



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: December 27, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 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.

Chair Coye recommends entering a nonpublic session for legal.

Selectman Britton motions to enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II for L) consideration of legal advice. Seconded by Selectman DeRoche.

Board Polled: all in favor, 4-0-0

Motion carries.

The public session adjourned at 6:01 P.M.

The public session resumed at 6:20 P.M.

Selectman Gifford motions to seal the nonpublic session as disclosure would have an adverse effect on reputation. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Board Polled: all in favor, 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Review Budget

Town Manager G. Colby states article P-24-02, Operating Budget is \$12,570,807. The default budget amount is \$13,312,846. The default budget amount comes from last year's operating budget with contractual changes and any changes required by law. He states the ambulance service is a large part of the budget. However, the amount to be raised by taxpayers is not the full budgeted amount as revenue will come in to offset it. The Board may choose to use some money from the unassigned fund balance to further reduce the impact on taxpayers. The ambulance service is set at

\$650,000. Revenue is anticipated to be \$400,000. If the Board votes to use \$200,000 of the unassigned fund balance the delta to taxpayers is approximately \$50,000. There is consensus amongst the board to use \$200,000 of the unassigned fund balance. Town Manager G. Colby reads the warrant article:

Operating Budget – General Fund

Article P-24-02: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant article and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$12,570,807 with the sum of \$200,000 to come from the unassigned fund balance. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$12,312,846 with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by laws; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote Required).

Selectman DeRoche motions to recommend article P-24-02 Operating Budget – General Fund be placed on the ballot as read by Town Manager G. Colby. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0.

Motion- carries.

Town Manager G. Colby states negotiations with the police union were completed today. The cost items have been agreed upon. The Town's attorney will write up the agreement and send it to the police unions attorney.

There is consensus amongst the board to hold off voting on the warrant article until it is signed by the union. Therefore, warrant article P-24-04 Collective Bargaining Agreement – Police Union and P-24-05 Special Town Meeting for Defeated Collective Bargaining Agreement will be voted at the next meeting.

Voting Machines Article P-24-16. The State of New Hampshire has not made a decision on new voting machines. On last year's ballot \$1200 was approved by the voters to purchase 2 voting machines. Warrant Article P-24-16 was meant to be placed on the ballot for 2024. However, since the State has not selected a machine the selectmen decided not to include this warrant article on the ballot.

Selectman Britton motions to remove article P-24-16 Voting Machines from the ballot. Seconded by Selectmen Gifford.

Vote: 4-0-0.

Motion carries.

Chair Coye states the rest of the warrant articles will now be renumbered.

Article P-24-17 Deposit to the Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund is discussed. The dollar amount will be \$140,000 not \$210,000, which was the original amount recommended by the Capital Improvement Plan.

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve article P-24-17 Deposit to Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$210,000. Seconded by Selectmen Britton.

Vote: 4-0-0.

Motion carries.

Article P-24-20 Expendable Trust Fund Transportation Program is read by Select Chair Coye.

Selectman Gifford motions to approve article P-24-20 Expendable Trust Fund Transportation Program. Seconded by Selectmen DeRoche.

Vote: 4-0-0.

Motion carries.

At the Board meeting on December 18, 2023 the selectmen agreed to place the updated Conflict of Interest Committee Ordinance with the language changes regarding membership as recommended by the current committee on the ballot as a warrant article. Chair Coye reads the article.

Selectman Gifford motions to recommend article P-24-21 Conflict of Interest Ordinance be placed on the ballot. Seconded by Selectmen DeRoche.

Discussion: Selectman Britton states he is not in favor of the changes. He thinks it is hard to get volunteers and he thinks the recommended changes are too strict.

Vote: 3-1-0

Motion carries.

Town Manager G. Colby states six (6) bids were received for the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the leach field at the Public Safety Complex. The bids were opened on December 21, 2023 with a low of \$69,000 and a high of \$149,500. He hopes to make an award this week. He recommends encumbering \$80,000 of 2023 funds for the project. He also recommends encumbering \$10,000 for the irrigation system at PARC which was damaged due to a lightning strike.

Selectman DeRoche motions to encumber a total of \$90,000 of 2023 funds for the leach field at the Public Safety Complex in the amount of \$80,000 and \$10,000 for the irrigation project at Plaistow Area Recreation Complex (PARC). Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 4-0-0.

Motion carries.

Selectman DeRoche asks if any other warrant articles are expected.

Town Manager Colby replies there may be one (1) more and there is a possibility of a citizen's petition or two (2).

As there is no further business before the Board, Chair Coye adjourned the meeting at 7:02 P.M.

The Selectmen wish everyone a Happy New Year. The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Administrative Specialist