



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: November 1, 2021

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

Note: J. DeRoche states Selectman Blinn is participating remotely tonight.
J. Blinn states he is not in person tonight for health reasons. He is in a room alone.

Roll Call:

Select Chairman, Darrell Britton - Excused
Select Vice Chairman, John A. Blinn, Sr. - Remotely
Selectman, Greg Taillon
Selectman, Jay DeRoche
Selectman, Bill Coye
Interim Town Manager, Greg Colby
Also present: Beth Hossack, Recording Secretary.

Minutes

G. Taillon motions to approve the October 18, 2021, minutes. Seconded by B. Coye. There was no discussion on the motion.

Roll call vote: J. Blinn = abstain, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Motion carries (3-0-1).

Public Comment

Mr. Jim Peck, Library Trustees Chair and Mr. Cab Vinton, Library Director are present tonight to clear up a few misleading statements that were made at the October 18, 2021, Board meeting. J. Peck states on October 18, G. Taillon stated a prior selectman tried to get information from the library regarding their trust funds. J. Peck claims they did receive a right to know request from Julian Kiszka in 2019. The request was completed and the library though it had provided the correct information. They did ask J. Kiszka to come to the library however he did not. The next point Mr. Peck wants to clarify regards a statement G. Taillon made when the Board reviewed the 2022 library budget. G. Taillon stated if the Board wanted information regarding the Library Trust funds, they would have to put in a right to know request and be prepared to get a lawyer. G. Taillon states he was told that by J. Kiszka and he apologizes for any misinformation. C. Vinton recommends everyone be more careful with their words.

J. DeRoche agrees and states we all work together.

J. Peck states the library's books are audited annually by the same auditors who do the Town audit. All the reports are in the Town's Annual Report. The library has nothing to hid. The last item J. Peck wants to clear up is a statement G. Taillon made regarding energy savings. G. Taillon stated he believed the money saved was used to buy the electronic sign. Mr. Peck states that is not true. The

electronic sign was purchased using some of the trust funds, some donations and the Exchange Club paid a portion of it. Energy saving have been used to keep the library budget level funded for the past four (4) years.

J. DeRoche thanks J. Peck and C. Vinton for coming to the meeting.

J. DeRoche asks the Board if there are any questions regarding the license for the Cash for Gold Shop. The owner of the store, Mr. Archie DeFlorio is present tonight to answer any questions. He states the business started in the 1970's and the Plaistow store is the seventh location. They buy precious metal and jewelry. There are no questions from the Board.

J. DeRoche welcomes Mr. DeFlorio to Plaistow.

Presentation - Eagle Scout Project Proposal

Boy Scout Sam Kinkaid from Troop 18 is here tonight to present his proposal for his Eagle Scout project. S. Kinkaid states the proposal consists of the construction of a bridge and staircase at the beginning of the trail from Plaistow Area Recreational Complex (PARC) to Mt. Misery. He will also flatten out a portion of the trail at the top of the hill. The project will benefit the Recreation Committee and the Town of Plaistow. The bridge and staircase will start a new trail. It will also open the door for future Eagle Scout projects.

G. Taillon recommends adding a railing on the staircase and the bridge to assist elderly people.

S. Kinkaid agrees with the idea.

J. Blinn asks what type of fundraising he plans to do.

S. Kinkaid replies he plans to have a car wash at Sullivan Tire. He is also hoping for some donations.

J. Blinn states, Blinn's Auto Body will donate to the project.

B. Coye asks if Sam plans to work with Lew. Lew is from the Appalachian Trail Group and is helping Plaistow with the trail system on Mt. Misery.

S. Kinkaid replies, yes, they will work together.

B. Coye asks once construction starts when so you think it will be completed.

S. Kinkaid states it should be completed in the summer. He states the planning part will take longer than the construction.

B. Coye agrees and asks if it was about a year ago when he first thought of the idea.

S. Kinkaid replies, yes.

B. Coye asks Recreation Director, Jenn Gulser who is in the audience if she would like to say anything.

J. Gusler states she is excited for the project.

G. Taillon motions to approve the project for S. Kinkaid. Seconded by B. Coye.

Roll call vote: J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes.

Motion carries (4-0-0).

The Board thanks S. Kinkaid for his presentation.

