



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: January 8, 2024

Meeting Called to Order: 6:03 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, and Administrative Specialist, Beth Hossack.

Public Comment

George Barnes 19 North Ave is very concerned with speeding on North Ave. He spoke at a previous meeting, yet nothing has been done. He has asked to meet with the Police Chief and states his calls are not being returned. Mr. Barnes wants a traffic light on the street and the radar speeding trailer sign to help slow down traffic.

The Board discusses options. They recommend Town Manager G. Colby meet with the Chief and reach out to the city of Haverhill.

Mr. Barnes agrees to wait and watch traffic for another month. He will come back to a future meeting if he does not see improvements.

Ryan Labrecque 174 Main Street asks Town Manager G. Colby to confirm the status of the warrant article for prime wetlands.

Town Manager G. Colby confirms there will not be a warrant article for prime wetlands on the 2024 ballot for town meeting.

Sanborn Head SSI Presentation

Jennifer Sanborn and Heidi Caprood have joined the meeting remotely to provide an update on ground/well water contamination. In 2019 a waterline feasibility study was done. PFAS was detected in several wells near the Public Safety Complex at concentrations above state drinking water standards. Sanborn Head was retained to conduct a further assessment of groundwater in the area. A potential concern was the past usage of firefighting foam in the training section of the safety complex. Sanborn Head's objective was to further assess what other potential sources may be the

cause of PFAS contamination and its extent. Three (3) areas that were tested include the leach field on the north side of the fire station, the training area on the East side, and the former retention pond in the southern area. Soil samples were taken, and several monitoring wells were installed. The conclusions from Sanborn Head's study are:

- 1.) there seems to be a regional offsite source of PFOA contamination that is impacting the majority of supply wells in the vicinity of the fire station.
- 2.) the fire training area does appear to be a partial cause of contamination yet there may be a co-mingling with the training area and the other/unknown offsite regional area (#1 above).

The next step will be to evaluate remedial alternatives which may involve soil excavation, capping, and long-term monitoring. However, Sanborn Head recommends waiting to see what recommendations come from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) following their review of Sanborn Head's Supplemental Site Investigation Report.

Selectman Britton asks what the anticipated cost is if the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) agrees with Sanborn Head's approach.

H. Caprood replies if the State agrees to additional monitoring the cost should be approximately \$30,000. If they want additional work the cost may be as high as \$200,000.

Selectman Gifford asks if the water contamination is all subsurface water. If it is not, the water will end up in his pond.

J. Sanborn replies, it is subsurface water. The depth is greater than sixty (60) feet.

Selectman DeRoche asks what other chemicals might be the cause of this contamination.

J. Sanborn replies, Teflon, water repellent compounds, and soap are some of the causes.

Selectman Britton asks if petroleum products might be a cause.

H. Caprood replies there is no evidence that petroleum causes PFAS/PFNA's.

The Board agrees to wait and see what DES recommends. They thank Jennifer and Heidi for the information.

Warrant Article Review

Chair Coye states the next warrant article to discuss is P-24-04 Collective Bargaining Agreement – Police Union. He reads the article and states the passing of this article will allow Plaistow to be competitive amongst comparable towns to retain staff.

Selectman Britton motions to approve article P-24-04 Collective Bargaining Agreement Police Union. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Chair Coye reads warrant article P-24-05 Special Town Meeting For Defeated Collective Bargaining Agreement. He states this will allow the selectmen to call a special meeting to address cost items only if the above article P-24-04 fails.

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve article P-24-05 Special Town Meeting for Defeated Collective Bargaining Agreement. Seconded by Selectwoman Bergeron.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Chair Coye recommends revoting the articles where only four (4) Board members were present.

The first one is Article P-24-02 Operating Budget – General Fund. He reads the article.

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve article P-24-02 Operating Budget – General Fund. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Chair Coye reads article P-24-17 Deposit to Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund.

