



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

**Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes**

**Date:** November 3, 2022

**Meeting Called to Order:** 12:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

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

Also present: Greg Colby, Town Manager and Beth Hossack, Administrative Specialist.

**Tax Rate Discussion**

Town Manager G. Colby states he has been working with the Department of Revenue Administration on setting the tax rate. The assessed property value in Plaistow has increased to seventeen (17) million dollars. The county portion of the tax rate has slightly decreased from \$0.79 to \$0.71 per \$1000. The State portion of the education (school) tax rate also decreased slightly while the local education (school) tax rate has increased. Some portions have increased while others have decreased. The Town only controls 28% of the rate which is the municipal portion. The 2021 tax rate was \$18.96.

Discussion ensues regarding the use of the unassigned fund balance. These funds can be used to pay for Town projects or to help reduce the tax rate. The selectmen discuss what will help Plaistow residents the most. Using funds for towards the tax rate will allow for a lower tax rate yet paying for projects reduces the requirement for specific warrant articles.

***Chair DeRoche motions to direct the Town Manager to utilize up to \$300,000 of the unassigned fund balance to offset the 2022 tax rate. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.***

***There was no discussion on the motion.***

***Vote: 3-0-0.***

***Motion carries.***

By using \$300,000 of the unassigned fund balance towards the tax rate the 2022 rate will be approximately \$19.10. It would increase the tax rate by \$.14 which translates into an increase of about \$35. per year on house valued at \$500,00.

### **Energy Discussion**

Town Manger Colby has been researching options to help the Town save money on energy costs. Sprague Energy Company in Portsmouth, NH will provide electricity at the following rates by entering into a contract with them. The current rates they are offering are:

- 1 year contract - \$0.15 per kilowatt/hour
- 2 year contract - \$0.14.4 per kilowatt/hour
- 3 year contract - \$0.13.6 per kilowatt/hour

Unitil has set their electricity rate for the next ten (10) months at \$0.26/kilowatt hour.

***Selectman Coye motion to directs the Town Manager to enter into a contract with Sprague Energy Company for three years to save on electricity costs. Seconded by Selectmen Gifford. There was no discussion on the motion.***

***Vote: 3-0-0.***

***Motion carries.***

### **Other Business**

Town Manager Colby states Fire Chief Knutsen reached out to him regarding a regional ambulance service. The six (6) Towns consisting of Plaistow, Atkinson, Danville, Newton, Sandown, and Hampstead, already in discussions have decided to widen the area and look for additional stake holders. A meeting will be held on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the fire station to further discuss this. Chief Knutsen would like each Town to be represented at the meeting. Town Manger Colby will attend. Chair DeRoche recommends two (2) selectmen attend as well. At a future Board meeting one or two members will be chosen to be part of the group. Chair DeRoche and Selectman Gifford agree to attend the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Police Chief Position**

Chair DeRoche asks if a position for a full time Police Chief has been posted.

Town Manger Colby replies, it has not been posted yet. After careful thought, he feels it would be best to have an independent look to secure a full time Police Chief. A quote was requested from Municipal Resources Inc. (MRI) to do a search. They are confident they can find qualified candidates for under \$3500. Town Manager believes this is the proper way to go rather than having Town Employees involved in the search. The selectmen agree.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m.

As there is no further business before the Board, Chair DeRoche adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,  
Administrative Specialist