



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: January 22, 2024

Meeting Called to Order: 6:03 P.M.

Chair Coye states Selectwoman Bergeron would like to join the meeting remotely. He asks her why it is not practical for her to attend person.

Selectwoman Bergeron replies, I am in Florida.

Chair Coye asks if anyone else is present in the room with her.

Selectwoman Bergeron replies, no.

Chair Coye motions to allow Selectwoman Bergeron to join this meeting remotely. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

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

Motion carries.

Roll Call:

Select Chairman, Bill Coye – Present

Select Vice Chairman, Jay DeRoche – Present

Selectman, Darrell Britton – Present

Selectman, Jonathan Gifford – Present

Selectwoman, Tammy Bergeron – Remote Participant

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

Public Comment

None.

Town Moderator Message

Town Moderator Bob Harb states it is an honor to be the Town's Moderator. He states polls will be open tomorrow (Tuesday, January 23) from 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. for the Presidential Primary. Voting will take place at the Fish & Game Club at 18 May Ray Ave. Mr. Harb thanks the Fish & Game Club for allowing the Town to use their facility for voting. He hopes to have a large turnout of voters. It is one of America's freedoms and he hopes people vote.

Public Hearing to Consider a Grant

Chair Coye opens the public hearing at 6:15 P.M.

Chief Knutsen provides the background for the grant. The grant is from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and is the result of a mitigation issue with Volkswagen. The grant process was very competitive. The goal of the grant is to get old diesel vehicles off the road. Plaistow has been awarded \$949,982. The grant money will be used along with a Town match of \$237,495 to purchase a new Fire Engine for a total cost of \$1,187,477.

No one from the public has any questions.

Chair Coye closes the public hearing at 6:21 P.M.

Selectman Britton motions to accept the New Hampshire Clean Energy Diesel Program in the amount of \$949,982. The grant is provided by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Furthermore, I motion to authorize Town Manager Greg Colby to enter into and sign all documents pertaining to the grant on behalf of the Town. Seconded by Selectman DeRoche. Board Polled: all in favor, 5-0-0 Motion carries.

Selectman Gifford motions to withdraw \$237,495 from the Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. The money will be used with the New Hampshire Clean Energy Diesel Program Grant of \$949,982 to purchase a Fire Engine Pumper truck for a total cost of \$1,187,477. Seconded by Selectman DeRoche. Board Polled: all in favor, 5-0-0 Motion carries.

Energy Committee and Walden Renewables

Matt Kennedy and Nate Colannino are here representing Walden Renewables. The Energy Committee has been considering placing a solar array on the landfill. They have invited Walden Renewables to discuss the potential project.

Mr. Kennedy states Walden Renewables started in 2011. Most of their projects are based in New England. Although they are expanding. Two of their projects include the Antrim Wind project in Antrim, NH and the Littlefield Solar project in Wells, ME. The proposed project for Plaistow will be similar to the Wells, ME project. The project will consist of three (3) phases and have an interconnection point on Wilder Drive to connect to the power lines along the street. Phase 1 is the development phase. This is basically a four (4) year initial lease Development Period with up to two (2) one (1) year extensions. Phase two (2) is the Operations Period consisting of a thirty (30) year initial Operations Term with up to two (2) five (5) year extensions. The final phase, Phase 3 is the Decommissioning Period lasting one (1) year. The energy produced from the project would be purchased through the energy billing program in New Hampshire. Plaistow will be renting the land to Walden Renewables. They will make lease payments to the Town. The Town will not have to maintain the land or equipment. There is no cost to the Town. If the Board wants to move forward the next steps are:

1. Approve the lease agreement.
2. Execute the exclusivity agreement.
3. File interconnection agreement with Unitil.
4. Negotiate legal terms of the proposed lease agreement.
5. Execute lease agreement.

Selectman DeRoche thinks this is a great opportunity for the Town. It is an isolated piece of land that cannot be utilized for any other purpose.

Selectman Gifford agrees, it is a great opportunity, and the land is basically isolated without a lot of access. He recommends sending the documents to the Town's attorney for review.

There is consensus amongst the Board to move forward with the planned project.

Chair Coye thanks Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Colannino for the presentation and information.

Disposal of Vehicles

Chief Knutsen states the current ladder truck has major mechanical issues which started in late December. There is no power going to the engine. It has been looked at by several mechanics and it will not be an easy fix. It would cost a few thousand dollars to have it towed and looked at. Chief Knutsen does not recommend spending any more taxpayer money on it. A new ladder truck has been ordered and will be here in May. Chief Knutsen reached out to several businesses to see if we could sell the truck. He received one (1) quote from Scrap Metal Management North for \$4000.

