



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: August 8, 2022

Meeting Called to Order: 6:34 p.m.

Roll Call:

Select Chairman, Jay DeRoche - Present
Select Vice Chairman, Bill Coye - Present
Selectman, John A. Blinn, Sr. -Present
Selectman, Darrell Britton - Present
Selectman, Jonathan Gifford - Present

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

Public Comment

None

Public Hearing to Consider the Acceptance of a 1.5 Million-dollar Grant for PFOA's and PFAS's Remediation

J. DeRoche opened the public hearing at 6:35p.m.

J. DeRoche states Town manager, Greg Colby applied for a grant which was approved and awarded to Plaistow. He turns the discussion over to the Town Manager.

G. Colby states he has been working with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services regarding the prevalence of PFOA's and PFAS's in groundwater. Plaistow hired Sanborn Head do some investigative work last fall including test borings. That work is continuing. Since then, the State has appropriated money towards their PFAS's removable programs. They have allocated money into two (2) groups. One is for private/residential wells and the second is for municipalities to help with the remediation of wells that have exceeded the standard levels for PFAS and PFOA's. There are no questions from the Board members or the public.

D. Britton motions to accept a grant for the Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Remediation Grant and Loan Fund in the amount of up to 1.5 million dollars. The grant is from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services which is allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Seconded by J. Gifford.

There was no discussion on the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Vehicle Donation (Purchase) of a Box Truck for the Fire Department - \$1.00

Chief Knutsen states the Hazmat District that we belong to (Southeastern New Hampshire Hazardous Materials Mutual Aid District) would like to donate, for \$1.00 the box truck that is currently assigned to our station. The truck is a Ford F450 with 9,273 miles. It is in good condition. If we do not take the truck, the Southeastern New Hampshire Hazardous Materials Mutual Aid District will surplus the truck. The box truck is used to pull the rescue trailer they gave us last year.

B. Coye asks if there are any other uses for the truck.

Chief Knutsen replies, it is used to store emergency tools.

J. DeRoche asks how long we have been using it.

Chief Knutsen replies, for about one and one-half years (1 ½). If we accept the truck for \$1.00, we will have to register and insure it. He believes it is a good asset to have.

J. Gifford motions to accept a donation for a small fee of \$1.00, a box truck from Southeastern New Hampshire Hazardous Materials Mutual Aid District (S.N.H.H.M.M.A.D.) The box truck is currently assigned to the Plaistow Fire Station and S.N.H.H.M.M.A.D. will surplus the truck if we do not accept it. The truck is used to pull the trailer we were given last year, and it is a good asset to keep. Seconded by B. Coye.

There was no discussion on the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Assessing Update

J. DeRoche refers to a letter written by Corcoran Consulting Associates, Inc. our assessing firm. The letter is about the emerging equalization ratio. According to the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA), the goal for the equalization ratio should be between 90 – 110% of value. According to sales from October 1, 2021 to May 26, 2022 the current emerging ratio is 78%. Although this is below assessing standards Corcoran does not recommend doing a statistical update for 2022. There are still four (4) months of sales that will be considered. It is possible action will be needed in 2023. J. DeRoche recommends following the advice of Corcoran.

D. Britton motions that no update on values be completed for 2022 since our assessing firm, Corcoran Consulting Associates, Inc. recommends waiting and keeping an eye on the market.

Seconded by B. Coye.

There was no discussion on the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Betterment Plan Potable Water

J. DeRoche states Town Manager G. Colby sent the Board a Betterment Plan for Potable Water to review. He asks G. Colby to discuss the plan.

G. Colby states a warrant article was passed at Town Meeting in March to assist homeowners with the upfront costs of connecting to the system with low or no interest loans. Homeowners who borrow the money for connection costs will pay the money back over time with their quarterly consumption bill. The Betterment Assessment Policy establishes rules for borrowing and making sure the Town is protected.

J. DeRoche wants to make it clear that the policy only affects people who connect to the system.

G. Colby replies, that is correct.

J. Gifford states the key to connection is if you live along the water line.

J. Blinn states his business was connected to the water system and the work was done well by professionals. He asks if many people are hooking up.

G. Colby replies, we are making good progress with many residents joining. The disinfection process was approved and will begin soon.

D. Britton motions to adopt the Municipal Water Betterment Assessment Policy as presented on August 8, 2022 during the Board of Selectmen's meeting. Seconded by J. Gifford.

There was no discussion on the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Determine Meeting Schedule/Time

There is consensus that the Board Meetings will be held on the following Mondays for the remainder of the year.

September 3rd & 26th.

October 3rd, 17th and 24th.

November 7th and 21st.

December 5th and 19th.

Approve Prior Nonpublic Session Minutes

The minutes are passed out and reviewed by the Board.

D. Britton motions to approve and keep sealed the minutes of July 11, 2022 nonpublic session #1. Seconded by J. Gifford.

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

Motion carries.

J. Gifford motions to approve and keep sealed the minutes of July 11, 2022 nonpublic session #2. Seconded by D. Britton.

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

Motion carries.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Item Description

1. Accounts Payable Manifest – August 11, 2022.
2. BOS draft minutes – July 11th and July 28th, 2022
3. One Administrative Abatement for Frog Pond Woods
4. Two Land Use Change Tax Bills

D. Britton motions to accept the consent agenda as written. Second by B. Coye.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Potable Water Update

The generator work is on track and should be ready by November. The contractor for hookups is moving along. The disinfection process should start this week. Progress is being made on the back-flow preventers. We are in good shape.

Town Managers Report

- The land swap with the Palmer property is complete. The quiet title was approved by the court. Now we can continue moving forward with the cemetery expansion.
- The State will provide more money for the Highway Block Grant this year.
- Working on lease agreements for the cell phone tower.
- Ramping up for the budget process

Selectmen's Reports

J. Blinn – nothing to report.

D. Britton – nothing to report.

B. Coye – nothing to report.

J. Gifford

- Attended the Historical Society meeting. Some local businesses have stepped up to help the Historical Society financially. They have a new software system and a positive outlook.

J. DeRoche

- Will attend the CIP Meeting this Thursday.
- Sends condolences to the Fitzpatrick Family. Katherine “Kay” Fitzpatrick was a past Town Employee and also did a lot of volunteer work.

Events

- There are three (3) summer concerts left this season.
- NHMA is offering a virtual training course, the Academy of Good Governance. This is available to all selectmen who wish to take it.

Other Business

None

As there is no further business before the Board, J. DeRoche adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Administrative Assistant