



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: April 17, 2023

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

Roll Call:

Select Chairman, Bill Coye – Present
Select Vice Chairman, Jay Deroche – Present
Selectman, Darrell Britton – Present
Selectman, Jonathan Gifford – Present
Selectwoman, Tammy Bergeron – Present

Also present: Town Manager, Greg Colby, Conservation Commission Chair Jill Senter, Pollard School Teacher Dolores Coyle-Quirk and Administrative Specialist, Beth Hossack.

Public Comment

None

Arbor Day Poem & Poster Contest Winners

Every year in recognition of Arbor Day the Conservation Commission sponsors a poem contest for fifth graders and a poster contest for grades one through five at Pollard School. All the winners are here tonight. The third-place poem contest winner is Delanie Hynds. The second-place winner is EmmaLynne Luca, and the first-place winner is Josslyn Bezer. Each student reads their poem aloud.

The poster contest winners are:

Grade 1 – Mackenzie Robertson
Grade 2 – Harper Pugliese
Grade 3 – Lyric Levasseur
Grade 4 – Milton Lema Pomavilla
Grade 5 – Kaitlin Bird

The Board gives congratulations to all winners and participants.

Eagle Scout Presentation – Nate Galvin

Nate Galvin presents his Eagle Scout Project to the Board. He plans to work in the old section of the cemetery. He will map out plots and document/record his findings. The end result will be a thorough map of the cemetery. Nate will donate the map to the Historical Society.
Selectman Britton states, what a great project.

Nate has met with Cemetery Sexton Mark Gilford, and both are excited to get the project underway. Nate plans to have other Scouts assist him by working in groups of two. He will do some fundraising to pay for supplies.

All selectmen agree it is a worthwhile project. They thank Nate for attending the meeting to seek their approval.

Comcast Renewal Agreement

Town Manager Colby states there was a discussion about six (6) months ago regarding the cable franchise contract with Comcast. The contract term was up two (2) years ago. The goal was to extend the contract and not create a new one. One item left out was the yearly allowance Comcast paid in the past towards capital expenditures for the Towns Cable Department. The Town Manager asked for assistance from Attorney Kate Miller of DTC Law to work out the details with Comcast. Comcast agree to reinstate the \$20,000 annual fee to the town. They also agreed to pay \$40,000 for the past two years once the extension is signed. If the Board agrees with the extension the next step is to hold a public hearing. There is consensus amongst the Board to move forward with the public hearing. The public hearing will be held on May 8. The only other change with the extension is that there will no longer be free basic cable services to a few town buildings and schools. This is not a problem because there is no one using the basic service any longer.

Selectman DeRoche asks if this will negatively affect the schools.

Town Manager Colby replies, no.

Selectman Britton mentions it would be beneficial to offer a low-cost option for seniors for basic service.

Town Manager Colby states he will ask.

Discussion on House Bill (HB) 307

Town Manager Colby states new Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) reached out to Plaistow to ask if the governing body will write a letter in opposition to HB307. If HB307 passes it will remove the requirement that the court find that the public body or public agency knew or should have known the conduct engaged in was a violation of RSA 91-A before awarding attorney's fees. This could negatively affect the cost to municipalities regarding attorney fees. Town Manager understands both sides. If a governmental agency does not supply request information a citizen should not have to pay large legal fees to access it. On the other hand, if a governmental agency does cooperate and supply information yet a requestor reports them as uncooperative, the agency should not be responsible for paying out legal fees.

Selectman Britton is not in favor of the bill.

Selectman Gifford is not in favor of the bill.

Selectman DeRoche is not in favor of the bill.

Selectwoman Bergeron is not in favor of the bill.

Select Chair Coye is not in favor of the bill.

The administration staff will draft a letter and bring it to the Board.

Water Department Change in Disinfection Process, Cross Connection Control Program, & Standards & Technical Specs

- Town Manager Colby states he has attended several water meetings recently. Working on the water system is continuous. He has been working with Underwood Engineers and Hampstead Area Water Service Company (HAWSCo). They have developed a Cross Connection Policy

and Water System Standards & Technical Specifications. This is necessary information for any future homes and/or developments that want to connect to the potable water system.

