



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: October 3, 2022

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

Roll Call:

Select Chairman, Jay DeRoche - Present
Select Vice Chairman, Bill Coye - Excused
Selectman, John A. Blinn, Sr. - Excused
Selectman, Darrell Britton – Present
Selectman, Jonathan Gifford - Present

Also present: Greg Colby, Town Manager, Dee Voss, Special Projects Coordinator, several members of the Plaistow Police Department and Beth Hossack, Administrative Assistant.

Public Comment

None

Public Hearing to Accept & Expend Unanticipated State Funds

J. DeRoche opens the public hearing at 6:32 p.m.

J. DeRoche states the public hearing is to accept grant money from the State of New Hampshire for highways and bridges. He asks G. Colby to provide more information.

G. Colby states all cities/towns are receiving additional money from the State in the form of Highway Block grant and Bridge Aid. This is based on Senate Bill 401 and House Bill 1221. It can be used towards the maintenance of highways and bridges, or the equipment needed to maintain them. The amount Plaistow will receive is \$246,339.64 this comes from and \$131,576.64 for the highway block grant and \$114,763.00 for bridge aid.

Since there are no questions from the Board or the public J. DeRoche closes the public hearing at 6:34p.m.

D. Britton motions to accept unanticipated money in the amount of \$246,393.64 from the State of New Hampshire. The allocation consists of \$131,576.64 as an additional highway block grant and \$114,763.00 as municipally owned bridge aid. D. Britton further motions to allow the Plaistow Board of Selectmen to expend such funds on services that repair and maintain class IV and V roads or acquire the equipment necessary to maintain class IV and V roads. Seconded by J. Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries.

Plaistow Police Promotion

J. DeRoche invites Police Chief Kane to the podium.

Chief Kane thanks the Board for having the Plaistow Police Department members attend tonight's meeting. He states this is an important night for the Town and the police department. Sgt. Jason Mazza is being promoted to Captain. Captain Mazza has over twenty (20) years of leadership experience. He started his career with the Plaistow Police Department in 1996. In 2012 he was promoted to Sergeant. He has held a variety of positions in the department, and he understands Best Practices. Cpt. Mazza has a lot of pride and professionalism, and Chief Kane fully supports him and is confident he will be successful.

Town Clerk, Martha Fowler swears Cpt. J. Mazza into office.

Cpt. J. Mazza's wife pins the Captains badge on his uniform. Members of the audience applaud.

Chief Kane invites the audience to the Police Department for refreshments.

Discussion with Republic Representatives

Three Republic employees were invited to attend the meeting to discuss recent trash and recycling issues Plaistow has been experiencing. They are not here. J. DeRoche states we will still have the discussion without them.

J. DeRoche states one issue is starting the collection before 7:00 a.m. The start time should be 7:00 a.m. not before. Another problem is missing full streets and condominiums.

G. Colby witnessed a recent issue on Elm St. The trash truck was driving on the right side of Elm Street at 8:00 a.m. One Republic employee was on the left side of Elm Street tossing trash bags across the street to the truck. This is a busy street in the morning with Pollard School just down the street. Throwing bags across the street is a safety hazard.

At 7:51 p.m. Brian Skehan, General Manager and Dan Higgins Municipal Sales Manager from Republic arrived. The discussion continues.

B. Skehan states they have had some equipment and labor issues and are working to resolve the issues. Many of the trucks are being retro fitted. They did lose a driver that knew the Town well to an injury.

D. Higgins states Republic does not use old trucks like JRM. They use front loader trucks which are safer. Republic merged with JRM on May 16th. They started working in Plaistow on August 1. He states there are two different work cultures. They are training employees who came from JRM to break some bad habits and work the way Republic expects. New trucks have been ordered. Republic is 100% committed to Plaistow.

J. DeRoche asks for a time frame on correcting the issues.

B. Skehan states we should see immediate results. They have dedicated one person to work in Plaistow. His name is Vinnie Souza, and he is now the Operations Manager for Plaistow.

D. Higgins states Republic has some new features coming in the future. There will be an app for residential users to see exactly where the truck is and when it will be at their house. They are working on using electric vehicles to save on greenhouse gas emissions and will be capable to

provide assistance with household hazardous waste. They are also working on developing a polymer center to better recycle plastics.

