



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: November 15, 2021

Workshop: The workshop opened at 5:35 p.m. Interim Town Manager Greg Colby states the Town of Plaistow will receive a total of \$807,785 in federal funding to aid in the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. This direct support for local governments is through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF). Acceptable uses for the money include to supporting public health, addressing negative economic impacts due to covid, making necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband, or using funds to replace lost public sector revenue.

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

Roll Call:

Select Chairman, Darrell Britton

Select Vice Chairman, John A. Blinn, Sr. – Remote Participant due to health reasons. He is alone.

Selectman, Greg Taillon

Selectman, Jay DeRoche

Selectman, Bill Coye

Interim Town Manager, Greg Colby

Also present: Beth Hossack, Recording Secretary.

Minutes

G. Taillon motions to approve the October 29, 2021, minutes. Seconded by J. DeRoche. There was no discussion on the motion.

Roll call: D. Britton = abstain, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Vote: 4-0-1

Motion carries.

G. Taillon motions to approve the November 1, 2021, minutes. Seconded by B. Coye.

Discussion: B. Coye states on page 2 under the Eagle Scout Presentation the name “Will” should be changed to “Lew”.

Roll call: D. Britton = abstain, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Vote: 4-0-1

Motion carries.

Recognition of Jim Peck:

D. Britton asks Mr. Peck to come forward.

G. Taillon reads a proclamation and states the Board of Selectmen hereby proclaim that Monday, November 15, 2021, be declared James Peck Appreciation Day.

Mr. Peck thanks the Board for the award and states he is humbled. He loves this Town, and he is happy his wife and friends are here tonight. Mr. Peck hopes more people will step up and help the Town especially with the Historical Society and preserving old buildings.

Update - Town Forest Maintenance Cut

Jill Senter, Chair of the Conservation Commission states the maintenance cut is done. They made about \$40,000 which was unexpected. The money will go into the forest fund for forest maintenance needs in the future.

G. Colby states he needs the Board to sign the paperwork for the timber tax which we are required to file with the Department of Revenue Administration. The board can then waive the timber tax as they agreed to at a meeting on May 10th, 2021.

J. Senter states the loggers entered the forest via Carlton Path. A load of stone was put down, so vehicles had access to the forest. The Conservation Commission decided to leave the stones so emergency vehicles can pass in the future.

G. Taillon asks if the stones are on Town land.

J. Senter states they are on an easement. The land is owned by Mr. Mosher. We have a court decree saying we have access into the forest. Mr. Mosher put in a driveway and grass so now we cannot reach the right of way. We can access the forest via the easement.

J. DeRoche asks J. Senter to explain the timber maintenance cut.

J. Senter states 180 acres were cut. It was not a clear cut. Besides the maintenance cut many hemlocks were taken down due to disease. Some areas look sparse. New trees will grow and fill in the sparse sections. Bret Ebner from the Hampstead Conservation Commission is gathering a group of volunteers to work on repairing trails that were damaged due to the cut. Not every trail will remain open. According to Southeast Land Trust the Town Forest has too many trails. Some of them are inhibiting wildlife. The closed signs will be removed when the repair work is complete. In the meantime, the forest is safe to use. Next year another cut might be necessary to help control another invasive species.

J. DeRoche states he was at the Town Forest last week and it looks good.

JRM Contract Approval

G. Colby states all the language of the JRM contract has been worked out. It has been approved by Town Counsel and Primex.

J. DeRoche motions to authorize Interim Town Manager, Greg Colby, to sign the five-year trash and recycling collection and disposal contract between the Town of Plaistow and JRM Hauling of Peabody, MA. Seconded by B. Coye.

Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Review Warrant Articles

G. Taillon begins with article P-22-02, water service incentive program.

G. Taillon motions to approve the water service incentive program warrant article and have it placed on the ballot. Seconded by B. Coye.

There was no discussion on the motion.

Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

The next warrant article is P-22-03, replacement of the Fire Department's Tower 3 Fire Truck. If this article passes it is not subject to the 10 percent limitation imposed on the budget.

G. Taillon states the bond amount may be less if other funds are used towards the purchase price.

G. Taillon motions to approve that the warrant article for the replacement of Tower 3 Fire Truck and have it placed on the ballot. Seconded by B. Coye.

Discussion: D. Britton states Fire Chief Knutsen gave a compelling presentation as to the need of a new truck.

Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

G. Taillon motions to approve the operating budget and have it placed on the ballot. Seconded by J. DeRoche.

Discussion: The final dollar amount is not known yet.

Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

G. Taillon states the operating budget for the Water Department is level funded. The money comes from the water enterprise fund, not taxes.

G. Taillon motions to approve the operating budget for the water department and have it placed on the ballot. Seconded by J. DeRoche.

There was no discussion on the motion.

Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

The Contingency Fund, P-22-08 is discussed. G. Taillon states this has been the same for the last three (3) years.

G. Taillon motions to approve the contingency fund and have it placed on the ballot. Seconded by B. Coye.

There was no discussion on the motion.

Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

G. Taillon states the next seven (7) warrant articles are from the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

G. Taillon motions to approve article P-22-09, create and deposit to revaluation capital reserve fund and have it placed on the ballot. Seconded by B. Coye.

There was no discussion on the motion.

*Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.
Vote: 5-0-0
Motion carries.*

*G. Taillon motions to approve article P-22-10 deposit to highway equipment trust fund and have it placed on the ballot. Seconded by B. Coye.
There was no discussion on the motion.
Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.
Vote: 5-0-0
Motion carries.*

*G. Taillon motions to approve article P-22-11 deposit to Fire Department apparatus capital reserve fund and have it placed on the ballot. Seconded by J. DeRoche.
There was no discussion on the motion.
Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.
Vote: 5-0-0
Motion carries.*

*G. Taillon motions to approve article P-22-12 deposit to Fire Department radio capital reserve fund and have it placed on the ballot. Seconded by B. Coye.
There was no discussion on the motion.
Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.
Vote: 5-0-0
Motion carries.*

*G. Taillon motions to approve article P-22-13 deposit to cemetery special maintenance expendable trust fund and have it placed on the ballot. Seconded by J. DeRoche.
J. DeRoche asks what does this entail?
G. Taillon states it is much more than general maintenance. It covers road maintenance, a new section and/or moving a section of the cemetery.
Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.
Vote: 5-0-0
Motion carries.*

*G. Taillon motions to approve article P-22-14 deposit to the energy capital reserve fund and have it placed on the ballot. Seconded by B. Coye.
There was no discussion on the motion.
Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.
Vote: 5-0-0
Motion carries.*

*G. Taillon motions to approve article P-22-15 deposit to transportation infrastructure capital reserve fund and have it placed on the ballot. Seconded by B. Coye.
Discussion: J. DeRoche states we know a traffic calming study is in process with the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation. He asks if there is a plan in place yet.
D. Britton states there is no plan yet.
There is consensus to table this warrant article until more information is gathered from the State.*

G. Taillon motions to approve article P-22-16 Sorock donation and have it placed on the ballot. Seconded by B. Coye.

There was no discussion on the motion.

Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

G. Taillon motions to approve article P-22-17 to establish a building expendable trust fund and place it on the ballot. Seconded by B. Coye.

Discussion: G. Taillon states this would be used for large items like a furnace or an electrical system. Last year the budget committee did not vote in favor of this, and he is not sure why there is so much confusion. If money is left in the fund at the end of the year it goes back to the general fund.

D. Britton states if the money is not used and goes back to the general fund there is no real accountability for it. Normal maintenance items are part of the operating budget.

G. Taillon states it is for large items that are not covered in the normal maintenance line item.

D. Britton thought there was another fund for the same purpose.

G. Colby states there is a similar fund however it is only for systems maintenance. That fund will be discontinued through another warrant article. The new account will have a broader use.

J. DeRoche asks the current balance of the fund to be discontinued.

G. Colby states it is less than \$20,000.

J. DeRoche wants to be clear, if the old fund is discontinued and the new one is created, it can be used for more purposes.

G. Colby replies, yes that is correct.

G. Taillon withdraws his original motion and motions to approve both P-22-17 to establish a building expendable trust fund and P-22-18 to discontinue the existing building/building systems capital reserve fund. Seconded by B. Coye.

Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

G. Taillon motions to approve article P-22-19 Fire Department capital reserve fund fiscal agent assignment and place it on the ballot. Seconded by J. Blinn.

Discussion: G. Taillon states it means the Board of Selectmen will be the agents to expend money from this fund.

Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

There is consensus to hold off on the approval of article P-22-21 until the list of prime wetlands is available.

Approve Prior Executive Session Minutes

J. DeRoche motions to approve the executive session minutes from October 29, 2021 and keep them sealed. Seconded by B. Coye.

Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries

Town Managers Report

- Recently held a department head meeting.
- The tax rate has been set and approved by the Board.
- Tax bills will go out on November 22 and will be due on December 22.
- Fire Chief Knutsen is hosting an emergency tabletop exercise tomorrow.
- The fencing around the backside of the Safety Complex is almost complete. Police and Fire personnel will have access to open/close it.
- The water policy decisions were made by the Board. G. Colby and G. Forbes are working to get the document written and finalized.
- The solar panel project on the salt shed has started.
- We did receive a \$7200 rebate check for the solar project.
- He is carefully monitoring the budget as we are close to year end.
- The Vision matter is resolved.
- SEC is working on a license for the East Road Pump House.
- The Town of Kingston sent out an RFP for perambulation of boarders. They did not get anyone to respond. They will reconsider it next year.

Selectmen's Reports

B. Coye

- Attended a Recreation Commission meeting. Several activities are going on with recreation such as a trip to see the Nutcracker, holiday lights in Springfield, and wreath making. See the web page for all activities.

J. DeRoche

- Attended a TRAC meeting. There is a sample of the insert they would like to put in the new barrels including a section with FAQ. There will be four (4) 10-yard dumpsters for cardboard recycling available in Town. The locations have not been determined yet.

There is consensus amongst the board to approve the paperwork for the barrels.

- The TRAC committee is planning an educational session at the library to help residents understand the changes and correct rules for trash and recycling collection.

G. Taillon

- Attended the Planning Board meeting. The number of warrant articles for amendments will be small this year as there have been no major changes.
- The budget committee has had a few weeks off. Their next meeting is November 30. He asks the Board if they agree to send the Voters Guide to the Budget Committee. They all agree.
- Has been working with Mark Gilford, Cemetery Sexton on the plan for the new section of the cemetery. Charlie Zilch from SEC will draw up the plan to submit to the Planning Board.

J. Blinn – nothing to report.

D. Britton

- Met with the engineers who installed the water lines. Everything is progressing well.
- He states many years ago the Selectmen would try to attend another Town's Board meeting once a year. He would like to start this again. The Board agrees.

J. DeRoche states maybe Plaistow can host a regional Board of Selectmen's meeting.

D. Britton will gather more information.

D. Britton motions to change Mr. Colby's title from Interim Town Manager to Town Manager. He said a contract can be worked out. He thinks G. Colby is doing a great job and should no longer be considered "interim". Seconded by G. Taillon.

Roll call: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

J. DeRoche thanks B. Hossack for planning the Veterans Day Ceremony.

As there is no further business before the Board, D. Britton adjourns the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack
Recording Secretary