



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

**PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES**

**DATE:** January 25, 2021

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

**SELECTMEN:**

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

Selectman, Greg Taillon, Vice Chairman  
Selectman, John A. Blinn, Sr. - Remotely  
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.

F. Hart states all votes taken tonight will be done by roll call.

F. Hart states it was never the intention of the Board to eliminate recycling. The intention was to find a lower cost option.

**PUBLIC HEARING - RECYCLING**

F. Hart opens the Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m.

Jim Peck, Oak Ridge Road and Bob Kincaid Old County Road made a power point presentation. Jim Peck presents it. The Citizen's Warrant Article is asking for \$295,000 to be added to the solid waste collection budget to fund curbside recycling. Is this amount enough? The Budget Committee has recommended a solid waste budget of \$768,437. This amount does not include \$21,000 for a household hazardous waste disposal day or any type of bulk item pickup. The 2021 budget includes curbside recycling through June 30, 2021. Based on estimated tonnage of 3600 for trash and 700 for recycling adding \$90,000 to the budget will allow for curbside pickup of both trash and recycling, in their opinion. This totals about \$28 per household of additional taxes.

J. Kiszka states a trash vendor for 2021 from July to December has not been selected yet. He also states the cost for recycling for the first half of the year is much less expensive because the contract was entered into five (5) years ago. He states people who rent do not pay taxes. He believes the amount of \$28 per household is skewed to low. He makes these points for transparency.

Bob Kincaid, Old County Road states there is a group of people in town who support recycling. They want to continue with the Town wide curbside recycling model. He recommends the Board does not select a trash vendor until after deliberative session.

Mary Anne Locascio, 8 Sunrise Terrace states curbside recycling is very important. It would be regressive to move to a transfer station or dumpster. Education is the answer to increase recycling. She is interested in volunteering for the Trash and Recycling Advisory Committee (TRAC).

Richard Anthony, 4 Village Way states the presentation from J. Peck and B. Kincaid is excellent. Recycling should continue. We do not want to go backwards. He recommends working with State Representatives to find a solution for dealing with plastic.

Ryan Lebreque, 174 Main Street calls in. He would like the projected cost of recycling. He wants to find ways to reduce the cost of trash pickup and other things. He states multi families should pay for their own trash and recycling costs similar to a business. Perhaps bulk pick up could be done once a month at a central location like a flea market. On weekends people would drop off bulk items and other people could take what they want. Anything left over on Monday would be taken by the trash contractor. He believes in recycling but not at an increased cost. He asks if the Citizen's petition went away or was it modified. He suggests paying for recycling from the unassigned fund balance.

F. Hart replies, the unassigned fund balance cannot be used to offset taxable appropriations. It can be used for Town projects and/or to reduce taxes as a whole. It is a Board decision.

Peter Bealo, Sweet Hill Road is the next caller. He agrees with J. Peck and B. Kincaid. He states a lot of people are coming out because recycling is good. His main point is to ask the Board to send out a new RFP for both trash & recycling. If a trash vendor is selected without recycling it puts the Town in a bad position to negotiate recycling.

Debbie Espalza-St. Louis, 290 Main Street is the next caller. She is new to Plaistow and thinks recycling is important. Curbside recycling is convenient for residents and should remain. She is willing to be a member of the Trash and Recycling Advisory Committee (TRAC).

Isabella Gautreau, 185 Main Street is the next caller. She thanks the Board for holding this public hearing. She is in favor of curbside recycling and understands you cannot make everyone happy. Some plastic takes five (500) years to break down. She is willing to pay more for recycling. The recycling market is poor now, yet it should get better sometime. She does not want the town to go backwards.

Jeff Oligny, 28 Main Street is the next caller. He wants recycling at no additional cost. He asks about the scope of the RFP.

F. Hart states the Board has been considering other recycling options such as a transfer station, a centrally located recycling dumpster, or a residential subscription service.