J. DeRoche thanks B. Skehan and D. Higgins for attending. He would like them to come back in a few weeks with an update.

Budget Presentation

G. Colby begins with an overview of the budget. The budget he is presenting tonight is an increase of 6.43% since last year. This budget will keep services as they are. There is no additional staff or initiatives built into this budget. It is the amount needed to run the Town, take care of roads and fund the police and fire departments. The basic budget is approximately \$650,000. It does not include the Library. The increases are based on anticipated increases to electricity and the second year of the Sanborn Head water study for PFOAS and PFAS. We will need money for IT services including a server and some switch replacements. G. Colby is looking at a three (3) year lease to purchase plan to help with the IT costs. The police department budget is up about 4.6%, fire department is up about 5.5% due to a consistently higher call volume. Insurance is up 11% and we do not have final numbers for health insurance and liability insurance yet. Street lighting is up \$20,000 for electric costs. Highway is up 14% for the increase cost of asphalt. Again, this budget maintains status quo. We may need to consider a warrant article for snow plowing as rates have increased. There is an increase in debt service for the fire truck. Many budgets are level funded.

G. Colby states a highway employee recently left. The department has only three (3) full time employees now. In addition to hiring a replacement he would like to add a fifth (5) person to that department and take the salary (for the 5th person) from the water fund. The employee who left was very knowledgeable with the potable water system. If we have five (5) full time employees in the highway department all of them will become trained on the water system. In three (3) years when our water operator contract is up, we will not need to hire a water operator. We will use the fifth highway person as the water operator. Since the other highway employees will be trained, we will have redundancy and coverage for time off.

J. DeRoche asks the Board to take the budget home, read it and prepare questions they want answered. On October 17, the goal will be to approve most of the department budgets. At the meeting on October 24 the remaining budgets should be wrapped up. Departments Heads will be in attendance as needed to answer questions.

G. Colby agrees with the plan. He states the Budget Committee will get the budget tomorrow.

Select BOS Alternates to the Conservation Commission and Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC)

D. Britton was the alternate representative to the Conservation Commission however legally you are not allowed to be on the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. Since D. Britton is the alternate representative to the Planning Board a new alternate for the Conservation Commission is needed. J. DeRoche volunteers to be the alternate representative to the Conservation Commission. An alternate is also needed for Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC). The previous alternate moved out of Town. J. DeRoche volunteers to be the alternate representative for RPC. There is consensus amongst the Board for J. DeRoche to be the alternate representative for both.

Cemetery Expansion

G. Colby states we have an engineering plan to move forward with the cemetery expansion. It will be best to start the work this fall. Trees will be cut, and the stumps will be removed. D. Garlington was able to get a quote from Mark Vines & Sons Excavating, LLC for a very reasonable price. D. Garlington has worked with the vendor before. They are reliable and will be able to get the work done this fall. The work will include forty (40) test pits. The test pits will be analyzed to determine what is in the ground. If ledge is found there will be two (2) options. One is to add enough fill to cover the ledge the other is to remove the ledge. Since the quote is very reasonable G. Colby recommends the Board accept it without obtaining additional quotes.

J. Gifford motions to forgo the purchasing policy and accept the quote from Mark Veins and Sons Excavation, LLC for the cemetery expansion in the amount of \$37,477.00 which was reviewed at tonight's Board meeting. J. Gifford further motions to expend funds from the cemetery capital reserve account to pay for the work. Seconded by D. Britton.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries.

Approve of Consent Agenda

Item Description

1. Accounts Payable Manifest – October 6, 2022.
2. BOS draft minutes – September 12th, 2022.
3. One Certification of Yield Taxes on a Timber Cut.

D. Britton motions to accept the consent agenda as written. Seconded by J. Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Potable Water Update

G. Colby states we are moving forward despite some delays on receiving meters we ordered. We are still receiving applications from residential homes as well as commercial ones. Underwood Engineers is working with commercial applications.

Town Managers Report

- Busy with day-to-day issues.
- Has spent a lot of time on budget preparation.
- Working on a few cemetery issues other than the expansion.
- Working on the tax deeding process. Some previous owners want to repurchase the property.

Selectmen's Reports and Sharing of Successes

J. Gifford

- Missed the last Historical Society meeting.

D. Britton

- Nothing to report.

J. DeRoche

- Attended the CIP meeting
- Wednesday's Energy meeting has been cancelled.
- Will attend the Planning Board meeting on Wednesday.

Events

- Ladies Night Out – October 18th - register with the recreation department.
- Kids Night Out – October 28th - register with the Plaistow Public Library
- Toddler Trick or Treat – October 28 - register with the recreation department.
- Trick or Treat - October 31st 5:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.
- Pumpkin Lighting - October 29th 2:00p.m. – 6:00p.m.
- Household Hazardous Waste Drop off – October 29th - 12 Main St. in Kingston, 9:00a.m. – noon.

Other Business

None

J. DeRoche congratulates Captain Mazza on his promotion.
The next meeting will be held on Monday October 17th.

As there is no further business before the Board, J. DeRoche adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Administrative Assistant