



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: October 2, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: 6:12 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 – Excused

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

Public Comment

None

Recognition of Police Officers Myles Mastrototaro & Brandon Thibault

Police Chief Santoro states he would like to recognize two of the departments' officers who responded to a home invasion/robbery and multiple crime spree in Hampstead (prior to his tenure in Plaistow). The officers were instrumental in securing the crime scene. They also assisted State, local and Sherriff's Departments officers. The officers are Myles Mastrototaro and Brandon Thibault. These officers will be recognized later in the month at the NH State House as they have earned a Congressional Award for their work on this case.

Community Power Subcommittee – Standard Power Discussion

Deferred to a future meeting.

Discuss Town Forest Issues

Jill Senter, Chair of the Conservation Commission states someone is making new, unauthorized trails in the Town Forest. Southeast Land Trust noticed the issue and brought it to the Conservation Commission's attention. In one area someone has cut into the trail banking. In other places trees have been cut down. Planks have been placed over wet areas for bikes to cross. It is unlawful and illegal to do such work in the Town Forest. Volunteers work hard to maintain the trail system. Plaistow Boy Scouts clean the trails twice a year. Some signs have been installed to try to deter the new trail work, yet the problem still exists. The Conservation Commission does not know what else to do.

There is consensus amongst the Board that the police department should be notified. An email notice should be posted on the Town's website. Southeast Land Trust should be asked to remove the planks. Lastly prosecution will be considered if the problem continues.

Conservation Commission Chair J. Senter states the Conservation Commission is holding a public hearing on November 9 regarding prime wetlands. All the abutter notices were mailed today. A warrant article will be proposed for the 2024 ballot.

Chair J. Senter also states the Conservation Commission is willing to financially support the recreation trails at Mt. Misery. They plan to cover the amount the grant would have covered. They would like to see the land put in an easement to prevent any future development.

Review the 2024 Town Managers Proposed Budget

Town Manager Greg Colby states Department Heads have been working on their budgets since the end of August. The Finance Department assisted in compiling all the information together. Tonight's presentation is the culmination of all that work. The overall increase of the proposed 2024 budget is about \$1,078,509 or 9.5%. The bulk of this, \$687,671, is for ambulance service. Revenue will be generated from the ambulance service by billing health insurance companies. A conservative revenue estimate is \$400,000/year. Therefore the \$687,671 is not a direct impact on taxpayers. Without the ambulance service the budget increase is approximately \$390,838, about 3.44%. That is not bad considering the rate of inflation. It is not a level budget however it is close. Town Manager Colby states some of the larger budgets including police, fire, highway, recreation and the Library will have presentations by department heads at the next meeting scheduled for October 16.

Executive

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve the executive budget in the amount of \$273,828.

Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Town Clerk

Selectman Gifford motions to approve the Town Clerk's budget in the amount of \$138,197.

Seconded by Selectman DeRoche.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Elections

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve the elections budget in the amount of \$37,000. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Finance

Selectman Britton motions to approve the finance budget in the amount of \$149,610. Seconded by Selectman DeRoche.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Assessing

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve the assessing budget in the amount of \$118,520.

Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Tax Collector

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve the tax collector budget in the amount of \$53,001.

Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Insurance

Selectman Britton motions to approve the insurance budget in the amount of \$195,577. Seconded by Selectman DeRoche.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Legal

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve the legal budget in the amount of \$80,000. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Human Resources/Personnel

Selectman Britton motions to approve the human resources/personnel budget in the amount of \$2,419,719. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Planning

Selectman Britton motions to approve the planning budget in the amount of \$109,429. Seconded by Selectman DeRoche.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Zoning

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve the zoning budget in the amount of \$5,350. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

General Government Buildings

Selectman Britton motions to approve the general government buildings budget in the amount of \$401,225. Seconded by Selectman DeRoche.

Vote: 4-0-0
Motion carries.

