



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

**Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes**

**Date:** May 8, 2023

**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:01 P.M.

**Roll Call:**

Select Chairman, Bill Coye – Present  
Select Vice Chairman, Jay Deroche – Present  
Selectman, Darrell Britton – Present  
Selectman, Jonathan Gifford – Present  
Selectwoman, Tammy Bergeron – Remote Participant

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

**Public Comment**

None

**Swearing in of New Police Chief John Santoro**

Chair Coye welcomes and introduces Police Chief John Santoro. Chief Santoro comes to Plaistow as a thirty-three (33) year veteran police officer. Throughout his career he has won several awards. He has a master's degree in criminal justice, and he has completed the FBI-LEEDA leadership program.

Chair Coye invites Mr. Kevin Bryant to come forward. Mr. Bryant serves as an Affiliated Baptist Minister at the Memorial Church Harvard University and the Baptist Chaplain for Harvard University. Mr. Bryant retired as a Sergeant of the Harvard University Police Department where he served for twenty-nine (29) years. He and Chief Santoro have been best friends for more than thirty-six (36) years.

Mr. Bryant provides a prayer.

Chair Coye invites Town Clerk, Martha Fowler to come forward. She administers the Oath of Office to Chief Santoro.

Chair Coye invites Mr. Phil Santoro, Chief Santoro's father to come forward. Mr. Phil Santoro pins the badge on his son, Police Chief John Santoro.

Applause and a standing ovation occur. Chair Coye opens the floor to Chief Santoro.

Chief Santoro states he is honored and grateful to be selected as the Chief of Police for Plaistow. He is happy to be joined by so many people including his father and his children. He thanks everyone for their love, support and guidance during his career. One of his goals for Plaistow's police force is to help make Plaistow a safe place to live, work and learn. He will work with schools, faith-based leaders, business owners and community groups. No one succeeds alone. Chief Santoro thanks the Plaistow officers. They are true professionals, and he vows to do all he can to make sure all personnel are trained, have the correct equipment, and are supported. The police department will stand together, hold each other accountable, work with integrity and compassion for all. Again, no one succeeds alone. Together they will achieve great things.

Selectman Britton states, best of luck. You are the right guy in the right place, at the right time.

Selectman DeRoche states welcome aboard, we are happy to have you here.

Chair Coye reiterates the welcome.

Selectman Gifford states welcome to the neighborhood.

A brief break is taken in the meeting.

### **Remote Participant**

Chief Coye states Selectwoman Bergeron will be a remote participant tonight. He asks her, why is it not reasonably practicable to attend the meeting in person.

Selectwoman Bergeron replies, I am out of the State on vacation.

Chief Coye asks, is anyone else present at the remote location?

Selectwoman Bergeron replies, no one else is in the room.

***Selectman DeRoche motions to allow Selectwoman Bergeron to participate remotely in tonight's meeting (5/8/23) since she is away on vacation. Seconded by Selectman Britton.***

***Board Polled Chair Coye = yes, Selectman DeRoche = yes, Selectman Britton = yes, Selectman Gifford = yes, Selectwoman Bergeron = abstains.***

***Motion carries 4-0-1.***

### **Public Hearing Comcast Cable Amendment Agreement**

Chair Coye opens the public hearing at 6:26 p.m.

He states tonight's hearing is required by law to allow a cable franchise to provide cable service to the Town. Unfortunately, we cannot negotiate any pricing.

Chair Coye asks Town Manager Colby if he would like to add anything.

Town Manager Colby states this is the renewal of an existing agreement, not a new agreement. The Board of Selectmen is the franchising authority allowed to accept a franchise agreement. The Board did their due diligence by sending a series of audit questions to Comcast to determine if they complied with the current agreement. The key terms of the amendment will:

- Extend the termination date to January 31, 2032.
- Some language was updated as required by NH law to allow for taxation of Comcast's use of the public right-of-way to reach its customers.
- Comcast will no longer provide basic tier cable services to municipal and school locations. This is not a concern as no one is still using the basic tier.
- Comcast has agreed to continue the annual payments of \$20,000 to support the capital needs of the Plaistow local access TV channel through January 31, 2032.

There is no one from the public to speak.

Chair Coye asks if any selectmen wish to speak or ask a question. No one does.

Chair Coye closes the public hearing at 6:27 p.m.

### **Appointment Energy Committee Members**

At the Energy Committee meeting on May 3, the committee voted unanimously to reappoint Gerald Marchand for another three-year term and to recommend Walter Proctor be appointed as a new member for a three-year term. In addition, the committee voted to rescind the appointment of Geoff Adams since he has not responded to emails or phone calls. These recommendations were presented to the Board via a letter from Mr. Tim Moore, Energy Committee Chair.

*Selectman DeRoche motions to rescind the appointment of Geoff Adams to the Plaistow Energy Committee and further to reappoint Gerard Marchand and appoint Walter Proctor as members of the Plaistow Energy Committee, each for a three-year term, expiring in 2026. Seconded by Selectman Britton.*

*Roll call Vote: Chair Coye = yes, Selectman DeRoche = yes, Selectman Britton = yes, Selectmen Gifford = yes, Selectwoman Bergeron = yes.*

*Motion carries 5-0-0.*

### **Establish a Community Power Program**

At the Energy Committee meeting on May 3, the committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Plaistow and Standard Power be signed. The purpose for the MOU is to allow Standard Power to work with the Plaistow Energy Committee on getting a Community Power program up and running to benefit the residents.

