



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: March 1, 2021

Meeting Called to Order: 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Selectwoman, Francine Hart, Chairman
Selectman, Julian Kiszka
Selectman, Jay DeRoche

Selectman, Greg Taillon, Vice Chairman
Selectman, John A. Blinn, Sr.
Mark Pearson, Town Manager – Remotely

F. Hart reads Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-004 allowing municipal boards to hold remote meeting during the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis.

Minutes

G. Taillon motions to approve the February 22, 2021 minutes. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Public Comment

None.

Town Report Dedication

F. Hart thanks Dee Voss publicly and personally for all the hard work she does putting the Town Report together.

F. Hart also thanks Cathy Willis for proofing the report.

F. Hart states this year's theme, "In this Together" was easy to come up with. The report is dedicated to all citizens of Plaistow. They are the spirit of this community. Town reports will be available for pick up starting tomorrow morning at Town Hall. Reports will also be available at Candidates Night and at the Library.

Review of Election Schedule

F. Hart states she and G. Taillon will be meeting with the Town Clerk at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday to calibrate the voting machines. She states the Selectmen will keep the same schedule as the last election with a few exceptions. J. Kiszka will be outside the polls campaigning and J. DeRoche will attend after work.

Appointment of Recreation Commission Members

Both Leah MacKean and Melissa Marr were alternate members of the Recreation Commission. They have both stepped up to be members of the Commission. M. Marr was unable to attend

tonight. She wrote a note which is read by Jenn Gusler, Recreation Director. M. Marr grew up in Plaistow. She is happy to be bringing her own children up in this community and is happy to work with the commission.

F. Hart thanks her for the nice note and for helping the Town.

L. MacKean is present tonight. She moved to Plaistow 5 ½ years ago when her son was 1 ½ years old. She loves being part of the town and educating the community about Recreation Programs.

F. Hart thanks L. MacKean and states it takes a village to keep the community vibrant.

L. MacKean thanks the Board for their support of the Recreation Commission.

Bill Coye, Recreation Commission Chair is in the audience. He states the commission is happy to have both Melissa and Leah participate.

He states on April 3, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. the Recreation Commission will host a photo session with the Easter Bunny.

Approve Trash & Recycling Advisory Committee Members

F. Hart thanks J. DeRoche for updating the Charter. It is very detailed. She turns the program over to J. DeRoche.

J. DeRoche states he used input from potential members as well as the Board and incorporated all the changes into the new document. The TRAC Committee will hold a Go To meeting on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

G. Taillon motions to ratify the updated TRAC Charter. Seconded by J. Kiszka. G. Taillon states the charter is excellent and should be used as a template for all charters.

J. Kiszka agrees and states there are many options to consider.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

J. DeRoche states there are two (2) more residents who have volunteered to be on the committee. They are Mary Ann Little from Canterbury Forest and Richard Anthony from Village Way. There are seven (7) committee members and there is room for two (2) alternates.

Street Light Repair Policy

A request for a policy for maintenance of streetlights has been on the action item list for a while.

F. Hart asked D. Voss to reach out to Affinity to see what they could provide. Affinity said currently Unitil maintains the streetlights and they recommend staying with Unitil. The Town should buy a few replacement bulbs to have on hand.

J. Kiszka states the plan with Unitil should be reviewed periodically.

J. Kiszka motions to move forward with the recommendation. Seconded by G. Taillon.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Discuss Use of Town Property Policy

F. Hart states G. Taillon did a lot of work to come up with the draft policy. It was already sent to the Board members and their input was incorporated into the policy.

F. Hart turns the meeting over to G. Taillon.

G. Taillon states he reviewed a lot of policies from other Towns and recommendations from Town Manager, M. Pearson. He appreciates everyone's participation. The policy will become part of the Board of Selectmen's Policies and Procedures. Perhaps in the future it will become part of the Town Code.

J. Kiszka motions to accept the Use of Town Property Policy as part of the Boards policies.

Seconded by J. DeRoche.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Action Items

F. Hart asks J. Kiszka to discuss action item #1, all future projects need a documented plan even if approval is not required to complete the project.

J. Kiszka stated when the Safety Complex was being built, the fiber optic cable between Town Hall and the Safety Complex was damaged because the location was not clearly known. When the Public Works Garage was being built an old fuel tank was found. He wants to prevent future incidents from happening by having all projects documented and filed with the Planning Department. He discussed the idea with John Cashell, Planning Director. J. Cashell stated a Board policy is not necessary however, documentation should be provided to the Planning Board for all Town projects.

J. Kiszka motions that the Town Manager provide adequate documentation to the planning department on any physical additions to modifications to town property that could affect future work or plans, and that the planning department save and maintain this information for future use. Seconded by G. Taillon.

Discussion: F. Hart asks M. Pearson if the motions will satisfy our needs.

M. Pearson replies yes, and since he has been Town Manager any changes made have been given to the planning department.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

M. Pearson would like to discuss some questions a citizen asked him via email regarding some warrant articles.

F. Hart states she did email a response. She agrees to discuss the questions in public as others may have the same questions.

