



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: August 16, 2021

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

Roll Call:

Select Chair, Darrell Britton
Selectman, Greg Taillon
Selectman, Bill Coye

Select Vice Chair, John A. Blinn, Sr.
Selectman, Jay DeRoche
Interim Town Manager, Greg Colby

Also present: Dee Voss, Special Projects Coordinator and Beth Hossack, Recording Secretary.

Minutes

G. Taillon motions to approve the August 2, 2021, minutes. Seconded by J. DeRoche. There was no discussion on the motion.

Vote: 4-0-1 (J. Blinn abstain)

Motion carries.

Public Comment

None

Trash & Recycling Contract Discussion

Dee Voss states five (5) vendors attended the preproposal meeting. The number one question was, can the contract start date be extended to January 1, 2023? There are advantages and disadvantages either way. D. Voss recommends leaving the start date for January 1, 2022. A five-year contract is a good contract and if vendors want the contract they will respond.

D. Britton agrees. He would like to get the issue resolved.

D. Britton asks if the contract for carts is finalized.

D. Voss replies, we are just one email away. A commitment letter has been signed. The wording of the non-appropriation clause is being finalized.

G. Taillon states, this is great news.

J. DeRoche is happy that five (5) vendors attended the meeting. He agrees with keeping the original start date as there is no point in kicking the can down the road any longer.

B. Coye agrees.

G. Taillon motions to keep the contract start date as January 1, 2022. Seconded by J. DeRoche. There was no discussion on the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

D. Voss asks the Board if they want to change the recycling clause or keep it as is. The clause as written states the contractor shall retain all proceeds generated by the collection, processing, and marketing of recyclable materials. There is consensus to keep it as is.

D. Britton thanks D. Voss for the information.

Old Home Day Update

Haley Bush, 1 Hale Spring Road, Old Home Day Committee Chair and Keith Zibolis, 8 Elm Street are present.

A discussion is held regarding the cancellation of Old Home Day 2021. It is unfortunate and several issues led to the cancellation. The hope is to make Old Home Day 2022 a full event.

B. Coye asks if the fireworks can be held in order to salvage something.

D. Britton recommends Haley check with the school's requirements for insurance coverage. It may be possible to get a one-day policy to hold the fireworks.

J. DeRoche thanks Haley and the committee for all their work. They raised \$7500.00 which is impressive.

J. DeRoche reads an email from Jim Peck, Treasurer Historical Society. They will lose the vendor fees they rely on to fund their operations for the second year in a row. This will have a significant impact on them. Vendors who have paid the fee for 2021 will have three (3) options.

1. They may receive a full refund.
2. They may elect to carryover the fees to the 2022 Old Home Day.
3. They may donate the fees to the Historical Society.

If anyone has any questions email Jim Peck at historical@yahoo.com.

D. Britton thanks Haley and Keith.

New Assessing Values

G. Colby states the process is going along well with the assessors. The Board must decide how to handle hearings. Generally, letters are sent to all homeowners whose property values change by more than 5%. Hearings can be held in person, via phone or through the abatement process. The assessors will do whatever method the Board would like.

J. DeRoche thinks all three (3) options should be available and a remote option like Zoom or Go-to Meeting should be another option. If we want to limit people in Town Hall perhaps one of the rooms at the library with its own outside door could be used.

There is consensus amongst the Board for our Assessors to hold hearings.

G. Colby will work with Marybeth Walker.

Ryan Labrecque 174 Main Street called into the meeting. In his opinion if values go up the tax rate should go down. The tax due should remain the same if the budget does not increase.

D. Britton thanks him for his call.

Discussion – Reinstating Elected Town Auditors

Peter Bracci 2 Balsam Way is in attendance to discuss the position of elected auditors. Cities and towns in New Hampshire are required to have either an elected auditor(s) or a certified auditing

firm. Plaistow used to have both. The elected auditor position was removed from the ballot in March 2021. P. Bracci would like the Board to consider reinstating elected auditor(s). A discussion occurs regarding elected auditors vs. an appointed auditor. The advantage of an appointed auditor is to select someone with auditing experience. There is consensus amongst the Board that there is no downside to having another set of eyes on things.

D. Britton states the Board will consider it. He thanks P. Bracci for his comments.

Comcast Franchise Agreement Extension

G. Colby states back in February our cable TV agreement was about to expire. The Board voted to extend the contract through July 31, 2021. As of today, not enough progress has been made. Plaistow is still working with Attorney Kate Miller on a new agreement. K. Miller is recommending the Board extend the current contract through the end of the year.

D. Britton asks if we will be charged any retro-fees.

G. Colby replies, no.

J. DeRoche knows we get franchise fees however if the Town tries to get something else to help the residents, such as a discount for seniors or veterans Comcast will agree but raise the fees for other residents. There is not much we can do.

G. Taillon asks G. Colby if our hands are tied. It seems there is not much room for negotiation.

G. Colby agrees.

J. DeRoche asks if there is a downside of not renewing the contract.

G. Colby does not know. He can ask our consultant.

G. Taillon motions to extend the current Cable Television Franchise Agreement granted to Comcast of Maine/New Hampshire, Inc. on January 31, 2016, upon the same terms and conditions contained therein, for a period from 12:01 A.M. on August 1, 2021, until midnight on, December 31, 2021, or until such time as the Franchise is renewed for longer term, whichever occurs sooner. Seconded by J. DeRoche.

There was no discussion on the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

13 Rose Avenue

G. Colby states the successful bidder from the June auction backed out of the deal. The deposit of \$10,000.00 will not be refunded since that was part of the selling conditions. St. Jeans Auctioneers reached out to the second highest bidder. That person is no longer interested in the property. St. Jean's is willing to do another auction on September 16th or 17th if the Board wants. There is consensus amongst the Board to sell 13 Rose Avenue through another auction.

Town Managers Report

- The T-Mobile Rental Agreement on the Water Tower is complete.
- Has been attending a lot of water project meetings and working on the project.
- A Department Head Meeting was held last week. A good round table discussion was held, and department budgets were passed out. They are due back in early September.
- The Town Manager's Budget will be presented to the Board in September.
- Main Street will be closed for two (2) days for the railroad track repairs.
- Westville Road has been prepped for paving.

- The third-floor condenser was replaced.
- The July expenditures have been given to the Board and the Budget Committee.

Selectmen's Reports

B. Coye

- Attended the Recreation Commission Meeting. Events for seniors are being planned. The Summer Recreation Program ended last week. There will be a drive-in movie with the library on 8/20. So far this year the Recreation Department has made \$67,000.00 in revenue. The Time Bandits will be the band at this week's concert.

J. DeRoche

- Attended the Recreation Commission Meeting.
- Attended the TRAC Meeting. They had planned on having an educational table at Old Home Day. They will look into other events to provide information to residents. TRAC will have Waste Zero give them a presentation in September.

D. Britton asks if the summer concerts work better at PARC or Town Hall.

B. Coye replies there are pros and cons to each location. It is hard to tell.

G. Taillon

- The Planning Board is busy with project applications. One of them is right off North Ave where fourteen (14) new houses will be built. There have been some issues and things are being worked on. He states Karen Robinson wrote an article which was published in the Union Leader about applying to the State for Planning Issues and skipping the Plaistow Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA).
- He was on vacation with family last week and it was very enjoyable.

D. Britton

- Visited the Building Department. They are very busy. A lot of work is being done without permits. The department is trying to correct it. If you see something, say something.
- States the Town will host a 9/11 Ceremony on Saturday, September 11th at 9:00 A.M.

There was no additional business before the Board and D. Britton adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack
Recording Secretary