



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: December 5, 2022

Meeting Called to Order: 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Also present: Greg Colby, Town Manager, Bob Harb, Town Moderator, Norm Major Assistant Town Moderator, and Beth Hossack, Administrative Specialist.

Public Comment

None

Chair DeRoche states he must leave the meeting early. Vice-Chair, Coye will take over the meeting then.

Discuss Election's (change in location/time)

Town Moderator, Bob Harb and Assistant Town Moderator, Norm Major are present to discuss three (3) items. Town Moderator Harb starts with voting machines. The State of New Hampshire is considering mandating new voting machines. Plaistow currently has three (3) voting machines. LHS is the name of the company that maintains our machines. They will continue to maintain them only for two (2) years. There are no new parts available for the machines. If something needs to be fixed, a used part must be reworked to make the fix. Both the Town Moderator and Assistant Moderator would like to be proactive and plan for purchasing new voting machines. They agree three (3) machines are needed for Plaistow.

Selectman Britton asks if the State mandates new machines will they help pay for them?

Town Moderator Harb states, that is a good question however the answer is unknown at this time. The State is trying to determine if any funds will be available to assist with the purchase.

Town Moderator Harb states we all know there were some problems at the recent elections held at the Public Works Garage. The main concerns were handicapped parking, regular parking, and lighting. The Fish & Game Club in Plaistow was suggested as a new venue for voting. A recent meeting/walk through was held there and it seems like a good fit to hold elections. A few detail police officers will be needed. Town Moderator Harb and Assistant Town Moderator Major would

like to hold the March Town Elections at the Fish & Game Club to see how it works. If all goes well, the goal is to continue future elections there.

Selectman Coye motions to move the 2023 Town Meeting/Elections to the Fish & Game Club. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

There was no discussion on the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Discussion regarding the time the polls are open to vote occurs. Town Moderator Harb states many years ago the polls in Plaistow were open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. At one point the closing time was changed to 8:00 p.m. Both the Town Moderator and Assistant Town Moderator would like to change the hours back to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. They feel twelve (12) hours is a long enough period to allow all voters to participate. The last hour the polls are open is consistently slow. It is already a very long day for election workers and elected officials. Once the polls close there are still many hours of work to be done. The Board of Selectmen control the hours for Town Elections. If a change is made to State & Federal elections, it must be supported by the majority of voters through a warrant article.

Chair DeRoche states the polling hours will be discussed at the next meeting on December 19th.

Review Proposed Budget Changes

Town Manager Colby states the Board approved a three (3) year plan to purchase electricity at a fixed rate. He looked at the electric usage of Town Buildings and was able to lower the budgeted amount for some of the electric line items based on the fixed rate. He was also able to lower the line item for streetlights. The Health/Welfare Service Agencies has also been lowered based on input from the Welfare Director. Town Manager Colby has decreased the Library budget. When the Library Budget was first presented, we did not have the liability insurance costs. An estimate was used and now we have the actual cost.

Selectman Britton states, great job.

Selectman Coye motions to approve the new reduction of \$19,174 in the budget as presented tonight. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

There was no discussion on the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Review Warrant Articles

Chair DeRoche reads warrant article P-23-02 Operating Budget and states this will be tabled until the final number is determined.

Article P-23-03 Operating Budget - Water Department is discussed.

The total Water Department budget is \$494,090.

Selectman Britton asks if the amount includes a temporary generator.

Town Manager Colby replies no, the generator is part of the grant.

Chair DeRoche states the Water Department Budget does not come from tax money. It comes from subscribers/users of the fire suppression and potable water system only.

Selectman Britton motions to approve the 2023 proposed Water Department Budget article P-23-03 in the amount of \$494,090. Seconded by Chair DeRoche.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Article P-23-04 Replace Fire Department Extrication Equipment. The article is read by Chair DeRoche. The total appropriation is \$60,000. This amount will be withdrawn from the General Fund, Unassigned Fund Balance.

Selectman Britton motions to approve warrant article P-23-04, Replace Fire Department Extrication Equipment. Seconded by Selectman Coye.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Article P-23-05 Equipment Purchase Fire Department. This article is read by Chair DeRoche. The total appropriation is \$25,000. This amount will be withdrawn from the General Fund, Unassigned Fund Balance.

Selectman Gifford motions to approve warrant article P-23-05, Equipment Purchase Fire Department. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries

Article P-23-06 Replace Voting Machines. Chair DeRoche states this will be tabled tonight and discussed at a future meeting.

Chair DeRoche states he has invited the Conservation Committee to attend the next meeting to discuss the warrant article for prime wetlands. That warrant article will be voted on following the discussion.

Note: Chair DeRoche left the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Article P-23-07 Contingency Fund. This article is read by Vice Chair Coye. The total appropriation is \$80,000. This amount will be withdrawn from the General Fund, Unassigned Fund Balance.

Selectman Gifford motions to approve warrant article P-23-07, Contingency Fund. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Article P-23-08 Establish a Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. This article is read by Vice Chair Coye. The total appropriation is \$60,000. This amount will be withdrawn from the General Fund, Unassigned Fund Balance.

Selectman Britton motions to approve warrant article P-23-08, Establish a Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Article P-23-09 Discontinue the Police Detail Revolving Fund. This article is read by Vice Chair Coye. If this article passes the sum of the fund will be deposited into the Town's General Fund.

Selectman Britton motions to approve warrant article P-23-09, Discontinue the Police Detail Revolving Fund. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries.

