



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

**Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes**

**Date:** January 24, 2022

**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:29 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Select Chairman, Darrell Britton

Select Vice Chairman, John A. Blinn, Sr.

Selectman, Greg Taillon

Selectman, Jay DeRoche

Selectman, Bill Coye

Also present: Greg Colby, Town Manager and Beth Hossack, Administrative Assistant.

**Minutes**

*G. Taillon motions to approve the January 10, 2022, minutes. Seconded by B. Coye. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 5-0-0 U/A.*

**Public Comment**

Kerry Patles, Chair of the Recreation Commission thanks the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee for their support of warrant article P-22-21, Deposit to Recreation Plan Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$30,000. The money will allow for the back stop and two (2) dugouts to be installed at PARC on the softball field. The softball program is continuing to grow. The fields at PARC benefit local athletes as well as generating revenue for the Town through field rentals.

Haley Bush, Chair of the Old Home Day Committee states the first meeting of the season was held last evening, Sunday January 23. Old Home Day will be held on June 18, 2022. She is concerned about some changes that she and the committee were not aware of. She is concerned the event is becoming political instead of being a fun event for the Town. She is also concerned about the budget. The 2022 budget includes \$15,000 for Old Home Day. In the past it has been \$22,500. H. Bush asks what will happen to the \$5,120 if warrant article P-22-19, Deposit to Old Home Day Expendable Trust Fund fails.

G. Colby replies, if the article fails, the monies will be returned to the individuals who donated them. He also states Jenn Gusler, Recreation Director will be part of the committee so the Town's Liability Insurance will cover the event. The Old Home Day Committee needs to be a formal Town Committee not an ad-hoc committee. That was part of the problem for 2021.

A discussion is held concerning vendor fees. In the past vendor fees have been given to the Historical Society to help keep the Society solvent.

G. Colby replies even though things have been done in the past it does not necessarily make them right. The Historical Society should come before the Board with a budget request yearly. Then funding will be added to the operating budget for them.

### **Re-vote Warrant Article P-22-21, Deposit to Recreation Capital Reserve Fund**

When this article was previously voted on a full board was not present.

*J. DeRoche motions to approve warrant article P-22-21, Deposit to Recreation Plan Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$30,000. Seconded by G. Taillon. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 5-0-0 U/A.*

### **Reduce Budget Committee Membership**

At the Budget Committee Meeting on January 11, 2022. The committee voted in favor of reducing the number of members from ten (10) members to eight (8) members.

G. Taillon reads the article. Article P-22-22: Shall the Town vote to reduce the Budget Committee from 10 members and the Selectman Representative (11 votes) to 8 members and the Selectman representative (9 votes). (Majority vote required).

*G. Taillon motions to approve warrant article P-22-22, Reduce Budget Committee Membership. Seconded by B. Coye.*

*Discussion: J. DeRoche states this may seem confusing to voters. The reason for the warrant article is we are having trouble getting enough members who want to be on the committee. Therefore, this warrant article makes sense. The vote was 5-0-0 U/A.*

### **Review/Discuss Warrant Articles and Prepare for Deliberative Session**

Selectmen take turns reading each warrant article and providing an explanation. They also decided who will read each article at the deliberative session.

### **Approval of Prior Executive Session Minutes**

*G. Taillon motions to approve the Executive Session minutes of January, 3, 2022 and unseal them. Seconded by J. DeRoche. There was no discussion on the motion.*

*Board Polled: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes. Motion carries U/A.*

### **Other Business**

J. DeRoche states he attended a meeting with JRM representatives, G. Colby, D. Britton, D. Voss and B. Hossack regarding trash and recycling. One concern is some carts are not being completely emptied. We all want to get started on the right foot. The contract is new, the carts/barrels are new and J. DeRoche asks everyone to be patient while we all get used to the changes. The meeting was productive.

J. Blinn states he has heard a lot of positive feedback from residents.

B. Coye states the cardboard recycling dumpsters have been well received. He asks how often they will be emptied.

G. Colby replies, they will be emptied weekly on Tuesday's.

B. Coye attended the Old Home Day Committee meeting. He believes Chair H. Bush feels better about the event after tonight's discussion during public comment.

B. Coye recently attended the Recreation Commission meeting. One upcoming event is Ladies Night out Craft Event. It will be held at the Vic Geary Center on February 2. If you want to attend, you must register online or contact J. Gusler at the Recreation Department.

Baseball and Softball Registrations are open.

Anyone who is age 16 or over is eligible to apply for a Summer Recreation Counselor.

G. Taillon states his impression from the Chair of the Old Home Day Committee is that they may not have enough money for a successful event this year.

B. Coye agrees that it is a concern of the committee.

G. Taillon states it should probably be included in the budget under the Recreation Department in the future.

D. Britton states a concerted effort for fund raising must occur for the event to be successful.

### **Town Managers Report**

- G. Colby states following the public hearing for the bond for Tower 3 the Fire Chief has submitted a grant application. The likelihood of receiving a grant is similar to winning a lottery. We may receive a small amount, a substantial amount or zero.
- The Fire Department has been busy. The call volume is up over 11%. In the past week there have been four house fires. One started in a basement, one in an attic, one in a bedroom and one on a porch. The response time has been very good since changing to the 24/7 coverage schedule.

G. Taillon asks if ARPA funds will be available to offset a bond for Tower 3 if needed?

B. Coye asks if there are any public safety impact fees that can be used for Tower 3.

G. Colby replies, ARPA funds are a possibility if used correctly. There are some public safety impact fees however they are geared towards buildings.

D. Britton states he is concerned about the high cost of electricity, cable and the cost of fuel. He hears the concerns of many residents and wishes the Board could do something to help.

G. Taillon states the Planning Board recently reviewed a plan for an Urgent Care Center. If the plan passes the center will operate 24/7, like an emergency room.

J. DeRoche states when Walmart first came to Plaistow part of the approval process included Walmart funding a full-time police officer salary yearly. If an Urgent Care center opens perhaps, something similar can be set up to assist a fire fighter's salary since it will likely increase the number of fire calls.

G. Taillon states that will be considered. However, it is in the early stages of approval.

As there is no further business before the Board, D. Britton adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack  
Administrative Assistant