



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: February 25, 2019

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:31pm

SELECTMEN:

Selectman, Julian Kiszka, Chairman
Selectman, John Sherman
Selectwoman, Francine Hart

Selectman, Peter Bracci, Vice Chairman
Selectman, Steve Ranlett
Mark Pearson, Town Manager

MINUTES

J. Sherman motions to approve the minutes of February 11, 2019. Seconded by F. Hart.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

TOWN REPORT PRESENTATION

J. Sherman states the 2018 Town Report is dedicated to former Town Clerk, Maryellen Pelletier. Maryellen retired in December. She had been employed by the town for several years. Maryellen is not here tonight. She is on a well-deserved vacation with her husband. Her daughter, Susan and her sister Jill are here to accept the dedication on her behalf. Jill thanks J. Sherman and states if Maryellen were here she would be honored. Susan states she is honored to accept this for her mother.

J. Sherman states D. Voss was the Coordinator in charge of the Town Report. She did a great job. J. Sherman also thanks the other committee members, Selectman Peter Bracci and Budget Committee Vice-Chair Lisa Lambert.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Gardella, 7 Davis Park a partner of Skip's Garage and Russ Hawkins, 15 Center Circle are here to speak. L. Gardella states she had an appointment today with Town Manager, Mark Pearson. She states she has a contract with the Town to service under cover police vehicles and Freedom Tire has a contract to service regular police cruisers. Lately police vehicles have been taken to Southern NH Undercar in Hampstead for service. L. Gardella wants to know why business would be taken out of Plaistow. She states she had a phone conversation with former Police Chief K. Jones. K. Jones told her that M. Pearson was aware of the contract with Skip's Garage. L. Gardella states M. Pearson told her he was not aware of a contract with Skip's Garage. L. Gardella states M. Pearson became enraged during their meeting. She felt she was disrespected and treated rudely in an offensive way. She is prepared to sue the Town for harassment and breach of contract. She wants to know what the Board will do.

M. Pearson states he was not aware of a contract with Skip's Garage. He just found out today and he will direct Interim Police Chief Doug Mullin to use Skip's Garage for future service.

Eric Dobson, 5 Nicholas Road states he read many Face Book comments today. He feels some people are against Town Manager, M. Pearson and want to see him out and this was a coup.

Kerry Patles, 260 Main Street states she watched the Vimeo of the February 11, 2019 Board meeting. She mentions a discussion regarding a part-time vs. full-time Chief of Police. As a resident she is not in favor of a part-time Police Chief. Plaistow has three (3) school campuses, and a vibrant commercial area bringing in thousands of vehicles and people each day. We have had a full-time police chief for many years and she does not think a part-time chief will be able to handle all the responsibilities of the job. K. Patles believes Plaistow deserves a professional, qualified Chief who is able to dedicate as much time as necessary to the job. She urges residents to reach out to Selectmen and the Town Manager with their thoughts.

TRAC FUNDING REQUEST

Maxanne Dobson representing the Trash & Recycling Advisory Committee (TRAC) asks the Board to withdraw \$100 dollars to purchase prizes and supplies for fourth Graders at Pollard School who are working on a recycling project. The Trash & Recycling Advisory Committee is working with the Plaistow Exchange Club to increase recycling awareness and efforts. Recycling is good for the environment and will help save the town money.

J. Sherman motions to take \$100 out of the TRAC line item for the recycling project. Seconded by F. Hart.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

REVIEW TOWN WARRANT ARTICLES

J. Kiszka states this is a presentation only. It is not a discussion. The purpose is to explain what the articles mean for voters to make informed decisions.

M. Pearson begins the review. Article P-19-01 is to vote for elected officials. Article P-19-02, Operating Budget is \$9,932,197 which is an increase of 3.65% over the 2018 operating budget. Each following article is briefly discussed. In summary warrant articles P-19-03 through P-19-13, excluding P-19-05, Police Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and P-19-07 Town Employees Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) do not involve raising taxes. Funds will come from the unassigned fund balance, state forgiveness/aid, or an expendable trust/ capital reserve fund. Warrant Articles P-19-14 through P-19-27 do involve taxation. Article P-19-28, Discontinue Rescue Vehicle Fund. This account is no longer needed. The small amount of money left in the fund will be transferred to the unassigned fund balance if the article passes. Article P-19-29, Elderly & Disabled Asset Limit will increase the dollar amount of allowable assets from \$80,000 to \$100,000 for those who are eligible for this tax credit.

