



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: Monday, March 11, 2013

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:35 pm

SELECTMEN:

Chairman, Michelle Curran

Selectman, Charles Blinn

Selectman, Daniel Poliquin –arrived 7:16 pm

Vice Chairman, John Sherman

Selectman, Robert Gray - excused

Town Manager, Sean Fitzgerald

AGENDA:

MINUTES:

Motion by J. Sherman to approve the Minutes of March 4, 2013 with correction to page 2 (change S. Sherman to J. Sherman).

2nd by: C. Blinn.

Vote: 3-0-0.

Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one from the public wishing to speak.

UPDATE ON CAPITAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – TIM MOORE

S. Fitzgerald noted he and Tim Moore attended the Legislative Hearing for the Capital Budget Overview Committee to discuss the MBTA feasibility study. The committee approves any state funding for capitol projects specifically rail projects. NHDOT approved the use of toll credits. He thanked Senator Morse and Representative Major for their support. Selectmen Poliquin also spoke with the Governor. The Town received some significant support and a unanimous vote to move forward.

T. Moore discussed the opinions that had shifted after the NH Capitol Corridor Project; a lot of time was spent contacting various people; no unspoken opposition to the project; another good day for the rail project; and the next crucial vote is before Governor and Counsel in second week in April.

J. Sherman inquired if the process was for Executive Counsel to take a vote to recommend to the Governor.

T. Moore noted they were voting on whether to approve the contract.

J. Sherman noted the study would produce an updated estimate for ridership. He inquired what the estimated ridership was.

Tim Moore discussed 450 riders daily however they thought it was high so on their application they knocked it down to 250.

J. Sherman discussed the size of the parking lot on Westville Road and inquired if it would be large enough to accommodate the ridership and if someone had looked into that.

T. Moore noted they thought the 450 was too high so they knocked it down to 250 and the park and ride would handle the estimated number.

S. Fitzgerald noted it would handle the startup volume however they would likely need to expand the parking or look at funding for a parking garage if it was as successful as some hope.

T. Moore discussed reestablishment of hooking up busing along Route 125 (shuttle bus or trolley). People could park in the shopping centers and take the trolley to the station. They looked at Hampstead when they did the Route 125 Study to determine/establish a central spot.

J. Sherman discussed Westville Road and its use noting the park and ride side towards Route 125 could only be exited in one direction. He inquired if there were any concerns with people exiting on to Main Street.

T. Moore noted that was something that would be revisited depending on the ridership.

M. Curran thanked Tim for his extra work on the project.

PUBLIC HEARING – PALMER LAND EXCHANGE

M. Curran opened the Public Hearing at 7:03 pm.

S. Fitzgerald discussed Second Public Hearing on the Land Swap between the Town of Plaistow and Mr. Alden Palmer:

- Two weeks ago a similar presentation was done
- Two weeks ago he presented similar information
- Tonight's overview
- Schematic of the Cemetery
- Addressing the need for additional property adjacent to the Cemetery/Public Safety Complex
- Negotiations in the manner of a land swap
- Written legal agreement reached
- Right of First Refusal
- RSA 41:14A Acquisition or Sale of Land/Buildings
- Review and recommendation of Conservation and Planning Board
- First Public Hearing
- Location of Land behind the Cemetery and Public Safety Complex
- Map of proposed land to be exchanged
- Negotiation of right of way for access to back of Cemetery
- Amount of available plots (16-25 plots purchased every year)
- Expansion will allow for more plots
- History of Cemetery (1831 earliest marked grave)

S. Fitzgerald requested Highway Supervisor Dan Garlington to discuss overview of Cemetery.

D. Garlington discussed tight quarters on roadway in Cemetery specifically in winter months. Pavement is approximately 10 feet and grave markers are on the edge of the pavement. Access is tight during summer hours but more so in winter time. Second access is wider. He is very familiar with the area that is why he plows that area however if someone else does it that is not familiar then damages could occur. Recently some unknown person attempted to help by clearing the area but the condition that it was done in caused more work for the Highway Department. If the Town received land to expand the Cemetery he recommended to expand the road to 12 feet wide and suggested for a road to be put around the perimeter of the property so he could plow snow off of graves and not onto graves.

D. Poliquin arrived at 7:16 pm

M. Curran and D. Garlington discussed people using the Cemetery for a walking path.

D. Garlington noted he worked hard to keep it open during the winter months for people to see their loved ones.

M. Curran noted people do recognize the work done maintaining the Cemetery.

S. Fitzgerald noted in a 2002 Town Meeting a Warrant Article was passed that gave authorization to the Board of Selectmen to acquire or sell land per RSA 41:14 A. He discussed current Legal Agreement signed by Board of Selectmen and Right of First Refusal. He requested Mike Dorman to update the public on the process.

