



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: March 19, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:37 pm

SELECTMEN:

Selectman, John Sherman, Chairman
Selectman, Steve Ranlett
Selectman, Peter Bracci

Selectman, Tammy Bergeron, Vice Chair
Selectman, Julian Kiszka
Town Manager, Mark Pearson

MINUTES

T. Bergeron motions to approve the minutes of March 12, 2018. Seconded by S. Ranlett.

J. Kiszka would like a change on page 2, second paragraph from the bottom, change “he” to Julian Kiszka on the fourth line. All Selectmen agree with the change.

Vote: 5 -0-0

Motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

J. Kiszka as the incumbent is the first person to be sworn into office. S. Ranlett has the honor of swearing in Selectman Kiszka.

Next the following are sworn into office. Sam J. Cafiso Jr., and Katie Ingalls are sworn in as members of the Budget Committee. Robert Harb is sworn in as Moderator. Therese A. Chouinard is sworn in as a member of the Conflict of Interest Committee. Jane Query is sworn in as a Library Trustee.

Elected Officials who were not able to come to tonight’s meeting and need to be sworn into office may go to the Town Clerk’s Office during the week.

DISCUSS “CHICKEN” ORDINANCE

T. Bergeron brought this issue up last week. She received a complaint from a resident who has had trouble with a neighbor’s chickens disturbing his yard. He tried to solve the issue by talking to his neighbor but nothing changed. On a different occasion he called the ACO, Animal Control Officer to his property. Unfortunately, the Officer was not able to provide a solution.

J. Kiszka has studied the issue. NH RSA 635:3 deals with animals such as goats, cattle and sheep but it does not mention fowl. However, House Bill 89 (HB 89) recently passed the State House. It

amends NH RSA 635:3 to include fowl. The bill has not been brought to the State Senate yet but if it passes the Senate we will have guidelines to follow.

S. Ranlett mentions Plaistow does have a general nuisance ordinance. The issue of chickens on someone else's property could be addressed under this ordinance. He thinks the Board should be cautious before creating a new ordinance. He thinks the Board should not do anything yet but wait and see what happens with HB89 at the Senate.

J. Sherman agrees and states perhaps a small fine could be imposed on a second offense.

P. Bracci does not want to punish all chicken owners.

The rest of the Board agrees.

T. Bergeron is just trying to help a constituent who brought an issue to her attention.

REVIEW ELECTION RESULTS

J. Sherman was impressed that only one warrant article was voted down. He believes this shows that people respect the Boards opinions and the work they do.

T. Bergeron was disappointed that the Zoning Amendment Z-18-13 passed. She thinks the Planning Board should have a Voter's Guide or a way of explaining the intend of the warrant article. She feels it was hard to understand.

J. Sherman states he thinks things were better before we became an SB2 Town. At that time, we did not vote by ballot but held a regular town meeting. That way you could be sure people understood the information.

P. Bracci asks about the email from Mr. Ty Vitale.

According to the Conflict of Interest Laws he cannot be an Elected Auditor and on the Conflict of Interest Committee.

Mr. Vitale wants to be on both.

S. Ranlett still feels changing voting to the second Tuesday of April is better for everyone. He has mentioned this idea to Dr. Earl Metzler, Superintendent of the Timberlane School District. He agrees with the suggestion. S. Ranlett will continue to work on this checking with other Towns in the district as well as Hampstead who shares the same SAU (School Administrative Unit). On voting day, the State of New Hampshire closed State Offices. Most Town Halls and Libraries were also closed due to the storm yet voting remained open. Plaistow had a little more than eight hundred voters on Tuesday and the first five hundred and fifty-three arrived during the first hour of voting. From 8:00am to 8:00pm under three hundred people came to the polls to vote.

J. Kiszka thinks May would be a better month for voting. However, it would require a change to the Town's fiscal year.

J. Sherman states this would be too hard for the School District. April 15 is the deadline for contacting teachers regarding jobs for the following school year.

J. Kiszka agrees that April is the best time for voting.

P. Bracci would like to know how many other Towns vote in April or May.

SUMMER RECREATION FEES

M. Person states there is a memo in tonight's folders from the Recreation Director, Christina Cruz who is here tonight. She would like to increase the fees as outlined on the table in the memo.