Cemeteries

Selectman Gifford motions to approve the cemeteries budget in the amount of \$10,500. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0
Motion carries.

Advertising/Regional Associations

Selectman Britton motions to approve the advertising/regional associations budget in the amount of \$25,500. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 4-0-0
Motion carries.

Cable

Selectman Britton motions to approve the cable budget in the amount of \$36,100. Seconded by Selectman DeRoche.

Vote: 4-0-0
Motion carries.

Conflict of Interest

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve the conflict of interest budget in the amount of \$250. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 4-0-0
Motion carries.

Other General Government

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve the other general government budget in the amount of \$290,000. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0
Motion carries.

Police Department

Deferred to 10/16/23.

Fire Department

Deferred to 10/16/23.

Inspections

Selectman Gifford motions to approve the inspections budget in the amount of \$185,850. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0
Motion carries.

Emergency Management

Selectman Britton motions to approve the emergency management budget in the amount of \$37,225. Seconded by Selectman DeRoche.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Highway

Deferred to 10/16/23.

Street Lighting

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve the street lighting budget in the amount of \$95,000.

Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Solid Waste Collection

Selectman Britton motions to approve the solid waste collection budget in the amount of

\$1,014,958. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Solid Waste Disposal/Landfill

Selectman Gifford motions to approve the solid disposal/landfill budget in the amount of \$38,500.

Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Health

Selectman Gifford motions to approve the health budget in the amount of \$99,178. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Human Services

Selectman Britton motions to approve the human services budget in the amount of \$46,887.

Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-1 (abstain Selectman DeRoche)

Motion carries.

Welfare Administration & Assistance

Selectman Britton motions to approve the welfare administration and assistance budget in the amount of \$38,910. Seconded by Selectman DeRoche.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Recreation

Deferred to 10/16/23.

Patriotic/Cultural

Deferred to 10/16/23.

Conservation

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve the conservation budget in the amount of \$8,425.

Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Debt Service

Selectman Britton motions to approve the debt service budget in the amount of \$556,829.

Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Approve Consent Agenda

Item Description

1. Accounts Payable Manifest week of September 21st, 28th, & October 5th, 2023.
2. BOS Draft Minutes September 11th, 2023.
3. Appointment to the Old Home Day Committee (Erica LeMire).
4. One Veterans Tax Credit Application.

Additional Items (after agenda was posted)

1. Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Plaistow and the Teamsters Local Union 633.

Selectman Gifford motions to approve the consent agenda with the additional item written above.

Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Town Managers Report

- Wrapping up month end and quarter end reports for September 2023.
- Working on another possible lease for cell equipment on the old water tower.
- The Atkinson police department would like permission to use Wentworth Avenue to divert traffic for 2-3 days in October while tree work is done in Atkinson.

Selectman Gifford motions to allow the Town of Atkinson to divert traffic onto Wentworth Avenue in Plaistow for 2-3 days in October for tree work as long as Highway Supervisor, Dan Garlington agrees. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Selectmen's Reports

Selectman Gifford

- The Historical Society hosted an event in memory of artist Tomaso. It was very successful.

Selectman Britton – nothing to report.

Selectman DeRoche

- Attended a meeting at the American Legion with Chair Coye & Beth to start plans for Veterans Day. It will be held on Saturday, November 11 at the Vic Geary Center. It will include a pancake breakfast and is open to the public.

Select Chair Coye

- Also attended the America Legion Meeting.

Events

Note: Town Hall and the Annex will be closed on Monday, October 9 in observance of Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day.

1. Fall Foliage Trip with Plaistow & Sandown – 10/11/23.
2. Toddler Trick or Treat – 10/27/23.
3. Pumpkin Lightening – 10/28/23.
4. Regular Trick or Treat – 10/31/23.

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held on Monday, October 16. It will start at 5:00 P.M. that evening. The Budget Committee is invited. The larger budgets will be reviewed.

As there is no further business before the Board, Chair Coye adjourned the meeting at 7:53 P.M.
Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Administrative Specialist