



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: December 21, 2015

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:35 PM

SELECTMEN:

Selectman, Steve Ranlett, Chairman
Selectman, Joyce Ingerson - Excused
Selectman, Julian Kiszka

Selectman, John Sherman Vice Chairman
Selectman, Tammy Bergeron
Town Manager, Sean Fitzgerald

AGENDA

MINUTES

J. Sherman motions to approve the minutes of 12-14-15. Second by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion passes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

AWARD PRESENTATION

Detective Pat Schiavone thanks the Board for allowing him to present the Police Appreciation award to Aminda Daviduk. He states she has been extremely supportive of Police events, including DARE program, K-9 and many more. She has always generously donated and supported the Police Department. He presents her with a plaque of appreciation. S. Ranlett also presents Aminda with the Plaistow Pride Certificate signed by the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX UPDATE

Gino Baroni and Dave Mermelstein, of Trident, Alan Brown of Dore & Whittier, and John Deloia, Vice President from Eckman Construction are present. S. Ranlett begins by stating the Board of Selectman has directed the Town Manager to reduce the cost of the project. S. Fitzgerald states several changes have been made to the scope, such as reduced space, removal of a library, decreased locker room size, and the elimination of a fitness room for the Fire Department have brought down costs. He states both Chiefs have been diligent to make sure we had what was necessary. This proposal is 25% less than what was presented last year at Town Meeting. The cost has been reduced from \$11 million to \$8.5 million.

G. Baroni discusses how they were able to bring the figure down. When Trident was first hired as the OPM they did a review with the architect, Dore & Whittier. The project cost at that time was 8.9 million. They were able to make a few changes without reducing longevity or functionality of the building but it was not enough to bring the cost to 8.5 million so they looked at site work.

Trident was able to make changes, such as no curbing on the access road, shortening the road to the cemetery and deferring paving of the visitor parking lot. The visitor parking area will be gravel instead of pavement, therefore reducing costs but not functionality. The existing utilities and wells will remain as they are. Both Chiefs are satisfied with the proposal. They did not compromise on quality and agree the building will not have an institutional feel. If a future development goes on the Palmer Property (Plaistow has the right of first refusal) the Town will work with the developer for any improvements and/or impacts affecting the Public Safety Campus. There is a wetland area in the back of the site. G. Baroni states a portion of this can be filled in and it should not be an issue for the site plan. S. Fitzgerald mentions the frog pond may require some drainage changes but this will be looked at during the design aspect. The Town will work with NHDES as needed.

T. Bergeron inquires about the potential for expansion in the future if necessary.

S. Fitzgerald states the campus is surrounded by 30 acres of open space, expansion will be possible. The Town does not own it presently but has the ability to acquire the land.

J. McArdle thanks Trident and Eckman for working hard to get the numbers reduced.

J. Sherman inquires if anything in this proposal will hinder accreditation of the Police Department. Chief Jones states there is not. She has worked closely with A. Brown, of Dore & Whittier and they made sure the building will accommodate all necessities for accreditation.

A. Brown reviews the evolution of the project. Many of the savings came from system changes. He states it was worth it to hire a Construction Manager who knows the market place. The site is great and has potential to be added to in the future. A. Brown feels this is a great place to get going and he feels there is a great team who can make this work.

S. Ranlett agrees there has been great team work. He thanks everyone for coming tonight for the presentation.

S. Fitzgerald thanks Eckman, Trident and Dore & Whittier for all their hard work. He states that once this is passed at Town Meeting the Town can move quickly to support the project.

Chief Jones states there will be 4 open houses at the Safety Complex between now and March. She encourages residents to come and tour the building to see the current deficiencies. Information will be placed on the face book page as well as channel 17 & 23.

J. Sherman motions to approve the 8.5 million dollars for the new safety complex and we will work on the wording of the warrant article, P-16-03 later in this meeting.

Second by T. Bergeron.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion passes.

S. Fitzgerald states we will have a Public Hearing by the second Tuesday in January because this is a bond article. This ensures everyone will have a chance to learn about the project. S. Ranlett mentions the board will vote again on this warrant article when the full board is present.

REVIEW OF 2016 PROPOSED WARRANT ARTICLES

Article P-16-03- PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX EXPANSION BOND ISSUE

S. Ranlett request the dollar figure be changed to \$8.5 million to reflect the amount the Board voted on.

J. Sherman requests S. Fitzgerald work on updating the intent section and sending it to the Board for review. S. Fitzgerald states he will do this and chronicle some of the reductions made and mention points of interest.

Article P-16- 16 - ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS EXEMPTION

S. Fitzgerald states this warrant article was recommended by the Renewables Committee. He recommends this be supported by the Board. The Town does not assess solar panels. This may help incentivize residents to invest in renewable technology. Incentives for business as well as residents.

J. Sherman motions to recommend the establishment of a Solar Energy Systems Exemption Warrant Article.

Second by J. Kiszka. Discussion follows clarifying this exemption would pertain to currently installed systems, not just new systems? Wood stoves are exempted which includes pellet stoves.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion passes.

CITIZENS PETITIONS

The first Citizens Petition states, "Are you in favor of making a policy that any employee in the Town of Plaistow making more than \$60,000 per year must reside in Plaistow?"

Discussion ensues. It is noted that this would affect approximately ½ to ¾ of the work force, making \$60,000 or more.

