



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: November 2, 2017

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:03pm

SELECTMEN:

Selectman, John Sherman, Chairman
Selectman, Steve Ranlett – Excused
Selectman, Peter Bracci

Selectman, Tammy Bergeron, Vice Chair
Selectman, Julian Kiszka
Town Manager, Mark Pearson

J. Sherman states there is only one agenda item tonight, Tax Rate Setting. He opens the meeting for discussion.

J. Kiszka states the difference on a tax bill of a house assessed for \$300,000 is approximately \$75.00 if the Board uses \$750,000.00 vs. \$500,000.00 from the unexpended fund balance to help lower the tax rate. His point is although the dollar amount used from the unexpended fund balance appears large the direct effect on taxes is not so large. However, the impact of the school portion of the tax rate between 2016 and 2017 is about \$297.00.

G. Colby states over the last six years the average amount used from the unexpended fund balance to help lower taxes is \$600,000.00. He passes out a few charts to make the comparisons easier to understand.

T. Bergeron states she wants to think about the taxpayers. The first tax payment will be due in December, the holidays are here and she wants to reduce the tax burden on residents.

J. Sherman states the best idea is to use some unexpended fund balance to lower taxes and also use some of the unexpended fund balance for a Highway Garage.

T. Bergeron states we do not need a Highway Garage for a million dollars.

M. Pearson clarifies the potential proposal for a Highway Garage. The Town could use \$600,000 to \$700,000 from the unexpended fund balance, then use \$350,000 to \$400,000 from the water fund resulting in 60% funding coming from the fund balance and only 40% coming from the water fund. No bond would be required.

J. Sherman states if you look at the years 2009 - 2017 (using \$500,000 from the unexpended fund balance) they are all similar.

J. Kiszka thinks taking \$750,000 is too much but taking \$650,000 is something we could do. If there is a separate warrant article for the Highway Garage it makes sense to use \$625,000.

BOS 11/2/2017

T. Bergeron is upset that we are in a time crunch to make a decision so quick.

G. Colby states there is only one person at the state level to work on the school portion of the tax rate. Since one of the Timberlane Towns was late in getting the information to the state it delayed the full process.

T. Bergeron wants a policy or procedure put in place to prevent this from happening again. We need a time line showing the impact any delay causes.

J. Kiszka states this is not the first time the Board has done this with a short window of time and it really is not rocket science.

J. Sherman states next year we can start earlier using the numbers we have and using question marks for figures we do not have. Then we will have some preliminary information.

J. Kiszka states the process is a little strange. Basically, we collect money then give some back to reduce taxes. Then do the same process again. Perhaps there is a way to change it,

J. Sherman states all New Hampshire towns do this and asks G. Colby his opinion.

G. Colby states Plaistow tends to do it a little more.

J. Sherman states we voted at the last meeting to defer setting the tax rate for one week. We must change that vote if we want to set the rate tonight.

P. Bracci motions to rescind the recommendation delaying setting the tax rate for one week.

Seconded by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion passes

J. Kiszka motions to use \$625,000 from the unexpended fund balance for a tax rate of \$5.91 (Town portion) and a total rate of \$23.96. Seconded by J. Sherman

P. Bracci states originally T. Bergeron wanted to use \$750,000 while J. Kiszka wanted to use \$500,000. He thinks \$625,000 is a reasonable compromise.

J. Kiszka amends his motion - J. Kiszka motions to use \$625,000 from the unexpended fund towards setting the tax rate. Seconded by J. Sherman

M. Pearson states if the Town does not vote to approve a new Highway Garage we will have to spend a minimum of \$100,000 to leave it on its current location and remediate the leaking methane gas based on NHDES's (New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services) mandate to correct it.

J. Kiszka states it might be less expensive to build a new one.

T. Bergeron is still not happy about this situation.

J. Sherman states the Highway Garage was put off last year to accommodate the Safety Complex.

J. Kiszka states many projects have been put off. It would be wiser to do them as the are needed. The Highway Garage has been a problem for years.

J. Sherman calls for a vote for the motion on the floor.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion passes

J. Sherman adjourns the meeting at 6:33pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Recording Secretary