M. Dorman discussed being on the Public Safety Committee, spending a lot of time looking at this land, conversation had with Mr. Palmer (four years to now), attended Planning Board when discussions of land were on the agenda, positive discussions from Planning Board, and attended Plaistow First Committee meeting regarding this land which were positive. He thought this project was a good project.

S. Fitzgerald noted the land exchange would give the Town more options.

J. Senter Conservation Chair noted the Conservation Commission reviewed and voted in favor of the project. She was pleased to see the Right of First Refusal. Conservation Commission supported the action and she hoped that the community would support the Selectmen's decision.

M. Curran thought it was a good decision on the part of the Selectmen. It would give the Town the additional space needed. She appreciated all the work done by all. It is a good solid agreement that would bring opportunity to the Town of Plaistow.

S. Fitzgerald noted it would continue the civic legacy of the Palmer Family and it was a good step forward for the Town.

M. Curran closed the Public Hearing at 7:26 pm.

J. Sherman discussed waiting 7-14 days before taking a vote.

S. Fitzgerald suggested the Board vote next week.

M. Curran thanked all for being present and supporting the project.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

S. Fitzgerald:

- Annual Town Report will be available at the voting polls tomorrow Tuesday, March 12. It currently is available at Town buildings. He discussed the maps in the report.
- Under budget for snow removal. Expended \$140,000 year to date. Last year \$50,000.

S. Fitzgerald requested Dan Garlington to give an update regarding the piles of sand left on the roads.

D. Garlington discussed piles of sand; salt being “live” and loose this year and not wanting to stay; the new truck has a wider tailgate, vibrations drop the material onto the spinner and when you start the sander it puts down; a rubber flap has been put on the truck body to hold back some of the material; department has mixed a little more sand to give the material a little bit more density; and the drivers are leaving the spinner going and then just turning it up to help with the issue. This is a trial and error situation.

M. Curran noted the State has cut back on the salt usage and encouraged their drivers to take courses. She inquired if the Highway Department was doing the same.

D. Garlington noted they have taken courses and attended seminars. He discussed trying an automated system back in 2008 where a computer generates the output of material. It determines the amount of material depending on the speed however there was an issue with calibration. In order to get the right amount of material out they had to lie to it based on weight. He discussed amounts and mileage and not being willing to lie about the information that was entered so they took the system out and went back to traditional.

M. Curran noted the State was cutting back on salt distribution and inquired if the Highway Department had cut back.

D. Garlington noted they have maintained the same amount of technique it just depends on the type of day and type of snow so they adjust accordingly.

S. Fitzgerald discussed high counts of sodium in the water, having watersheds in Town, being sensitive to how they manage public safety and the effect on water quality.

D. Garlington noted they were constantly adjusting.

- Highway Truck - Recently was put on a list of Class action settlement. Information passed on to Attorney Kalman.

D. Garlington noted the motor has the issue. It is a 6.0 diesel engine and it has taken them until now to admit to the problem of this issue. The internal parts of the motor are not living up to the standards. It has been fixed 4 or 5 times and 3 times it was under warranty. The Town has paid for repairs when it was not covered under warranty. The replacement truck will not have a diesel engine in it, it will be gas however they are waiting to be reimbursed for their expenditures that the Town has paid.

- Historical Society rent has been paid. An overlook in payment has been resolved and their 2012 and 2013 rent has been paid.

- Attended meeting at Merrimack College with Tim Moore on Wednesday, March 6 for a roundtable discussion with MassDOT Secretary and CEO Rich Davey regarding Merrimack Valley Transportation Plan.
- Recreation interviews continue this week.
- Recreation events: Parker Maple House – March 20th; Made in NH Expo – April 5th; Foxwoods – April 25th.
- Kingston Planning Board is holding a Public Hearing next Wednesday, March 20th to review site plan for Benevento Construction site (Plaistow is an abutter to the property). It has been discussed by our Planning Board.

T. Moore noted the plan that since lapsed was to reconstruct the concrete plant.

S. Fitzgerald thought the Town should send a letter of concerns regarding the wetlands in the back of the area.

- Elder Affairs met on Tuesday March 5th and discussed by-laws.
- Reached out to Testa Corp regarding balance of water utility fees.
- Household Hazardous Waste Day is May 11 from 9 am until 12 noon.
- A number of meetings are happening across the state regarding the MS4 permit.
- Working with NHDOT on a culvert repair (culvert for Kelley Brook).
- Long time Town employee of the Police Department Sgt. Glenn Miller will be retiring May 1st.
- Deputy Kathy Jones has been appointed Interim Police Chief during Chief Savage's leave of absence.
- American Diabetes Tour de Cure 100 mile bicycle race will come through Plaistow on Sunday, May 19th however this year they will just be travelling through Plaistow and not stopping.
- Disaster declaration declared by President Barack Obama has included Rockingham County. A Town representative will attend the meeting on March 12th for further details.
- Upcoming meeting on March 18th regarding NH Municipal Association and Plaistow's Risk Pools (insurance) with George Bald, new interim President of NH LGC. Members of the Board are welcome.
- Regional Selectmen meeting is scheduled for March 20th at 7pm in Kingston.

