Secretary