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve article P-24-17 Deposit to Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Chair Coye reads article P-24-20 Expendable Trust Fund Transportation Program. He states the idea of this article is to start accepting donations for future transportation consideration.

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

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Chair Coye reads article P-24-21 Conflict of Interest Ordinance. The change in the ordinance is to update membership terms and was recommended by the current committee members.

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve article P-24-21 Conflict of Interest Ordinance. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 4-1-0

Motion carries.

Chair Coye states the next warrant article is P-24-22 Expendable Trust Fund Plaistow Junior Firefighters Program. This is a new article.

Town Manager G. Colby states this article will be removed. There is no need to discuss it.

Final Budget Review

No questions arise.

Review HB 1002

House Bill 1002 was developed as a result of New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) Right-to-Know Law Survey. The survey showed how large Right-to-Know requests often slow down town operations and how much such requests cost local taxpayers. The passing of this bill at the State House will allow towns some limited cost-recovery. Another goal of the bill will be to help

requestors consider how to better focus their requests allowing them to receive information without overburdening town staff.

Selectman DeRoche believes this is a good bill.

Chair Coye agrees and asks Town Manager G. Colby for his opinion.

Town Manager G. Colby agrees with the bill.

Approval of prior nonpublic session minutes

A set of minutes are passed out and reviewed.

Selectman Britton motions to approve the nonpublic session minutes from December 18, 2023 and keep them sealed. Seconded by Selectman DeRoche.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries

Selectman Gifford motions to approve the nonpublic session minutes from December 27, 2023 and keep them sealed. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 4-0-1

Motion carries

Chair Coye states the Presidential Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, January 23. Polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. at the Plaistow Fish and Game Club 18 May Ray Ave.

Chair Coye states there is election training next week. Online training is also available for those that want it.

Schedule for January – March

The Board determines the meeting schedule to be:

January 22

January 29

February 5

February 26

March 4

March 18

Approve Consent Agenda

Item Description

1. Accounts Payable Manifest week of December 28th, 2023, January 4th and 11th, 2024.
2. BOS Draft Minutes December 18th and 27th 2023.

Add on item – 2024 MS-DTB Default Budget.

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve the consent agenda with the add on item included. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Town Managers Report

- The Dispatch Contract with Atkinson was signed by Plaistow and is scheduled to be signed tonight by Atkinson's Board of Selectmen. It is a five (5) year contract with a 10% increase in the first year and an 8.5% increase for the subsequent four (4) remaining years.
- Our current ladder truck stopped working. It has been evaluated by more than one (1) contractor and will be expensive to repair. Town Manager G. Colby recommends not fixing it as the new ladder truck should be ready in May. In the meantime, we will rely on mutual aid if a ladder truck is needed.
- The septic work at the Public Safety Complex has begun.
- Hands-off to all the town employees and outside contractors with all the storm cleanup.
- Working on getting proposals for the inspection of the old water tank (now cell tower). He should have figures soon.

Selectmen's Reports

Selectwoman Bergeron

- Will attend the Conservation Committee meeting this week.

Selectman Britton – nothing to report.

Selectman DeRoche

- Will attend the Budget Committee meeting following the conclusion of this meeting.
- Read a good article about Plaistow's Junior Firefighters Program.

Selectman Gifford

- Will attend the Old Home Day Committee Meeting tomorrow.

Chair Coye

- Attended the Planning Board Meeting. There was a public hearing on a warrant article.

Events

- Public Hearing on the 2024 Proposed Budget - Tuesday, January 9 @ 6:30P.M.
- Ambulance Service Informational Session – Tuesday, January 16 @ 6:00P.M. at the Library.
- Presidential Primary – Tuesday, January 23 @ 7:00A.M. – 8:00P.M. – Plaistow Fish & Game Club.
- Town Hall & the Annex will be closed on Monday, January 15 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Deliberative Session – Saturday, February 3 @ 9:00A.M.

As there is no further business before the Board, Chair Coye adjourned the meeting at 7:14 P.M. The Budget Committee will start their meeting next.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Administrative Specialist