S. Ranlett asks the balance of the unassigned fund balance.

M. Pearson states he does not have the figure. It is in the Town Report as of December 31, 2018 and is in the range of \$2.7 or \$2.8 million.

F. Hart states if all the warrant articles pass the tax impact will be \$438,775.

REVIEW SCHOOL WARRANT ARTICLES

Sue Sherman, School Board Chair states Sarah Machemer will come to this meeting after work. Kristin Savage asked to be excused. She is not feeling well. The school budget members from Plaistow were invited. They are David Gerns, Peter Bealo and Mike Mascola. S. Sherman reviews the School Warrant Articles. Article 2, Operating Budget, the proposed budget is \$71,681,333 and the default budget is \$70,948,104. Article 3, Capital Reserve Fund. This article is asking the voters to raise and appropriate \$250,000 to be placed in the School Building Construction, Reconstruction, Capital Improvement and Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund. Article 4, Performing Arts Center Outer Wall Replacement. This article is asking for the sum of \$531,000 to be withdrawn from the School Building Construction, Reconstruction, Capital Improvement and Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund to repair the outside wall of the Timberlane Performing Arts Center. Article 5, 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Timberlane Teachers Association (TTA). This agreement was reached between the Timberlane Regional School Board and the TTA. The three-year impact will be \$2,620,207. Article 8, Change Trustees of Trust Funds. This article is asking voters to elect the trustees of trust funds of the town of Plaistow, NH to take custody of all school district established trust funds and reserve funds on July 1, 2019. The last four (4) articles are citizen's petitions and are not discussed in detail. They include Article 10, SAU 55 (School Administrative Unit 55) Withdrawal Study (reviewed previously), Article 11, Transportation Costs, (to fully fund transportation contracts) Article 12, High School Athletic Track, (to repair and replace the track at the high school) Article 13, Weighted Voting (based on the number of students in each town of the school district).

REVIEW/UPDATE CODE OF ETHICS

J. Kiszka states the current code of ethics is through. He asks the Board if anyone wants to make changes.

F. Hart states she read it and likes it. She would like to add reviewed on February 25, 2019 and strike the hand-written note on page 2.

F. Hart motions to add reviewed and approved by the Board of Selectmen on February 25, 2019. Seconded by J. Sherman.

Discussion: this should be given to all elected officials.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

DISCUSS ORIENTATION FOR NEW SELECTMEN

The Board reviews the current list of orientation suggestions. More ideas and suggestions are mentioned such as name plates for meetings, available trainings, Knowing the Territory and The Basic Law of Budgeting Books, setting up a web profile, and how to fill out an expense voucher. F. Hart volunteers to update the list. This will be discussed again at a future meeting.

ELECTION SCHEDULE FOR BOARD MEMBERS

J. Kiszka recommends each Selectman give thought as to what times they will be available to be at the polls on March 12. This will be reviewed at the March 11th meeting.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

- Attended Several Meetings
- Public Works Facility Construction Progress
- Beede Group Meeting
- District Court Lease 2019
- All State Abatement Professionals
- Pollard Road and Congressional Road Accident Data
- GASB #75
- Personnel