Chief Knutsen – Fire Truck

Chief Knutsen states the ladder truck needs to be replaced. It is a 1991 Pierce Aerial Platform Ladder Truck. It is thirty (30) years old. In the CIP it has a twenty-five (25) year life span. It is now five (5) years overdue for replacement. The projected replacement cost in the CIP is considerably underestimated at \$400,000.00. The true replacement cost is between 1.4 – 1.5 million. There are

several deficiencies with the vehicle and the cost to repair it ranges from \$50,000 - \$75,000 with no guarantee the apparatus will function as intended. Over the last several years taxpayers have spent \$72,000 in repair costs. The eligible ISO rating for this equipment is 40%. This is a significant component for developing costs for individual homeowners' insurance. Chief Knutsen has researched funding option. There is not enough money in the CIP to purchase a ladder truck. A lease and return (lease a truck for a certain number of years, return it and lease a new one) or a lease to purchase are options which include high interest costs and are not wise ways to spend taxpayer money. Another option is borrowing from the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank. Chief Knutsen believes this is the best option. The current allocation of \$140,000 which typically goes into the CIP yearly via warrant article can be used for making bond payments instead of going into the CIP. Interim Town Manager, Greg Colby states he looked into the worst-case option of borrowing 1.5 million from the bond bank for twenty (20) years with level payments per year. In that case the yearly payment would be \$100,000. Since taxpayers are used to putting money in the capital reserve fund each year, the tax impact will be a wash. Chief Knutsen states the Town can get a vendor discount by ordering two (2) vehicles at once. Rescue 2 was scheduled to be replaced in 2021 yet it was delayed. If both vehicles are ordered together the Town will get a multi-equipment discount. There are enough funds in the CIP to pay for the rescue. We will only finance the ladder truck. G. Taillon asks how long it will take to get a new ladder truck. Chief Knutsen states if there is one in stock it will not take long. If a new one is built it will take 12-14 months.

J. DeRoche asks if any other equipment needs to be replaced.

Chief Knutsen states yes, the forestry vehicle. That was purchased in 1994 with a 25-year life expectancy however he is not concerned about it. We can live without it.

J. DeRoche asks if any other big equipment will need to be purchased in the next 20 years.

Chief Knutsen replies yes, a fire engine will be needed in approximately 2028.

B. Coye asks if we buy a new ladder truck is there any value in the old one.

Chief Knutsen replies, yes however the price of selling it is unknown.

J. DeRoche asks if we purchase a new ladder truck will we start putting \$40,000 per year into the capital reserve fund and add the bond payments to the budget.

Chief Knutsen replies, yes. That way we can get the needed equipment without putting an additional burden on taxpayers.

G. Taillon mentions the funds Senator Morse told the Board about. Will some of those funds be used for some of the smaller equipment needs that were discussed at a recent budget committee meeting.

Chief Knutsen replies, yes, the grant funds will be used to purchase a heart monitor and thermal energy cameras. The only other item to keep in the budget will be hoses.

G. Taillon states this is great news and asks if the line item for equipment for \$41,000.00 will be significantly reduced.

Chief Knutsen replies, yes.

Chief Knutsen discusses Tanker 5. This piece of equipment was replaced with the purchase of Tanker 6 in 2018. There is no need to keep Tanker 5. He recommends selling it. Money received from the sale will go back into the general fund or the CIP.

There is consensus amongst the Board for the Chief to sell Tanker 5.

Review Schedule

There is consensus amongst the Board to cancel the meeting scheduled for Monday, November 8th. The Board will meet on November 15th and 29th.

Town Managers Report

- Has been working with DRA to come up with a tax rate. The tax rate for 2021 should be \$18.96 per \$1000.00 which is lower than 2020 by \$2.69. Each component went down. The municipal rate went down \$0.75, the local school rate went down \$1.49, the State education portion went down \$0.38, the county portion went down \$0.07. This is due to the increase in valuation. He recommends not using any portion of surplus towards taxes as it would not be prudent. It should be saved for next year. A rough example of the tax change is that a house valued at \$400,000 in 2020 had a tax liability of \$8,660.00. The same house valued at \$464,000 in 2021 will have a tax liability of \$8,797.00. This is a difference of \$137.00 or an increase of about 1.6%. This is a rough estimate. Some properties will increase more, and some will decrease. G. Colby would like approval from the Board to set the tax rate if there are no questions.

G. Taillon motions to set the 2021 tax rate at \$18.96 per \$1,000.00. Seconded by B. Coye.

Roll call vote: J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes

Motion carries (4-0-0).

- The trash contract with JRM is almost finalized. Legal counsel is reviewing it.
- Contract P1 and P3 regarding portable water are in progress and almost complete.
- Working on a revised lease for the Historical Society building.

Selectmen's Reports

B. Coye – nothing to report.

J. Blinn – nothing to report.

G. Taillon – nothing to report.

J. DeRoche

- Attended the Historical Society Meeting. The Treasurer of the Historical Society sold his house and will be moving out of town. The society will be doing some reorganization. Some of the past volunteers want to take on a smaller role. They are looking for others to step up. If you are interested in helping the Historical Society, please reach out to Bob Hobbs.

Other business

None.

As there is no further business before the Board, J. DeRoche adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack
Recording Secretary