S. Ranlett asks when was the last time fees were increased.

C. Cruz replies they have not increased since she has been the Recreation Director and this will be her seventh summer.

J. Kiszka asks if the fees of nonresidents cover the full costs of the program.

C. Cruz replies there are a lot of variables. Plaistow residents have first choice and nonresidents may only come some weeks not all weeks.

P. Bracci asks if registration fees for leagues are ever waived.

C. Cruz states the fees for a coach's child are waived. If a coach has two children in the league the fee is only waived for the child whose team is coached by a parent. However, if one parent coaches two teams, two children will have fees waived. The only leagues in Plaistow are baseball and softball.

S. Ranlett motions to approve the increase in summer recreation fees as outlined in the memo dated March 16, 2018. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

Discussion: P. Bracci asks if we are in line with other Towns.

C. Cruz replies we will be if the increase passes.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

APPROVAL OF NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The minutes of February 6, 2017 are discussed.

S. Ranlett motions to approved and keep sealed the non-public minutes of February 6, 2017.

Seconded by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 4-0-1 (abstain S. Ranlett)

Motion passes

S. Ranlett motions to approved and keep sealed the non-public minutes of February 8, 2017.

Seconded by J. Kiszka.

J. Sherman notes the minutes state he was excused and he states he was in attendance.

S. Ranlett notes the minutes of February 6, 2017 state he was excused and he states he was in attendance.

J. Sherman wants both February 6 and February 8, 2017 corrected to show the full Board was at both meetings.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

S. Ranlett motions to approve the non-public minutes of April 17, 2017. Seconded by T. Bergeron.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes (note these minutes are not sealed)

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Potable Water & Other Meetings.

Storm Update.

Snow Budget – making board aware of the situation.

Department of Revenue Administration 2018 MS-232.

Public Works Garage – will be a design & build & we will go through the Planning Board.

Cell Tower(s) Revenue – a company is already interested in three Plaistow sites.

Employee Retention.

Collective Bargaining Agreement(s) Negotiations.

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P. Bracci does not believe wages is the only reason employees are leaving. He thinks attitudes of a boss and/or the atmosphere of a department are also factors.

M. Pearson replies during exit interviews the only reason he has been given is low wages.

S. Ranlett states he has talked to some people who have left and it is about wages.

Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas bonuses are mentioned. These items are in the operating budget.

M. Pearson will conduct a survey of area town wages.

M. Pearson would like the Board to consider meeting every other week. It would help him and Greg get more work accomplished.

P. Bracci thinks future financial statements should be given out two weeks into the new month for the prior month. There is a RSA that states the Board should receive them monthly.

M. Pearson states going forward this will happen but in December the books are not closed two weeks into January. Typically, January takes longer too. Encumbrances are part of the reason why. Sometimes we are waiting for invoices too. Also in January and February the town does not have an approved budget yet.

P. Bracci wants preliminary reports for those months.

S. Ranlett motions to withdraw \$1443.00 from the Cable Department Capital Reserve Fund to purchase the equipment referenced in the memo dated March 19, 2018.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

Note: M. Pearson removes Francine Hart's name and inserts Tammy Bergeron's name for the Board signatures.

SIGNATURE FOLDER

J. Sherman states the manifest, signature folder and Oaths & Warrants folder are going around.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Reviewed

SELECTMAN REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

S. Ranlett

- Wants a status on Timberlane Road Rear property that was sold at the December auction. It is with the title research company. M. Pearson will follow up and let the Board know.
- Asks M. Pearson to check on some floor tiles at the Police Department. S. Ranlett noticed some seams bulging near the Chief's Office. He also noticed some concrete buckling and some cracked tiles.
- Mentions how most voters on Tuesday came during the first hour. Only two hundred and twenty-eight people showed up between 8:00am – 8:00pm.
- States he will attend the Regional Selectmen's meeting in Sandown on April 11