J. Sherman is opposed to this article. He states that this is not in the best interest of Plaistow to limit the applicant pool, as there is no advantage to it. He also states the Board of Selectman cannot change the wording of the article.

T. Bergeron, J. Kiszka and S. Ranlett also oppose it.

J. Sherman request the Town Manager to research the number of employees in this category.

J. Sherman motions to not recommend the citizens petition regarding residency in Plaistow for employees making \$60,000 or more.

Second by T. Bergeron.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion passes.

The second Citizens Petition states, “Are you in favor of notification of all pending zoning changes to taxpayer property, should be sent by certified mail to affected property owners?” It is noted that this is a zoning issue though it was submitted too late. Therefore, this cannot go on the ballot as a zoning warrant article, though the Board can allow it to be on the ballot if they choose. Discussion ensues.

The consensus of the Board is that this is really an issue that should be decided by the Planning and Zoning Boards.

REVIEW OF 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

The proposed budget was slightly under a 4 % increase over last year and the goal was to get it down to under a 3% increase. This was extremely challenging due to the collective bargaining agreements, contractual adjustments and health care costs. There are a few budget adjustments that need to be made. He thanks Department Heads for their work in refining their budgets.

Building Inspection Budget-

S. Fitzgerald recommends an increase of \$5,000 for the Inspectional Services Budget to allow for the lease of a new vehicle for the Building Inspector.

J. Sherman motions to adjust line 01-4240-10-661 in the Inspectional Services budget by adding \$5,000 to support the lease of a vehicle, for a revised total for the 2016 proposed Inspectional Services Budget of \$137,084.

Second by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 3-1-0 (J. Sherman)

Motion passes.

Legal Budget-

S. Fitzgerald recommends reducing this account by \$10,000, noting that most of the cable negotiations are complete. He recommends encumbering some funds to conclude the process at next week’s meeting, we do not need to carry this funding into 2016.

J. Sherman motions to decrease line 01-4153-10-320 in the Legal Budget by \$10,000 for a revised total in the 2016 proposed Legal Budget in the amount of \$25,000.

Second by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion passes.

Personnel Budget

S. Fitzgerald recommends reducing this budget by \$60,000. Due to census changes and reduction of some healthcare costs. The Federal government has relaxed the enforcement of the Cadillac Tax until 2020.

J. Sherman motions to decrease line 1-4155-20-210 in the Personnel Budget by \$60,000, for a revised total in the 2016 proposed Personnel Budget in the amount of \$1,818,924.

Second by T. Bergeron.

Vote: 4-0-0
Motion passes.

Welfare Direct Assistance Budget

J. Sherman motions to reduce the following lines in the Town Welfare Budget as follows:

- ***1-4442-10-840 Welfare Shelter/Rent -\$5,000***
- ***1-4442-10-847 Welfare Heat -\$2,000***
- ***1-4442-10-846 Welfare Unitil Electric -\$500***

These reductions revise the total Welfare Direct Assistance Budget to \$24,850.

Second by T. Bergeron.

Vote: 4-0-0
Motion passes.

Electric and Gas Utility Adjustments

S. Fitzgerald states that he has reviewed the prior year expenditures and the projections of the US Department of Energy. Reflection of utilization and increase global demand and rates rising.

J. Sherman motions to adjust the Electrical Utility Lines as presented in the Town Managers Report on 12/21/15 for a total increase in the 2016 proposed budget in the amount of \$10,500 which is made up of 5 individual adjustments.

Second by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 4-0-0
Motion passes.

J. Sherman motions to adjust the Gas Utility lines as presented in the Town Managers Report on 12/21/15 for a total reduction in the 2016 proposed budget in the amount of \$2,000 which is made up of 3 individual adjustments.

Second by T. Bergeron.

Vote: 4-0-0
Motion passes.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Budget Adjustments
Graybar- Street lights
NHDOT 125 Widening Pre Construction
American Legion Post 34 Commander
Chandler Ave – Waterline Extension
Town Owned Properties
Cable Department
Town Reports
Joint Loss Committee
Greg Colby
Recreation
Encumbrances
Fire Department – Pay night supper

Traffic Calming
Tom Cullen's Birthday
Santa

T. Bergeron gives a special thanks to the Fire Department for bringing Santa around town.

ACTION ITEM REVIEW

List is reviewed.

OTHER BUSINESS

SIGNATURE FOLDER

S. Ranlett states the manifest and signature folder is going around.

SELECTMENS REPORTS

J. Sherman

- The Budget Committee did not meet last week.
- The Public Hearing on the proposed 2016 Budget is Tuesday 1/12/16 @ 7 pm.
- Volunteered to proof read any Town Reports.

T. Bergeron

- Family Mediation meeting was canceled last week.

S. Ranlett

- Did not attend the Planning Board Meeting last Wednesday.

J. Kiszka

- Nothing to report, Merry Christmas.

S. Ranlett wishes Norm Major good luck and a speedy recovery and hopes he is soon back at the State House and back here in Town. Norm has done a tremendous amount of work for our community. The Board of Selectman has an avid watcher every Monday night. His name is Ron Reardon.

S. Ranlett wishes him a Merry Christmas and thanks him for his due diligence. He wishes a Merry Christmas to the community and safe travel to all.

Public Meeting Adjourned at 8:19 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle Hamel
Recording Secretary