



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: February 27, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: 6:01 P.M.

Roll Call:

Select Chairman, Jay DeRoche - Excused
Select Vice Chairman, Bill Coye – Present
Selectman, Darrell Britton – Present
Selectman, Jonathan Gifford – Present

Also present: Town Manager, Greg Colby, Mr. Gene Forbes of Underwood Engineers, Ms. Cynthia Klevens of NHDES, Dr. Jonathan Petali of NHDES and Administrative Specialist, Beth Hossack.

Vice Chair B. Coye states he has some sad news to share. Bernadine Fitzgerald passed away on February 22. Bernadine was the Town Treasure for many years. She also volunteered her time on several boards and committees in Town. She was the wife of former Fire Chief John Fitzgerald. She will be sadly missed.

Public Comment (other than water)

None

Public Hearing – Housing Opportunity Planning Grant

Vice Chair Coye opened the public hearing at 6:03 P.M.

Vice Chair states the Planning Board received a \$50,000 Housing Opportunity Grant Award. The grant will be used towards updating the housing section of the Master Plan. It will also cover some surveys and things related to housing.

Town Manager Colby states, the grant will assist municipalities looking to increase housing opportunities through community engagement and regulatory change.

There are no questions.

Selectman Gifford motions per RSA 31:95-b to accept the \$50,000 Housing Opportunity Planning Grant awarded to the Planning Board. The grant award is provided by InvestNH Municipal Planning and Zoning Grant Program, Funded by the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs as part of the \$100 million InvestNH Initiative with ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds. Selectman Gifford further motions that Rockingham Planning Commission be selected as the consultant to the Planning Board for the implementation of the grant and that Town Manager

Colby be authorized to sign the grant contract. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries.

Water Department Discussion

Vice Chair Coye states we are having a discussion based on the letter recently sent out to water users. The letter caused concerns and questions.

G. Forbes of Underwood introduces Cynthia Klevens, Principal Engineer from NHDES in the Drinking Water Bureau and Dr. Jonathan Petali, a Toxicologist from NHDES.

G. Forbes gives a presentation on Haloacetic Acids (five) commonly referred to as HAA5.

Haloacetic acids are often found in drinking water especially when water originates from surface water. They are formed as a by-product when chlorine is added to water to kill bacteria and other pathogenic microorganisms. The federal standard for drinking water is not more than 60ppb (parts per billion) which is calculated on a yearly average. One reason it is found in Plaistow is because much of the water starts with surface water. We also had low consumption when the water system was turned on in August. Another contributing factor is due to Salem changing the way they treat their water. Just last week they switched back to the prior method of water treatment. When the October water test results were returned with an excess level of the HAA5 steps were immediately taken to mitigate the issue. Additional flushing & cleaning took place within the distribution system and the Sweet Hill Tank to eliminate any organic matter that contributes to the by-products.

Plaistow also implemented chloramination at the East Road pump house.

Dr. Petali speaks next. He states HAA5's are mainly absorbed from ingestion, and not absorbed through skin. Short-term effects are not likely. If the HAA5's are ingested for several years, there is an increased risk of bladder cancer.

Selectman Britton asks what the risks are now for someone that already has an illness such as cancer. Dr. Petali states in the case of liver disease it may exacerbate it. No studies have been done with cancer patients.

C. Kleves speaks next. She states action was immediately taken following the October reading. HAA5 levels are coming down and it is expected they will continue to come down. Levels may change during the year with changes in seasons causing changes in water temperature which is why the federal level is based on a yearly average. C. Kleves states many New Hampshire towns are having the same issue including New Hampton Village and Jackson Water Precinct. On October 25, 2022, the level at Sweet Hill tank was 97.6 while it was 52.3 at Westville Apartments. The closer you are to the source of water the less likely you are to have high elevations of HAA5's.

Shelly Whalen, 12 Kelleher Road has concerns. She was connected to water on January 9. She was not informed that the water was contaminated. She is upset and feels choices for her own health and her children's health was taken away from her since the contamination was not disclosed. S. Whalen feels people should be told about the HAA5 levels prior to connecting.

Christine Sciacca, 3 Kelleher Ave has lived in her home for twenty-six (26) years. Her well water was contaminated with MtBE for the first five (5) years she lived there. Then the State put in a water system. In November of 2022 she was connected to the Towns water system. C. Sciacca states she should have been told about the contamination prior to being connected. The choice for her health was taken out of her hands. The situation is unacceptable, and nothing is being done to help the residents. She wants to know what the Town is going to do to help residents.

Town Manager Colby states the highest level of contamination was taken at Sweet Hill Tank. The most recent sample taken on East Road was much lower.