J. Sherman

- The Public Safety Complex will accept weight and exercise equipment if it is in good condition and not needed. Most of the equipment they have was donated.
- Elder Affairs will have a movie on April 6, Under the Tuscan Sun.
- Opening Day for baseball is scheduled for May 5, weather providing.
- Summer Recreation will begin June 25. C. Cruz is working on hiring a summer staff.
- There is a basketball court at Smith Field on Ingalls Road. When the weather is better a wall ball court will be added.
- The Toddler Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Friday, March 30.
- The Easter Egg Hunt for older children will be held on Saturday, March 31.
- The Highway Safety Committee has many projects coming up. We need to be sure to let the Pollard School know about all projects especially the Westville Road Bridge project and SRTS (Safe Routes to School). Main Street should be paved this year. M. Pearson should try to coordinate the paving with SRTS.

T. Bergeron

- She would like clarity on who is responsible for plowing /clearing sidewalks and what sections of Route 125 are to be cleared. M. Pearson states the Town is supposed to keep the sidewalks from East Road up to Cumberland Farms cleared. At a prior meeting he told the Board he had directed the Highway Supervisor to so this however the Board said no. The sidewalks along Main Street will have to be plowed once the SRTS project is complete.

T. Bergeron directs the Town Manager to have the highway Department clear Route 125 sidewalks from East Road to Old Road. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

J. Sherman asks what the costs will be.

T. Bergeron is afraid there will be a law suit against the Town if someone gets injured.

M. Pearson has estimated it would cost between \$3500 - \$5000 to maintain all the sidewalks in Town.

S. Ranlett states he believes there is an RSA that states if you clear the sidewalks and someone is injured the Town is liable. If you do not clear the sidewalks and someone is injured the Town is not liable.

M. Pearson states the State will not grant the Town any more grants unless we honor the prior contract of keeping some of the sidewalks along Route 125 clear.

D. Garlington, Highway Supervisor contacted S. Ranlett and said they cannot clear the sidewalks along Route 125 now because they are covered with ice.

T. Bergeron amends her motion to direct the Town Manager to have the highway Department clear Route 125 sidewalks from East Road to Old Road when it is practical to do so. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 4-1-0 (no P. Bracci)

Motion passes

J. Kiszka

- Will attend the PACE meeting at Haverhill Country Club on 3/22.
- Attended the St. Patrick's Day Lunch here at Town Hall. It was a great event.
- Attended the Energy Meeting. A solar field on landfill is the next project they are considering.
- Attended the Rockingham Planning Commission with Tim Moore. Liberty Utilities will install a liquid natural gas tank in Kingston. The cost is 20% less than oil and 60% less than propane. They are trying to get a aggregate electricity rate for area towns in the RPC Community.

P. Bracci

- Attended the Conservation Commission. A variance was given to the builders on North Ave. NH DES will allow them to take down several trees. He recommended a slogan for Arbor Day as "Plant the Plant".

He wants to know why the RFP for an Executive Secretary was taken down from the website.

M. Pearson states there was never one posted to his knowledge. He did have a posting for a clerical minute taker.

P. Bracci believes he missed an email sent on the day of elections.

M. Pearson states it might be information from the Emergency Management Team. It was only recently he realized the Board was not part of the email chain. He forwarded the emails to the Board. He has asked the Emergency Management team to include the Board on future emails. A warming center for Plaistow during storms is discussed. Both P. Bracci and S. Ranlett mention the Safety Complex. M. Pearson states that might work for a day but Plaistow does not have a location that could be used for any type of overnight event.

P. Bracci believes we need to have a way to care for people with no power.

J. Sherman agrees.

P. Bracci would like the manifest for accounts payable ready by noon on Friday's. He states getting it on Monday night does not allow enough time to go through all the invoices.

M. Pearson states there is one person doing payroll and accounts payable. Due to timelines there is no way to have the manifest completed sooner. Typically, it is done late Monday afternoon. Selectmen can come to the meeting early to study and view the manifest.

J. Sherman received letters and invoices from The Vic Geary Center and Rockingham Planning Commission looking for money. He gave them to M. Pearson.

J. Sherman adjourned the meeting at 8:31pm
Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Recording Secretary