Article P-23-10 Establish a Police and Fire Detail Revolving Fund. The article is read by Vice Chair Coye. The total appropriation is \$100,000. This amount will be withdrawn from the General Fund, Unassigned Fund Balance.

Selectman Britton motions to approve warrant article P-23-10, Establish a Police and Fire Detail Revolving Fund. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Article P-23-11 Deposit to Highway Equipment Trust Fund. The article is read by Vice Chair Coye. The total appropriation is \$50,000.

Selectman Gifford motions to approve warrant article P-23-11, Deposit to Highway Equipment Trust Fund. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Article P-23-12 Deposit to Building Expendable Trust Fund. The article is read by Vice Chair Coye. The total appropriation is \$40,000. This amount will be withdrawn from the General Fund, Unassigned Fund Balance.

Selectman Britton motions to approve warrant article P-23-12, Deposit to Building Expendable Trust Fund. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Article P-23-13 Deposit to Library Capital Reserve Fund. The article is read by Vice Chair Coye. The total appropriation is \$45,000.

Selectman Britton motions to approve warrant article P-23-13, Deposit to Library Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Article P-23-14 Deposit to Energy Capital Reserve Fund. The article is read by Vice Chair Coye. The total appropriation is \$25,000.

Selectman Gifford motions to approve warrant article P-23-14, Deposit to Energy Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Article P-23-15 Deposit to Transportation Infrastructure Capital Reserve Fund. The article is read by Vice Chair Coye. The total appropriation is \$40,000.

Selectman Britton motions to approve warrant article P-23-15, Deposit to Transportation Infrastructure Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Article P-23-16 Deposit to Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. The article is read by Vice Chair Coye. The total appropriation is \$35,000.

Selectman Gifford motions to approve warrant article P-23-16, Deposit to Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Article P-23-17 Deposit to Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund. The article is read by Vice Chair Coye. The total appropriation is \$70,000. This amount will be withdrawn from the General Fund, Unassigned Fund Balance.

Selectman Britton motions to approve warrant article P-23-17, Deposit to Fire Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Article P-23-18 Deposit to Cemetery Special Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. The article is read by Vice Chair Coye. The total appropriation is \$20,000. This amount will be withdrawn from the General Fund, Unassigned Fund Balance.

Selectman Gifford motions to approve warrant article P-23-18, Deposit to Cemetery Special Maintenance Fund. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Article P-23-19 Deposit to Old Home Day Expendable Trust Fund. The article is read by Vice Chair Coye. The total appropriation is \$2,892. This amount will be withdrawn from the General Fund, Unassigned Fund Balance.

Selectman Britton motions to approve warrant article P-23-19, Deposit to Old Home Day Expendable Trust Fund. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Article P-23-20 Designation of Primary Wetlands. The article is read by Vice Chair Coye. It will be tabled until the next meeting.

Article P-23-21 Readopt the All Veterans' Property Tax Credit. The article is read by Vice Chair Coye.

Selectman Britton motions to approve warrant article P-23-21, Readopt the All Veterans' Property Tax Credit. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Article P-23-22 Modify the All Veterans' Tax Credit. The article is read by Vice Chair Coye.

Selectman Gifford motions to approve warrant article P-23-22, Modify the All Veterans' Tax Credit. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Review Old Home Day Constitution/By Laws

Selectman Coye states the Constitution and By Laws of the Old Home Day Committee did not change much. The change is found in Article 3, Membership, number 5. The method of selecting alternate members changed slightly. Everyone has had the opportunity to read the updated information. There are no questions.

Selectman Gifford motions to approve the updated Old Home Day Constitution and By Laws presented tonight. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion Carries.

Approve Consent Agenda

Item Description

1. Accounts Payable Manifest – week of December 1st and 8th, 2022.
2. BOS draft minutes – November 7th (updated/draft 2) and November 21st, 2022.
3. One (1) Veterans Tax Credit.
4. Three (3) Municipality Land Use Change Tax Bills

Note: A license for a Salvage Yard was added to the consent agenda.

Selectman Britton motions to approve the consent agenda and add the license for Salvage Yard. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries.

Town Managers Report/Potable Water Update

- Attended a recent meeting with Earth Construction. Since the weather is getting colder, they are ramping down a bit however still doing what they can.
- Work in the new section of the cemetery is continuing.

- The landfill was open for an extra day on 11/26. It was the last day for the season.
- Busy working on the budget reductions and end of year.
- Plaistow was officially awarded a grant of 1.5 million for water issues with PFOA/ PFOS'S. There are still grants available for individual homeowners to apply for. We have until June 2024 to expend the grant money.
- Has been working with Senator Morse for the fire suppression for Town Hall.

Selectmen's Reports

Selectman Britton – nothing to report

Selectman Gifford – nothing to report

Selectman Coye – nothing to report.

Events

- The gazebo has a mailbox for letters to Santa. Mail will be picked through 12/20.
- The Recreation department is mapping houses with Christmas lights.
- Elder Affairs is hosting a senior tea at the library on 12/9.
- The Recreation department will be working with the Vic Geary Center seniors to make Christmas cards for Veterans residing at the NH Veterans Home in Tilton.
- The library is hosting a Kid's Night Out on 12/16.
- Two (2) events for school vacation week include ice skating and going to the movies.
- Baseball & Softball registration are now open.

Selectman Gifford states the Plaistow Lions Club has set up a fundraiser at the Public Safety Complex to help the family on Newton Rd which supered a fire last week. A go-fund me page has also been setup.

Other Business

None

As there is no further business before the Board, Vice-Chair Coye adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Administrative Specialist