J. Sherman noted he would not be able to attend.

- Town manager Goals have been updated from the last BOS meeting. A discussion will be scheduled over the next two weeks.

D. Poliquin would like to see a list of goals/concerns of Sean.

S. Fitzgerald discussed meeting in three weeks to repopulate a list of goals.

J. Sherman discussed reviewing goals 3 times a year: right after Town Meeting, about 4 months later, then late summer before budgeting process and again 4 months later in December as they near the end of the year in case there are items that need to be completed by the end of the year. Each Goal would identify the mile stone. He would like to reestablish this time frame.

OTHER BUSINESS

J. Sherman suggested to make sure the Town Reports get to the polls.

M. Curran:

- Speed Signs noting they do not work on Saturdays. She inquired if it was a hit or miss thing because very frequently on Saturday mornings they are not working.
- As a resident of the Beede site she has noticed that they have started moving soil piles and stuff around the site. There are additional noises ongoing around the site and she is looking forward to a buffer zone around the area because the noise starts about 7 am.
- The newly working traffic light area – light changes very quickly and she suggested to have the road markings of the stop markings on the road redone.

D. Poliquin requested an update on the waterline truck.

S. Fitzgerald noted they were looking at a number of different ways so they could move forward with the truck. There was an accounting discrepancy as it was put on the Warrant Article so they do not have sufficient funds however a recommendation is forthcoming regarding the acquisition of the truck. The vote received from the Trustees of the Trust Funds was to move forward with the truck.

D. Poliquin inquired what the Town was utilizing for a truck.

S. Fitzgerald noted they would have to come up with an alternative however he has not discussed with the Water Superintendent.

M. Curran requested update for next week's meeting.

D. Poliquin suggested temporarily using another vehicle at the Fire Department.

S. Fitzgerald would like to discuss and review with Water Superintendent his recommendations before further discussing with the Board because it is an important need.

D. Poliquin noted this meeting was Mr. Blinn's last meeting and he wanted to thank him for all he has done for the Town of Plaistow. He discussed the history of their relationship.

M. Curran wished the candidates good luck tomorrow during election. The person running have huge shoes to fill.

C. Blinn noted his retirement was going to be bitter sweet.

J. Sherman enjoyed serving with Buzzy. His legacy to the Board is that he leaves Plaistow in a better place than when he started.

SIGNATURE FOLDER

M. Curran noted the Manifest and Signature folders were going around.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

C. Blinn:

- Attended Elder Affairs meeting. They reviewed the by-laws of the Committee.
- Attended Conservation Committee. A Boy scout was looking to do work in the forest but they have to look at what they can do.

- Thanked the Board for having him. He was not happy about leaving, he thought it was bitter sweet, and that it was easy to have said it than actually doing it however he will be watching from a distance. He thanked everyone for all they have done.

S. Fitzgerald noted Buzzy was always a true gentlemen, fair minded, tough minded and excellent in discussions when trying to save the court house.

J. Sherman:

- Budget Committee will hold their reorganization meeting in April.
- Town Report Committee will not be meeting for a while. They may have a follow up meeting soon to discuss improvements.
- Encouraged all to come out and vote tomorrow between the hours of 7 am and 8 pm at the Pollard School on Main Street.

D. Poliquin:

- Rec Commission on Wednesday.
- Suggested for all to come out to vote.
- Wished good luck to all who were running for office. He suggested all to bring an umbrella because of the rain.

M. Curran:

- Friends of Plaistow Rec met tonight at 7 pm at the Library.
- Election day is tomorrow from 7 am to 8 pm. Voters will need to bring their license for identification.
- Senior movie is this Wednesday at Chunky's in Haverhill.
- Rec Commission meets 6:30 pm on Wednesday at Town Hall.
- Received letter regarding grant money for Highway Block Grant increase.
- Wished everyone good luck in the elections.

NON PUBLIC RSA 91-A:3 II (a) PERSONNEL AND (d) NEGOTIATIONS

Motion by J. Sherman to go into Non Public under RSA 9-A:3 II (a) Personnel and (d) Negotiations.

2nd by C. Blinn.

Board polled: M. Curran=yes; J. Sherman=yes; C. Blinn=yes; =yes; D. Poliquin=yes

Public Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Audrey DeProspero