J. Kiszka replies the first RFP included both trash and recycling collection. The proposals received were very costly for recycling. The previous contract was a lot less expensive. The second RFP did not include curbside recycling. It has been a learning experience seeing how much the recycling market has changed.

J. Oigny asks if the tonnage is based on actual or estimates.

F. Hart replies we have ten (10) years of data. The tonnage is fairly consistent year after year with about 3500 tons of trash and 700 tons of recycling. We pay for actual tonnage.

Lynne Jeffries, 12 Ridgewood Road is the next caller. She states if we stop recycling trash tonnage will increase.

F. Hart states the cost per ton for trash is \$84. It is \$123. for recycling. It costs more to recycle. The price will increase about 4% every year.

L. Jeffries states we should do what is right not what is easy.

Pete Desjardins, 8 Sunrise Terrace calls next. He states it is important to recycle and set future generations to do the right thing for the planet, no matter the cost.

Tom Alberti, 2 Ridgewood Road calls next. He states a lot of people recycle. Most households have two (2) barrels of trash weekly and two (2) barrels of recycling every other week. If we change to a transfer station, he believes there will be less recycling. He knows recycling has changed and he is fiscally conservative, but he believes in recycling and thinks it is a cost most families are willing to spend.

Patricia Wicks, Rolling Hill Avenue sends a text which reads please continue town wide curbside recycling.

Richard Perrin, 10 May Ray Avenue calls next. He supports curbside recycling. He also mentions trash is often left in barrels or on the ground. Containers are often thrown by trash collectors.

Jim Peck, Oak Ridge Road speaks again. He wants to clarify the intention of the Citizen's petition. If money for recycling is added to the operating budget the citizen's petition will be amended to zero. If money is not added to the operating budget the amount will be amended down to \$90,000.

F. Hart thanks everyone for contributing. She closes the public hearing at 7:27 p.m.

***J. DeRoche motions to re-establish the Trash and Recycling Advisory Committee (TRAC). Seconded by G. Taillon. J. Deroche is accepting letters of interest. You may email him at [jderoche@plaistow.com](mailto:jderoche@plaistow.com)***

***Vote: F. Hart = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. Kiszka = yes, J. Blinn = yes, J. DeRoche = yes Motion carries.***

### **PLAISTOW SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK PROCLAMATION**

F. Hart states January 24 – January 30, 2021 is School Choice Week in Plaistow! She is happy to announce School Choice Week as many other cities and towns across the country do. The goal is to raise awareness of the importance of opportunity in education.

F. Hart reads the full proclamation.

## **GREG TAILLON PRESENTATION**

G. Taillon did an analysis in preparation for the Deliberative Session. Data was used from Town Reports and the MS-7, MS-737 and voter results. The analysis was broken down into two (2) time periods. The first one is 2014 – 2017 and the second one is 2018 – 2021. In the last four (4) years (2018-2021) total town expenditures (operating budget and warrants) have grown at a significantly smaller rate than the previous four years. During the same period, the number of town projects for road improvements, new facilities, and safety projects exceeded expectations.

F. Hart thanks G. Taillon for the presentation and all the work he put into it. We are running the town prudently.

## **RECONSIDERATION OF THE TRASH RFP**

F. Hart states at the last meeting the Board was deadlocked in selecting a vendor.

*J. Kiszka motions that we choose Casella for Plaistow's solid waste disposal and furthermore to direct only the Town Manager and the Assistant Town Manager negotiate a contract for curbside normal trash and recycling using CART as the method of transfer for both. Seconded by J. DeRoche.*

*Discussion: G. Taillon states we should not name a particular vendor as it will tie the hands of the Town Manager. He states he has a motion he discussed with M. Pearson. He makes a motion to amend the current motion by removing the name Casella and using solid waste instead of trash and recycling. Seconded by F. Hart.*

*J. Kiszka states the original motion doesn't tie the Town Manager's hands at all. He is willing to remove the word "Casella" from the motion.*