Town Manager Greg Colby states we should also consider disposing of the 2013 Ford Explorer. It is an old police canine vehicle. It is not being used. It has approximately 80,000 miles. He recommends disposing of it via auction.

Selectman Gifford motions to dispose of the 2013 Ford Explorer and to sell the ladder truck to Scrap Metal Management North for \$4000. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Board Polled: all in favor, 5-0-0

Motion carries.

As a reminder Chief Knutsen states there will be an informational session on the ambulance service on January 24 at 6:00 P.M. at the Fire Station. Chief Knutsen states if you cannot attend call him or stop by the station anytime. He is glad to talk to the residents.

Elections/Deliberative Session

The presidential primary election is tomorrow at the Fish & Game Club 18 May Ray Ave. The polls are open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Chair Coye will be available all day. Selectman Britton will take the early shift and leave around 2:30 P.M. Selectman DeRoche will come at 1:00 P.M. and stay for the counting process. Selectman Gifford is available all day.

Chair Coye states the Deliberative Session will be held on Saturday, February, 3 at 9:00 A.M. As of tonight, the location is Town Hall. There is a possibility it may change to Pollard School. The Public Works Garage will not be used for Deliberative.

Approval of prior nonpublic session minutes

A set of minutes are passed out and reviewed.

Selectman DeRoche motions to approve the nonpublic session minutes from December 27, 2023 and keep them sealed. Seconded by Selectman Britton. (Note: Selectwoman Bergeron did not participate in this vote as she was not present to review the minutes).

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

Motion carries.

Approve Consent Agenda

Item Description

1. Accounts Payable Manifest week of January 18th and 25th, 2024.
2. BOS Draft Minutes January 8th, 2024.

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

Board Polled: all in favor, 5-0-0

Motion carries.

Town Managers Report

- Working with the DRA on the budget and warrant.
- The Budget Committee must sign the budget document this week.
- Received the final year end figures for capital reserve accounts from the Trustees of the Trust Fund.
- Working on audit preparation.
- The largest phase of the water project (5.6 Million) will be formally closed soon.
- Will attend tomorrow's water meeting regarding PFAS and the rest of the grant for this issue.
- The new disinfection process is working well with less byproducts. Flushing is occurring frequently. Twin Ridge is now up and running on the water system.
- Will meet with Chief Santoro tomorrow regarding traffic on North Ave. The digital speed sign has been placed on the road and cruisers have been visiting as much as possible.

Selectman DeRoche asks if Republic or Beede has been contacted to help donate to Old Home Day. Town Manager Greg Colby replies, he has reached out and is waiting for replies. He will follow up again soon.

Selectman Gifford states the Old Home Day Committee is looking for volunteers. He hopes others will step up. He also stated the committee decided to move the Friday evening event (dance & food) to the Fish & Game Club. This will help save some money.

Selectmen DeRoche asks if the number of water subscribers and revenues can be presented at the next meeting.

Selectmen's Reports

Selectwoman Bergeron

- Attended the Conservation Commission meeting. They are concerned about a man made bike-path in the Town Forest. They have put up a camera and will put fencing around the trail. Prime wetlands may be revisited in the Spring.

Selectman Gifford

- The Historical Society held a Christmas ornament and display swap. It was a successful event.

- Attended the Old Home Day Committee meeting. They are in need of volunteers. Three recent members had to step down due to other obligations.

Selectman Britton – nothing to report

Selectman DeRoche

- Attended the Budget Committee's Public Hearing.
- Attended the Presidential Primary Training in Atkinson.

Chair Coye

- Attended the Planning Board meeting.

Events

- Presidential Primary - Tomorrow, January 23 @ 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. @ Plaistow Fish & Game Club, 18 May Ray Ave.
- Ambulance Service Session – January 24, @ 6:00 P.M. – Fire Station
- Recreation Department – two (2) upcoming events.
 - Roller Skating on Jan. 26 (no school day) at Remix in Manchester. You must register online or with the Rec Dept.
 - Casino trip to Encore on Feb. 21, you must register online or with the Rec. Dept.
- Deliberative Session – Saturday, February 3, at 9:00 A.M.

Selectman Gifford thanks Dan Garlington and his crew for the snow cleanup following the last storm. They did a great job. Plaistow's roads exceeded other towns.

As there is no further business before the Board, Chair Coye adjourned the meeting at 7:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Administrative Specialist