

Town of Plaistow ♦ Budget Committee

145 Main Street ♦ Plaistow ♦ NH ♦ 03865



BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting: September 19, 2023

Call to Order: 6:31pm

ROLL CALL:

Katie Knutsen, *Chair* - present
Doug Thompson, *Vice Chair* - present
Richard Anthony, *Budget Committee*- present
Ted Carves, *Budget Committee* – excused
David Gerns, *Budget Committee* – excused
Elizabeth Kosta, *Budget Committee* -present
John Sherman, *Budget Committee* – present
Jay DeRoche, *Selectmen's Representative* - present
Darrell Britton, *Selectmen's Alternate* - present
Greg Colby, Town Manager/Finance Director - excused

Also Present: Margo Collins, resident
Nolan Pelletier, resident

Agenda Item 4: Review/Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 27, 2023 meeting had been distributed in advance.

E. Kosta moved, second by J. Sherman, to approve the minutes as issued

The motion was approved 6-0-1 (J. DeRoche)

Agenda Item 5: Budget Related Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item 6: Filling of Vacancies

Ch. Knutsen noted there were two candidates present for the one open seat on the Committee and invited them to come forward and speak.

Nolan Pelletier, 24 North Ave., Plaistow spoke to his candidacy and qualifications. He said he runs a small business in town and is familiar with budgeting and fiscal matters. He has been a Plaistow resident for almost 20 years and felt it was time to put time into the community, and is excited to look at line items. He said that his business is a one-person shop that does residential and commercial electric work. He was asked about other activities and said he is teaching at a co-op and noted his involvement with Defend the Guard, a bill which aims to keep the National Guards local and not send them to other countries unless there is a declaration of war. He noted that he wrote his name in for the Budget Committee on the ballot. He said he learned a lot about the election process and said he learned that Plaistow was not following election law regarding write-in votes as write-in ties were not counted properly and so he has helped the Town going forward in this area.

Margo Collins, 93 Old County Rd., Plaistow, spoke to her candidacy and qualifications. She noted she has been a resident of Plaistow for over 40 years and said she had served on various town committees over the years. She noted helping to establish the summer recreation program, had been a scout leader, dispatched for the Police Department's midnight shift for three years, and made other contributions. She noted she has recently retired and has some time now to give back to the Town. She said she has read the Budget Committee handbook and will do her best to help. She said she understands budgeting and the need to take care of what you have.

Ch. Knutsen thanked both candidates for their interest and proceeded to the vote.

Ch. Knutsen asked all in favor for N. Pelletier to fill the position to raise their hand. R. Anthony raised his hand. The vote was 1 in favor.

Ch. Knutsen asked all in favor for M. Collins to fill the position to raise their hand. K. Knutsen, D. Thompson, E. Kosta, J. Sherman and J. DeRoche raised their hand. The vote was 5 in favor.

Ch. Knutsen declared that M. Collins would fill the position and thanked N. Pelletier for coming and his interest in the position.

Agenda Item 8: Next Meeting

Ch. Knutsen noted that a joint meeting of the Select Board and the Budget Committee had been proposed to meet with select department heads. J. DeRoche noted that the Selectmen may have the budget in the next week, there will be a presentation of the budget on October 2nd, and some budgets will be dealt with that evening. He said he would get a list of these budgets to Ch. Knutsen in the event the Budget Committee wished to meet on October 3rd to address the same budgets. He said they would try to have the proposed joint meeting on October 16th at 6:00 or

6:30 PM to look at the Police, Fire, Highway and Recreation budgets. He said the Budget Committee should get the budget at the same time as the Select Board, and that they hope to wrap up the budget by the end of the month.

There was discussion of the Budget Committee's rules of procedure. It was agreed a joint meeting would make sense and that the Budget Committee could call in other department heads as needed. There was discussion of whether the Selectmen would meet first and then the Budget Committee.

It was agreed to meet on October 16th. J. DeRoche said the meeting might add the Library budget to the meeting if it is ready.

Agenda Item 7: New Business/Old Business

R. Anthony asked when the school budget would be ready; K. Knutsen said in October. R. Anthony asked if the \$1.6 million would be coming back to the communities. K. Knutsen said it was being remitted and likely to offset the school tax rate. She said the whole amount that was budgeted was not taken at once and is being used as projects move ahead.

R. Anthony suggested that the budget should be kept level funded as much as possible and the surplus be used to bring the tax rate down. J. DeRoche said that approach is used as much as possible every year.

Agenda Item 11: Adjournment

There was no additional business presented. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlene Glorieux
Recording Secretary