*Discussion continues over the wording of the motion.*

*F. Hart calls for a vote on the amended motion.*

*J. DeRoche asks for the amended motion to be read.*

*G. Taillon motions to direct the Town Manager to negotiate a solid waste removal agreement with the Casella Resource Solutions as per their current proposal as a starting point and/or with any other waste management companies to meet the solid waste removal needs of the Town.*

*Vote: 2-3-0 F. Hart = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. Kiszka = no, J. Blinn = no, J. DeRoche = no Motion fails.*

*J. Kiszka motions that we choose a vendor for Plaistow's solid waste disposal. And to direct the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager negotiate a contract for curbside normal trash and recycling using CART as the method of transfer for both. Seconded by G. Taillon.*

*Vote: 5-0-0 F. Hart = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. Kiszka = yes, J. Blinn = yes, J. DeRoche = yes Motion carries.*

J. DeRoche asks what the next steps are.

F. Hart replies, she will give M. Pearson the proposals and all the negotiation work that has already been done.

J. DeRoche asks if there will be an update at the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

M. Pearson replies, no. We need to wait until after deliberative session and March voting to know how much money is available.

J. Kiszka would like to add five (5) points.

1. Carts – should be bought from the same vendor or a lease to purchase.

2. Size of the recycling carts needs to be decided.
3. Only approved carts will be picked up.
4. Residents should be educated on contamination.
5. We need to come up with a way to properly distribute carts to residents.

### **PREPARE FOR DELIBERATIVE SESSION**

F. Hart reminds everyone the Deliberative Session will be held this Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the Public Works Garage. She asks the Selectmen to arrive between 8:30-8:45. She has spoken with Town Moderator, Bob Harb. The first warrant article to be discussed will be the Water Bond, followed by the Operating Budget. The citizens petition will be third.

M. Pearson states he met with Seacoast Tents. We can rent a 60 x 40 tent to place at the end of the Public Works Garage to add additional space. Heaters can also be rented. Dean Zanello, Cable Coordinator has more equipment that can be put into the tent area so everyone can see, hear, and speak. The total cost is \$4,000. Planning is hard when we do not know how many people will show up.

There is consensus amongst the Board to have M. Pearson move forward with the tent rental.

F. Hart states the Moderator will read each warrant article. The Board will take turns reading the explanations. F. Hart states G. Taillon prepared three (3) motions for deliberative session to increase the budget amount for Legal, Planning and General Government Buildings.

A brief discussion is held regarding the money for household hazardous waste. There does not appear to be enough money for this event in the budget.

J. Kiszka recommended it to the Budget Committee however they were not interested in changing the budget.

J. Kiszka states he researched the language from the original capital reserve account for Old Home Day. We cannot use taxpayer money to put into the capital reserve account so the warrant article would have been illegal.

G. Taillon states he told Budget Committee Chair, Maxann Dobson she can make a motion at deliberative session to add money into the budget for Old Home Day.

J. DeRoche states the Old Home Day Committee met recently and they want to move forward with some type of event.

J. Kiszka states some committee members stepped down.

### **TOWN MANAGERS REPORT**

- Water Meeting for Contract Services
- Public Works Garage Cable TV Fit Up
- Deliberative Session Discussions
- Utopia Business Noise and Disturbance Complaints
- End of Year Activities and 2021 Budget
- Landfill Cap Construction RFP Results and 2021 Warrant Article
- Cable TV Franchise Agreement Renewal 2021
- Highway Department Policy and Safety Manual

- Fire Suppression System Fees Warrant
- The 2021 Warrant, Budget and Default Budget were posted at the Public Works Garage today.

If the warrant article for the landfill cap passes the Board will need to pick a vendor.

J. DeRoche thanks all who participated in the public hearing for recycling. He hopes more people will step up and run for positions.

F. Hart states we need to hold a non-public session tonight.  
She adjourns the public meeting at 8:37 p.m. and states we will not come back to a public session.

***G. Taillon 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***

Back in public session at 9:22 p.m.

***G. Taillon motions to seal the minutes of the non-public session. 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 adjourns the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Hossack

Recording Secretary