



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: November 27, 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 – Excused

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

Public Comment

Jason Dumas, 6 Pine View Ave is concerned that not many residents are aware of the public hearing scheduled for December 7 regarding prime wetlands. He understands the meeting was continued from November 9, 2023 however he does not agree the Town has done a good job of letting people know.

Mr. Dumas' other concern is the contract regarding Plaistow and Atkinson Dispatching Service. The Town of Plaistow does all of Atkinson's Dispatching. He does not agree that a contract of \$40,000 - \$45,000 per year is enough.

Town Manager G. Colby states when he spoke about the contract at the last Selectmen's meeting it may have been confusing. The contract that will expire soon topped off at \$45,000. Since negotiations are ongoing, we do not have a limit of \$45,000.

George Barnes, 19 North Ave is concerned about speeding traffic on North Ave. Several accidents have occurred on North Ave. Some of them have resulted in the death of four (4) neighborhood dogs. He went to the Police Station and was surprised to learn that only two (2) officers were on duty. That is not enough to patrol North Ave and keep up with other responsibilities. He would like the Board to find a solution.

Town Manager G. Colby states we have five (5) vacancies for police officers. Once we fill the positions we will be in a better position to patrol North Ave. In the meantime, he will talk to the Chief and see if anything else can be done.

Review Warrant Articles

Selectman DeRoche asks if tonight's list are the repeating warrant articles which are on the ballot each year.

Town Manager G. Colby replies, they are last year's warrant articles with the removal of nonapplicable warrant articles for this year. As of today, there are no zoning warrant articles. There may or may not be any.

Selectman DeRoche states the selectmen determine what warrant articles will or will not be on the warrant/ballot.

Town Manager G. Colby states the Board may want to consider funding the cemetery capital reserve account to use for the new section of the cemetery. It looks nice however the area is quite open. They may want to beautify/close in the area. It is something to think about.

Town Manager G. Colby states we will have a warrant article asking for support for the Historical Society this year. Historically when a non-profit organization requests funding, it will be placed on the ballot as a warrant article the first year. This allows the voters to decide whether it should or should not be funded.

Chair Coxe states after the next two (2) Capital Improvement Meetings the Board will have much more information to work with.

Selectman Britton states that most likely the Board will be cautious this year.

Budget Review

Chair Coxe asks if a decision has been made on voting machines. If we are able to purchase two (2) this year we can remove that line item from the elections budget.

Town Manager G. Colby replies, we are still waiting for the State to decide. The Secretary of State has the choice down to two (2) vendors. There will be a meeting on December 14. If a decision is made at that meeting, the Board can discuss it on December 18th.

Selectman DeRoche mentions gas prices are coming down a little. Should we consider reducing the budget to account for the price decrease.

Town Manager does not think it is worth adjusting the budget. He states the proposed budget is an increase of 10.763% over last year. Without the ambulance service the increase would be 4.7%. Remember the ambulance will provide revenue and we must make a change. Trinity will no longer provide this service to Plaistow without an expensive contract.

Approve Consent Agenda

Item Description

1. Accounts Payable Manifest week of November 22nd & 30th, 2023.
2. BOS Draft Minutes November 13th, 2023.
3. One Veterans Tax Credit Application.

Selectman Britton left the meeting at 6:31P.M.

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

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries.

Selectman Britton returned to the meeting at 6:35P.M.

Town Managers Report

- A formal RFP will be distributed soon for the septic system at the Safety Complex.
- Two (2) conditional employment offers for Police Offices have been accepted. We hope to have them on board soon. One officer is already certified and the other will attend the Police Academy.
- He received a report from NHDOT regarding potential short-term changes for the intersection of Main St. and Westville Rd. Some of the ideas are a center median on Westville Road, a four (4) way stop or a roundabout. If any residents want to weigh in with suggestions, please call or email Town Manager Greg Colby at 603-382-5200 or gcolby@plaistow.com. There is consensus amongst the Board for a median on Westville Road and maybe a streetlight.
- Soon Partridge Lane will be hooked up to the potable water system. Pennichuck will hook up Twin Ridge beginning Thursday night. They will shut down their water system from 10:00P.M. Wednesday night until 5:00A.M. Thursday morning. They have notified everyone involved. Some of their customers include The YMCA, The Nest Restaurant, a car dealership and one (1) or two (2) single family homes.

Selectman DeRoche states those additions to the water line are great progress.

Selectmen's Reports

Select Chair Coye welcomes Selectman Britton back!

Selectman Britton – nothing to report

Selectman DeRoche

- Attended the first CIP meeting. Highway needs were discussed.
- Will attend the Budget Committee meeting tomorrow evening.

Selectman Gifford

- Attended the site visit to the Solar Array in Wells Maine.
- Attended the Festival of Trees. It was a great event.

Select Chair Coye

- Attended the CIP meeting.
- Will attend next week's Planning Board Meeting.
- Attended the Festival of Trees.

Events

1. Fire Chief Knutsen will host an information night at the fire station on Thursday, November 30 at 6:00P.M. to answer questions about the ambulance service. Two (2) more informational sessions will be held at the Library. One will be in December and the other in January.
2. Wreath Making – Nov. 28 at Pollard School, 5:30 P.M., Register with the recreation department.
3. Senior Wreath Making – Nov. 29, at the Vic Geary Center
4. Tree Lightening – Dec. 3, Town Green at 5:00P.M.
5. Holiday Trip to Newport RI – Dec. 5, Register with the recreation department.
6. Letters to Santa can be dropped off at the Gazebo from Dec. 3 - 21.
7. Show us your lights – email recreation@plaistow.com to get on the list. Lists will be available at Town Hall, the Library & the Annex by Dec. 13.
8. Trips with the Best of Times Travel – Merry Country Christmas – Dec. 6, Register with recreation by Nov. 20.

As there is no further business before the Board, Chair Coye adjourned the meeting at 6:50P.M.
Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Administrative Specialist