



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: January 3, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: 12:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

Select Chairman, Jay DeRoche - Present
Select Vice Chairman, Bill Coye – Present
Selectman, Darrell Britton – Present
Selectman, Jonathan Gifford – Present

Also present: Greg Colby, Town Manager, Dee Voss, Planning Board Administrative Assistant, and Beth Hossack, Administrative Specialist.

Operating Budget

Chair DeRoche states we are here to discuss warrant article P-23-02 Operating Budget. He reads the article, “Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant article and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$11,317,457? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$11,062,817 with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0) and the Budget Committee (0-0-0)).

Selectman Britton motions to recommend article P-23-02, Operating Budget in the amount of \$11,317,457. Seconded by Selectman Coye.

Discussion: Town Manager Colby briefly discusses the method of determining the default budget should article P-23-02 fail. The line item changes in the default budget primarily include contractual items, salaries, Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and debt service. There is also mandatory money required by the State of New Hampshire for PFOA’s at the Public Safety Complex.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Default Water Budget

The water budget, P-23-03 was previously approved in the amount of \$494,090. Should this article fail, the default water budget will be \$483,390.

Selectman Gifford motions to recommend article P-23-03, Operating Budget – Water Department. Seconded by Selectman Coye.

Discussion: Selectman Britton asks if the default budget dollar amount will be enough to run the department if necessary.

Town Manager Colby replies, yes.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Citizen's Petition

Town Clerk Martha Fowler received a Citizen's Petition. She checked the appropriate signatures, and the petition is valid. It will be placed on the warrant. The Citizen's Petition effects a Zoning Ordinance. It will be placed on the warrant with other zoning warrant articles. The Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board will weigh in and vote to recommend or not recommend the article. Article P-23-25 reads, "Shall the Town vote to approve the following modification to the Plaistow Zoning Ordinance Article IX, Signs Section 220-60.1. Integrated Commercial Residential District as Follows?"

Add new Paragraphs E and F as follows:

1. E. Farms (as defined in New Hampshire RSA 21:34-a Farm, Agriculture, Farming) :1 on site thirty square foot freestanding sign is permitted. The freestanding sign and supporting structure may not exceed ten (10) feet in height. Each farm building shall also be allowed up to two signs attached to a building facade, provided that the following restrictions are met:
 - 1) If both signs are attached to the same building façade, then the total square footage of both signs shall not exceed 10% of the building façade to which they are affixed.
 - 2) ~~If the signs are attached to different building facades, then one sign shall not exceed 5% of the façade to which it is affixed.~~

The correct wording for 2) **If the signs are attached to different building facades, then one sign shall not exceed 10% of the façade to which it is affixed, and the other sign shall not exceed 5% of the façade to which it is affixed.**

- 3) The building facade is calculated by measuring from roofline to foundation and subtracting out any glass.

F. All freestanding and attached signs on a Farm shall consist of wood construction only, shall be illuminated with indirect light and shall be in keeping with the agricultural character of the property.

Planning Department Administrative Assistant, Dee Voss is in attendance to explain the article. The only property which will be impacted if the warrant article passes is Sweet Hill Farm. The article effects the ICR district only. RSA 21:34-a provides the law for farming however the RSA does not cover signs. The article will allow Sweet Hill Farm to put up a greater number of signs of a larger size than allowed in an ICR district. The warrant article is circumventing regulations already in place. The signage requested in the proposed change to the zoning ordinances currently in place would normally be handled by seeking a variance.

Selectman Gifford states no one has a problem with the farm.

Selectman Coye states everyone likes the farm. He wants proper procedures to be followed. Selectman Britton agrees, yet he is not in favor of the warrant article because it is spot zoning, helping only the farm. The farm should seek a variance for any signage that differs from current code.

Chair DeRoche agrees the farm is positive for the community. The petition needs to be voted on by the Board as it is written.

Selectman Coye motions to recommend article P-23-25, Citizen's Petition as written. Seconded by Chair DeRoche.

Vote: 0-4-0

Motion fails.

Warrant article P-23-25, Citizen's Petition will be placed on the warrant showing the Board of Selection recommendation as 0-4-0.

Chair DeRoche motions to recommend all previously voted warrant articles having a 3-0-0 vote be revoted as 4-0-0. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Chair DeRoche states the meeting will be recessed until 6:30 p.m. this evening.

The public meeting reconvenes at 6:30 p.m.

Chair DeRoche welcomes everyone. He states it is with great sadness the Board announces the passing, of Selectman John A. Blinn, Sr. following a courageous battle with cancer. Not only was he a colleague, but he was also a friend. He loved the Town of Plaistow and volunteered his time on many committees such as Old Home Day, Conservation Commission, the Zoning Board as well as being a current Selectman. Selectman Blinn was a business owner in Town. Our deepest and heartfelt condolences go out to Tammy and John's family, and Chair DeRoche asks for prayers. Chair DeRoche calls for a moment of silence.

Selectman Britton states John wasn't just a fellow Board member, he was a friend and many people in the community knew him. He stood up for what he believed in. Selectman Britton will miss him.

Selectman Coye states, well said by Selectman Britton. The Town has lost as asset. John Blinn would step up and help anyone out.

Selectman Gifford met John many years ago in Haverhill. John steered him into becoming a Selectman. He sends his prayers to John's family and friends.

As there is no further business before the Board, Chair DeRoche adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m. He asks everyone to be patient while we transition to the regularly scheduled Budget Committee Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Administrative Specialist

Corrected