- Town Manager Colby states another letter will be sent out with the water bill concerning HA55.
- Town Manager Colby states the phase one agreement to purchase more water capacity comes due soon. He plans to purchase another 50,000 gallons while we can. Then we will be set with capacity.
- Selectman DeRoche asks if we are still testing water weekly.
Town Manager Colby replies no, we are testing every other week. We are also working on changing the disinfection process. There is another water meeting on Wednesday, April 19. There is one more connection to be completed for a property affected by MtBE. It is 95 Plaistow Road.
- He has completed the 2022 MS-535. Basically, it is the annual report on the Town's finances for the year. We ended the year with a fund balance of approximately \$2,564,820. We spent approximately \$283,000 to fund other warrant articles. We still have almost \$2,281,000 that can be used to lower the tax rate.
- The Water Fund has a surplus of \$560,000. This will be used to purchase additional water capacity.
- The Police Department Detail Fund was closed out sending approximately \$46,900 back to the general fund.
- Held a department head meeting last week. All departments are busy, especially the fire department. There was another house fire recently.
- The yearly report on ARPA funds is due at the end of the month.
- Will attend a meeting next week with Mike Skinner from the Beede Group.
- There is an exhaust problem with the 2015 highway truck. The cost to fix it is about \$35,000. He will recommend using the contingency fund to pay for the costs. We already used \$26,000 on the 2010 highway truck. If we pay for the \$35,000 exhaust repairs, it leaves \$54,000 in the contingency fund for the remainder of the year. There is still money in the highway paving line since no paving has been done yet this year. Selectwoman Bergeron asks if we should purchase a new truck next year through a warrant article. Town Manager Colby states a new truck will cost much more than replacing the exhaust system. Chair Coye asks if we can use ARPA funds to pay for the exhaust. Town Manager Colby replies, yes if we want to. Selectman Britton does not want to take money out of paving. That will cause more paving issues next year. Discussion ensues regarding using ARPA funds, contingency funds or another source to pay for the 2015 truck. A decision does not need to be made tonight.
- Due to some long duration storms this past winter we have spent all the money in the salt line item.

Consent Agenda

Item Description

1. Accounts Payable Manifest week of May 13th and May 20th, 2023.
2. BOS Draft Minutes April 3rd, 2023.
3. Two (2) Veterans Tax Applications
4. Four (4) Recreation Commission Members – Tina Dufresne, Patrick Buckley, Kristin Lewis Savage, and Sue Sherman.

5. One (1) Library Trustee Alternate Member – Mary Gori (this item was added on tonight)

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve the consent agenda including item #5 which was added today. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motions carries

Selectmen's Reports

Selectwoman Bergeron

- Attended the Toddler Easter Egg Hunt. It was a great day with a lot of participation.
- Will attend the Elder Affairs Committee Meeting this week.
- Will attend the Old Home Day Committee Meeting.
- Will meet Jill Senter on Arbor Day to walk with the fifth graders to the cemetery.

Selectman Britton

- Will attend the Elder Affairs Committee Meeting this week.

Selectman DeRoche

- Planned to attend the Energy Committee Meeting, however there was no quorum, therefore no meeting. Please reach out if you are interested in being a committee member.
- Was unable to attend the Planning Board Meeting due to a conflict.
- Attended the Run of the Savages. This event is in honor of former Police Chief Steve Savage. There were many runners, and it was a great event.

Selectman Gifford

- Attended the Recreation Commission Meeting and the Easter Egg Hunts. Both events were great. He recommends people pay attention to the Recreation page of the website. The department runs many good events. This Saturday, April 22 is the Town Wide Clean Up Day.
- During school vacation week three events are scheduled. One is Launch Trampoline Park, a paint party and a movie in Epping.
- Baseball Opening day is May 6. The Lions Club will host a food drive during opening day for the power pack program.

Chair Coye

- Attended both Easter Egg Hunts.
- Will attend the Planning Board meeting this week.
- Attended the Recreation Commission Meeting.

Events

1. Town Wide Clean Up Day – April 22, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
2. Household Hazardous Waste Day – Saturday, April 29, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Public Works Garage, 144F Main St. Proof of residency will be required.

Other Business

None

Confidential Folders

The folders are distributed. The selectmen read the contents. The first one is a request for a tax abatement. The filing deadline was missed however a house fire was involved. There is consensus to allow the abatement.

The second letter is informational only. There is nothing to discuss.

Selectman DeRoche motions to enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II for (E) pending or threatened litigation. Seconded by Selectman Britton

Board Polled: Select Chair Coye = yes, Selectman DeRoche = yes, Selectman Britton = yes, Selectman Gifford = yes, Selectwoman Bergeron = yes.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries

Chair Coye closes the public session at 7:03 P.M. He states we will not come back into public session.

Public session resumed at 7:38 P.M.

Selectman DeRoche motions to seal the nonpublic minutes of April 17, 2023 as disclosure would render the proposed action ineffective. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

As there is no further business before the Board, Chair Coye adjourned the meeting at 7:39 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Administrative Specialist