G. Forbes, states levels are coming down and they expect them to come down more since Salem made the switch. C. Sciacca no longer trusts the water system.

Selectman Britton recommends taking a water sample in the Kelleher neighborhood. The Board agrees. C. Sciacca wants to know how the residents will be notified. The Town will work on this. It might be posted to the website.

Selectman Britton wants to get water from Kelleher Ave tested. If the level is out of compliance the Board will react and figure out a way to help.

C. Sciacca thanks the board.

Sale of Police Vehicle

Vice Chair Coye states we have a few items to add to our agenda tonight. The first one is to consider selling a police vehicle. Chief Kane recommends selling the former K-9 car. It is a 2017 with over 100,000 miles. We no longer use the car. Hampstead Animal Control has seen the vehicle and wants to buy it. They are willing to pay \$4000 for the car. They will pay to have our equipment and lettering removed.

Selectman Gifford motions to direct the Town Manger to sell the 2017 vehicle that was used by the police department as the K-9 car for many years. The vehicle has reached the end of its usefulness. Hampstead Animal Control has looked at the vehicle and are willing to purchase it for a price of \$4,000. Hampstead Animal Control will also pay to have Plaistow's equipment removed from the vehicle as well as Plaistow's lettering. Chief Kane recommends this plan. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

Energy Committee to form sub-committee

Vice Chair Coye states the Energy Committee would like to establish a Community Power Subcommittee that would work with Standard Power on developing a program to allow residents options for their electricity provider and lower costs.

Selectman Britton motions to establish a Community Power Subcommittee with the responsibility of exploring and gathering information related to the implementation of a Community Power Electrical Aggregation Program for the Town of Plaistow. The Subcommittee shall be comprised of four (4) voting members and a Selectmen's Ex-Officio, with up to four (4) alternate members and a Selectmen's Ex-Officio alternate. The Ex-Officio would be a voting member of the Subcommittee to make up a five (5) member voting body. The Charter for the Subcommittee shall be developed by the Board with the assistance of the EComm. Membership qualifications shall be the same as for all chartered and appointed boards and committees in the Town of Plaistow, and in accordance with NHRSA's. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries.

Town Manger Colby mentions there is some reading material for Selectmen in their folders. It is from Sanborn Head regarding the Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) of groundwater at and near the fire station. No action is required.

Consent Agenda

Item Description

1. Accounts Payable Manifest – week of February 16th, 23rd and March 2nd.
2. BOS draft minutes – February 6th, 2023
3. Five (5) Abatement Requests
4. One (1) Land Use Change Tax Bill
5. One (1) Elderly Tax Exemption Request

Selectman Britton motions to approve the consent agenda as written. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries.

Town Managers Report

- The last few weeks have been busy. He has had many meetings with department heads. The Highway Department has been very busy with weather issues. They are a staff of three (3) and the 2010 truck has engine problems. It is being evaluated. It will be at least one (1) week before we know the problem.
- Met with Chief Kane. He will prepare a formal action plan for March 14, voting at the Fish & Game Club.
- The Fire Department continues to be busy. They recently had another structure fire.
- Recently completed an audit with New Hampshire Retirement.
- The 2022 Financial audit will start in March.
- Had some good candidates apply for the Police Chief Position. They are down to two (2) finalists.

Selectmen's Reports

Selectman Britton – nothing to report.

Selectman Gifford

- Went to the Recreation Commission Meeting however there was not a quorum, so no meeting was held. However, there are several upcoming events to mention.
 - A movie will be shown on 3/2 for Elder Affairs
 - Ice skating in Haverhill will be held on 3/2
 - The Library will host a kid's night out on Friday 3/3.
 - There will be a Celtic Event at the Library on 3/14.
 - There is a senior casino trip scheduled on 3/21 to Encore.
- Attended the Historical Society Meeting
 - A few donations have been received.
 - They are planning some fundraising activities to help the Historical Society

Selectman Coye

- Attended the Old Home Day Committee Meeting – planning is moving along
- Attended the Planning Board Meeting.
- Attended a Boy Scout Meeting. They wanted to learn what selectmen do. He was impressed with some of their questions and knowledge of the Town.

Events

1. Norm Major Celebration – Saturday, March 4 at Plaistow Fish & Game Club, 18 May Ray Ave from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
2. The Town Report Dedication will be held next Monday (3/6) at the Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. The 2022 Town Reports will be available to the public.
3. Candidates Night – Tuesday, March 7 at the Plaistow Library @ 6:30 p.m. The meet & greet portion starts @ 6:00 p.m.
4. Election Day – Tuesday, March 14 at the Plaistow Fish & Game Club, 18 May Ray Ave from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

As there is no further business before the Board, Vice Chair Coye adjourned the meeting at 7:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Administrative Specialist