OLD BUSINESS

S. Ranlett states at the last meeting the job posting for the Chief of Police was discussed. Since then he has done some research. The Town of Atkinson has a part-time Police Chief. There are seven full-time officers, ten part-time officers and one dispatcher. The Town of Hampstead has a part-time Police Chief. They have ten full-time officers, six part-time officers and three part-time dispatchers. The Town of Kingston has a part-time Police Chief. They have nine full-time officers, four part-time officers and one secretary. In Plaistow we have 18 full-time officers, one part-time officer, one part-time Animal Control Officer (ACO), five full-time dispatchers, one part-time dispatcher, two full time secretaries, one part-time recording secretary, one full-time Victim Witness Advocate, one full-time Attorney, and two part-time crossing guards. He also used the Chief of Police Association's website for information. S. Ranlett found four towns looking for chiefs. They are Weare, Stratum, Carroll and Enfield. These towns are requiring 10 years progressive experience with 5 years of command experience. He states M. Pearson stated at a prior meeting that a Police Chief is no less important than a Fire Chief. The Fire Chief's position was posted with requirements including 10 years of municipal fire/rescue experience and at least 3 years of experience as a command officer in a comparable or larger organization. The job posting for the Plaistow Police Chief posting does not require any command, supervisory or administrative experience. S. Ranlett believes this should be changed.

S. Ranlett motions to re-vamp the position of Police Chief to include full-time with 3-5 years of command and administrative experience in a comparable or larger law enforcement organization. Seconded by P. Bracci.

Discussion: A lengthy, discussion occurs. Some stated arguments include who has authority to determine if the permanent Plaistow Police Chief should be full or part time, micro vs. macro managing, duties of an interim chief, why one Board member met with a few current police department employees and not the full board, morale issues, resumes and job descriptions.

Vote: 2-3-0 (no J. Kiszka, J. Sherman, F. Hart)

Motion fails

J. Sherman states he personally is in favor of a full-time Police Chief for Plaistow. He believes this is the best solution for the town. However, this is a possibility the town could save money with a part-time chief.

J. Kiszka agrees with the comment. It depends on the structure around the chief if part-time could work.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

S. Ranlett – nothing to report

F. Hart

- Attended the Old Home Day Committee meeting – the theme is Back to the Future, they are considering having the cannon brought back with the enactment group.
- Attended the Historical Society meeting – Marie Sapenzia has a drone and is willing to use it to take pictures for the town at cost for events like Old Home Day & Memorial Day. J. Sherman states he thinks a firefighter already does this for free.
- Attended the Trash & Recycling Advisory Committee Meeting – working on a program for Pollard fourth graders to increase recycling.
- Spoke with Alan Phair about the CART program in Atkinson. He will try to come to a meeting to discuss the program.
- Attended the Planning Board Meeting – a discussion was held to instill a court order code violation at 17 Plaistow Road. M. Pearson states Attorney Kalman is working with Mike Dorman, Code Enforcement Officer on re-drafting the letter to make it more standard.

P. Bracci – nothing to report

J. Sherman

- Attended the Recreation Commission Meeting – one successful program is chair yoga. There are about 20 elder events. Many school vacation events are running this week. C. Cruz is in the process of hiring for the summer recreation program. Baseball/softball coaches are having background/cori checks.
- Mentions property sales are consistently selling about 20% higher than assessed values.

J. Kiszka

- Attended the Old Home Day Committee Meeting.

J. Kiszka states the Board should go into a nonpublic session. We will not be coming back to the public session.

F. Hart motions to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (A) Public Employee; (B) Hiring; (C) Reputation; (D) Property Transactions; (E) Pending or Threatened Litigation; (I) Emergency Functions Related to Terrorism; (J) Confidential Information in Adjudicative Proceedings; (L) Consideration of Legal Advice. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

Board Polled: J. Kiszka = yes, P. Bracci = yes, J. Sherman = yes, S. Ranlett = yes, F. Hart = yes Motion passes

Exited public session at 9:10pm

Reconvened public session at 9:22pm

J. Sherman motions to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (A) Public Employee; (B) Hiring; (C) Reputation; (D) Property Transactions; (E) Pending or Threatened Litigation; (I) Emergency Functions Related to Terrorism; (J) Confidential Information in Adjudicative Proceedings; (L) Consideration of Legal Advice. Seconded by P. Bracci.

Discussion: P. Bracci asks M. Pearson if he agrees. M. Pearson replies, yes

Board Polled: J. Kiszka = yes, P. Bracci = yes, J. Sherman = yes, S. Ranlett = yes, F. Hart = yes

Motion passes

Exited public session at 9:23pm

Reconvened public session at 9:27pm

J. Kiszka adjourned the meeting at 9:27pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Recording Secretary