1. Article #11 alludes to the landfill closure. I have heard nothing about this. Is it true that the landfill is scheduled to close? If so, when will this take place and what, if anything will be done to take its place?

G. Taillon replies. He states the clay cap covering the closed landfill has settled and caused pooling of water. The contaminated water runs off and may cause problems to area wells. The warrant article will use money from the unassigned fund balance to repair the cap to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Standards. Last year's warrant article paid for the engineering costs and permitting. This year's article is to pay for the actual construction to repair the cap.

2. Article #15 is a citizen's petition to continue recycling. Although I wish the program could continue as is, I understand that the cost of renewing such a contract would be prohibitive due the

lack of sources to take the items. If this article passes do you have any idea of the cost annually to the town?

J. DeRoche replies. He states the citizen's petition was amended to zero at deliberative session. Prior to deliberative session an extension to the existing JRM contract was signed to continue the current trash and recycling services through December 31, 2021. Also, during deliberative session, the operating budget was increased by \$100,000 to pay for the contract extension with JRM. Work will begin soon on a new trash and recycling contract for 2022. The short answer is no, we do not know the annual cost to the town.

F. Hart states the price may range anywhere from \$789,000 to \$803,000 for trash and recycling.

3. Article #17 advocates discontinuing the land and building capital reserve fund, which I oppose. I believe that all communities should have a dedicated fund available to purchase any important parcel that may become available. If this passes and the funds revert to the general fund do I "assume" that the town could no longer buy any property at all or at least without considerable effort and legal process?

F. Hart replies to the question. The town already have 20 million dollars' worth of property which is not generating tax revenue. The balance in the capital reserve fund is \$114,000 which is not enough money anyway. The Board feels the money could be better utilized in other ways. By discontinuing the funds, it does not tie the hands of citizens from buying future property. A warrant article could be placed on a ballot and voted on.

4. Article #18 I am not sure I quite understand the possible ramifications of this article. Although I like to save money, I worry about changing to possibly newer, less experienced companies to do so. Think of the recent debacle in Texas. The article seems to imply that any resident can opt out. Does that mean that all residents would automatically be opted in whether they want to be or not?

J. Kiszka replies, what happened in Texas will not happen in New England. We expect cold weather and are prepared for it. The goal of the warrant article is to allow the town to negotiate lower rates in a group with other towns, giving us bargaining power. This is a new law in New Hampshire, and it is modeled after a Massachusetts law which works well. A committee will be formed to work on negotiations and work with other communities doing the same thing.

Town Managers Report

- Landfill Cap Permits
- MS-4 Stormwater Permit
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Point of Distribution (POD)
- 2020 Assessing Legal Issues
- Trash & Recycling
- Sale of Town Owned Land Correspondence
- Town Owned Facilities Policy
- Organizational Chart & Job Descriptions
- Right-to-Know Requests
- Water Operator Contractor Interviews
- Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement
- Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Police Union Negotiations
- Cable TV Remote Connections and Platform(s)

- Certificate of Authorization for Grant Funding Extension
- Monitoring Legislation for Federal and State Aid
- New Hampshire Division of Economic Development
- Utopia Lounge
- Elected and Appointed Officials Training
- Run for the Savages

Other Business

J. Kiszka asks if the costs for Right-to-Know can be broken into a separate line item.

M. Pearson replies, yes.

J. DeRoche asks who is on the negotiating team for the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

M. Pearson replies, Attorney Maher, G. Colby, L. Sadewicz and Police Chief Mullin.

Selectmen's Reports

J. Blinn – nothing to report.

J. Kiszka – nothing to report.

J. DeRoche – states he gives his condolences to the family of Jack McSheehy who recently passed. He was almost 90 years old. He did a lot for the Town including building the gazebo.

G. Taillon – presents and reads a Proclamation to Francine Hart claiming Monday, March 1, 2021 be known as Francine Hart Day.

F. Hart – thanks all the Selectmen for their hard work. She feels their primary responsibility is to support Mark Pearson, Town Manager. This group of Selectmen have raised the bar as to what it is to be a Plaistow Selectman.

Review - Approve Non-public Minutes

J. Kiszka motions to approve and keep sealed the non-public session minutes of February 22, 2021. Seconded by G. Taillon.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

As there is no further business F. Hart adjourns the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

J. Kiszka motions to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (A) Public Employee; (B) Hiring; (C) Reputation; (D) Property Transactions; (E) Pending or Threatened Litigation; (I) Emergency Functions; (J) Confidential Information in Adjudicative Proceedings; (L)

Consideration of Legal Advice. Seconded by J. DeRoche.

Board Polled: F. Hart = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. Kiszka = yes, J. Blinn = yes, J. DeRoche = yes

Motion carries 5-0-0

F. Hart states we will not come back to public session.

Public Session reconvened at 8:21 p.m.

G. Taillon motions to seal the minutes of the non-public session for March 1, 2021. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

F. Hart adjourns the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hossack

Recording Secretary