



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: February 22, 2016

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:32 PM

SELECTMEN:

Selectman, Steve Ranlett, Chairman-Excused	Selectman, John Sherman Vice Chairman
Selectman, Joyce Ingerson - Excused	Selectman, Tammy Bergeron
Selectman, Julian Kiszka	Town Manager, Sean Fitzgerald

AGENDA

MINUTES

T. Bergeron motions to approve the minutes of 02-01-16. Second by J. Kiszka

Vote: 3-0-0.

Motion passes.

TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUNDS UPDATE-JILL SENTER, CHAIRMAN

J. Senter begins with the review of the year-end report for the Trust Funds. She notes that the interest earned on these funds was significantly higher than last year. The total earned for 6 months was \$3946.80. J. Senter feels the move to Mackensen was worth it. Long term projections are positive. Cemetery funds cannot be spent, only the interest earned can be spent. Under the new investment firm, \$1400 from the interest earned on cemetery funds last year were given back to the town.

The MS 9 & MS 10 must be filed with the state but not all of that detail is presented tonight. Discussion ensues. There is consensus amongst the board that the right decision was made with investing the funds with Mackensen. J. Senter will come back with another update in April.

S. Fitzgerald mentions the town has 1.7 million in capital reserve funds. This helps protect the tax rate and steady the Town's finances. We have healthy financial reserves that will allow us to earn approximately \$60,000 in interest over 10 years.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX COLORING CONTEST

Chief Kathleen Jones states all entries are on display at the Safety Complex. She is pleased with the outstanding job done by all the young citizens. Tonight honorable mention is awarded to Kayla Pelletier, Owen Steven and Andrea Alvino. Candace Wyman is the winner for the 5-7 age category and Spencer Brien is the winner for the 8-10 age group.

J. Sherman recesses the meeting at 6:48 for a brief break to allow for pictures.

Meeting is reconvened 6:54pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kimberly Raymond, 7 Lynwood Street, inquires as to the risk of the Trust Funds should the market crash.

S. Fitzgerald responds there is a slight risk but as Mrs. Senter stated most funds must be placed in secure risk pools where risk is minimal or capped. We will have the investment firm provide a specific report regarding the portfolio and showing where money is being put to help provide a sense of confidence. The BOS has requested quarterly updates on the funds and they are being very careful. Some principle may be at risk but it depends on state law since certain funds cannot have any principal at risk. The goal is to get a better return for the Town.

J Kiszka states he believes the principle was not at risk although nothing is 100% safe. He notes the Trustees of the Trust Fund brought the investment company to a Board of Selectman meeting last year. The presentation was public and was recorded.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

2nd Grade Cub Scouts

Public Safety Complex Open Houses

2015 Annual Report

Primary Election Day

Atkinson Dispatch Contract

NH DES MtBE Testing-

Discussion on water ensues. It is noted that Plaistow has one of the highest rates of re-drilled wells due to the bedrock wells. It was noted on the Water Symposium done two or so years ago that conducted analysis on wells that had failed in Plaistow. The topology and hydrology of the town was reviewed. Plaistow has the deepest wells and the highest percentage of failed wells. Plaistow is one of 2 towns in the state that does not have a body of water. S. Sherman mentions that the state has put 2.8 million in the cleanup of the Lido site as of the water Symposium done 2 years ago. S. Fitzgerald states it would have been more effective if the state had put the 2.8 million in an alternative water system rather than the cleanup.

SAVERS

Fire Suppression Plan

Planning Board Updates

Biometric Screening scheduled for March 29th

Town's Food Ordinances

LED Lights - S. Fitzgerald notes he is working with 22 communities in the state to work with Unitil in converting street lights to LED fixtures. It is the consensus of the Board to have the Town Manager get the legislative delegation involved. Representative Major and Senator Morse will be included in future discussions.

Center Circle

Fire Department Open Position

ACTION ITEM REVIEW

Reviewed

OTHER BUSINESS

J. Sherman inquires as to the Finance Director Position.

S. Fitzgerald states that Carol Coppola, CPA will be stepping in to fill the Finance Director responsibilities for the time being. It is noted she is well qualified.

J. Kiszka inquires if the cost for a contracted Finance Director is more than hiring one.

S. Fitzgerald states the cost is the same.

J. Sherman inquires into the Rte 125 widening and water line extension project. He wants to know what the cost and procedure is for a business to hook up to the water line. Businesses will want to do this for fire suppression.

S. Fitzgerald states the business must meet with the Town and the current cost is 11 cents per square foot. Perhaps it is time to look at some other methodologies for determining cost.

J. Sherman inquires on the dollar amount spent on the Hale Spring well.

S. Fitzgerald states \$800 was spend on the exterior housing around the well. The deed for the well should be pulled for the next meeting but the deed states the Town must maintain the well in order to keep it. Otherwise it will revert back to the prior owner. The well consists of a spring that is not deep and travels across a lot of open land. It is contaminated with e-coli so it cannot be used as a source of potable water. The total dollar cost was less than \$1500. There may be some usefulness for the citizens as the well could be used for toilet flushing in the event of a loss of power. This was done a few years back during the power outages caused by the ice storm.

J. Sherman notes that he has done some research on the property located at 174 Main Street. He has a handout for the Board members. The owner spoke at both the Public Hearing and the Deliberative Session stating his taxes have increased significantly. J. Sherman explains the reason for the \$600 tax increase over 2 years was due to purchasing the property at a low price because the property has gone into foreclosure. The assessment went back to market value after the purchase. When taxes go up significantly there is usually a reason behind it. He notes this is public information and will also send it to the Budget Committee.

SIGNATURE FOLDER

J. Sherman states the signature folder and manifest are going around.

SELECTMENS REPORTS

J. Kiszka

- Attended Primary Election Day. He thought this was the highlight of being a selectman to meet new residents and see democracy in action.
- Attended the CED's Steering Committee Meeting with surrounding towns. LED lighting and priority projects were discussed. S. Fitzgerald has had a priority project

regarding a Water and Waste Water Feasibility Study. On March 15 they are offering a free class at their training center for how to start a new business.

- Attended the Recreation Committee Meeting. Playground items and sports programs were discussed.
- Attended Candidates night.
- Attended Renewables Committee with a focus on Solar energy and LED lights.
- Attended PACE meeting at the Plaistow YMCA.

J. Sherman

- The Annual Budget Presentation Cable show was taped this past Saturday with Sean Fitzgerald, Dennis Heffernan and himself. This will be on channel 17 soon.
- Right to Know request - There are no outstanding requests for information. All requests that have been submitted have been responded to. There will be a new process of submitting a request for information soon.

T. Bergeron

- Attended Family Mediation & Juvenile Services. She states she is the only Selectman on the Committee. None of the other towns have selectmen on this committee. T. Bergeron explained how Plaistow Selectman are assigned to committees and boards and they were very receptive regarding Plaistow's methods. T. Bergeron plans to meet with the participating towns Board of Selectman to encourage their participation on this important committee. The committee is also interested in getting members from local school boards to participate. They have a great need for fundraising and applying for grants. Another interesting idea presented at the meeting was a new approach for working with teenagers. This involves teaching robotics to troubled teens. It calms them and allows them to speak about their issues.

J. Sherman would like the Board to review non public minutes. All 5 board members will need to be present. This should be scheduled for the March 7th meeting.

J Sherman also thanks everyone for their condolences upon the passing of his sister, Marge. She was a public school teacher with three Masters Degrees and one Doctorate Degree. She loved teaching and being a student herself. She will be dearly missed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8.26 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle Hamel
Recording Secretary