*Selectman DeRoche motions that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Plaistow and Standard Power regarding the establishment of a Community Power Program be approved and signed. He further motions to authorize that the Town Manager sign the MOU. Seconded by Selectman Britton.*

*Discussion: Selectman DeRoche wants to confirm that the signing of the MOU will not create a financial obligation to the Town.*

*Town Manager Greg Colby replies, it will not.*

*Roll call Vote: Chair Coye = yes, Selectman DeRoche = yes, Selectman Britton = yes, Selectmen Gifford = yes, Selectwoman Bergeron = yes.*

*Motion carries 5-0-0.*

### **Approval of prior nonpublic minutes (4/17/23)**

The minutes are passed out and read by the selectmen.

*Selectman Britton motions to approve and keep sealed the nonpublic session minutes of April 17, 2023. Seconded by Selectman DeRoche.*

*Roll call Vote: Chair Coye = yes, Selectman DeRoche = yes, Selectman Britton = yes, Selectmen Gifford = yes, Selectwoman Bergeron = abstain.*

*Motion carries 4-0-1.*

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **Item Description**

1. Accounts Payable Manifest week of May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

2. BOS Draft Minutes April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
3. Four (4) Municipal Land Use Change Tax Bills.
4. One (1) Elderly Tax Exemption Application.
5. One (1) Denial of Charitable Exemption.
6. One (1) Pro-ration 2022 Abatement Request.
7. Property Tax 2023 First Issue Warrant.
8. Cable TV Agreement Franchise First Amendment Agreement (based on the public hearing).
9. 2024 Forest Fire Warden/Deputy Reappointment Forms (add on 5/8/23).

***Selectman DeRoche motions to approve the consent agenda including item #9 which was added today. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.***

***Roll call Vote: Chair Coye = yes, Selectman DeRoche = yes, Selectman Britton = yes, Selectmen Gifford = yes, Selectwoman Bergeron = yes.***

***Motion carries 5-0-0.***

### **Town Manager Report/Potable Water Update**

- Busy getting the new police chief onboard.
- Attended the two-day GFOA Conference last week.
- Working with HAWSCo on changing the disinfection process. It started Monday. So far it is going well. The water will be tested at the end of the week. He thanks all the residents for their patience throughout the process.
- An Assistant Town Clerk was recently hired. She starts on May 22.
- Most of the flag poles in Veterans Memorial Park have been fixed. They will all be ready for Memorial Day.
- Recently attended a meeting with the Beede Group.
- Working with Primex on Cyber Security.
- The first set of property tax bills will be mailed soon.
- Carefully watching the budget and cash flow.
- The second quarterly water bills went out.
- The April expenditure report is ready. Other than snow removal we are on track.
- The highway truck we ordered is not coming in. It has been pushed out for 1 to 2 years. D. Garlington, Highway Supervisor, is working with the sales representatives on a different truck. We should be able to get a truck that another town ordered yet cannot pay for. The cost is very similar, and it should be up and running by winter.
- The ambulance we ordered has also been pushed out.

### **Selectmen's Reports**

#### **Selectman Britton**

- Attended the Elder Affairs Committee Meeting. They have several activities/events planned for seniors for the remainder of the year. They are an active group. All their events are posted on the website under the Recreation Department.

#### **Selectwoman Bergeron**

- Attended the Elder Affairs Committee Meeting. The Chair of the committee is Sue Sherman. The Vice Chair is Christine Rice.

- Participated in Arbor Day. The Pollard school fifth graders walked from the school to the Plaistow cemetery to learn about trees. A few State Employees taught the students about trees and the environment.
- Attended the Old Home Day Committee Meeting. The event will be held on June 17.

#### Selectman DeRoche

- He is happy and excited to have Chief Santoro as our new police chief.
- Attended the Energy Committee Meeting.
- Attended the Planning Board Meeting.
- Attended Opening Day for Baseball/Softball at PARC.
- Will attend the Budget Committee reorganization meeting soon.

#### Selectman Gifford

- Attended the Historical Society Meeting. The Lion's Club was invited. They are working on getting new members.
- Attended the Old Home Day Committee Meeting. One event they are working on is a car show. They are already thinking about next year as it is the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Plaistow.
- The Fish & Game Club will host its annual Kids Fishing Derby on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### Selectman Coye

- Attended the Planning Board Meeting.
- Attended Opening Day for Baseball/Softball at PARC. The fields have come a long way in the past fifteen (15) years.

Note: Selectman DeRoche mentions the Timberland High School Marching Band will be part of our Memorial Day Parade this year. After our program, the band will go to Atkinson to participate in their parade. The Plaistow Parade will start at 9:00 a.m. at Pollard School.

Chair Coye states if any selectmen would like to speak at the Memorial Day Ceremony, please let him know.

As there is no further business before the Board, Chair Coye adjourned the meeting at 6:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,  
Administrative Specialist