



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: March 11, 2019

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:33pm

SELECTMEN:

Selectman, Julian Kiszka, Chairman
Selectman, John Sherman
Selectwoman, Francine Hart

Selectman, Peter Bracci, Vice Chairman
Selectman, Steve Ranlett
Mark Pearson, Town Manager

MINUTES

J. Sherman motions to approve the minutes of February 25, 2019. Seconded by P. Bracci.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

J. Kiszka calls for a moment of silence for the passing of Thomas H. Cullen, a Plaistow resident since 1955 and a WWII Veteran.

Tom Cullen was admired by many and a friend to all. In the Navy he was part of the invasion on the beaches in Normandy on D-Day. He was awarded several medals for his contributions to the US Navy. He was also very involved in the Town of Plaistow. He served as a Selectman for 15 years, was a member of the Planning Board for 16 years, was a member of the Budget Committee, served on the Southern Rockingham County Planning District Commission for 11 years, was the Assistant Town Moderator for many years and was an Honorary Water Commissioner. T. Cullen frequently played the role of "Santa Claus" and assisted with many children's programs at the Library. He was a member of the Historical Society and a lifelong member and past Commander of the Carl G. Davis Post #34 American Legion. T. Cullen was very proud of his Irish heritage and was a dual citizen. He will be missed.

S. Ranlett states T. Cullen was instrumental in obtaining the Town owned land on Sweethill Road. This will be the location of the new water tank needed for potable water. T. Cullen also assisted the town in funding of about \$700,000 dollars for the old water tank located near Methuen Construction.

S. Ranlett reads a proclamation recognizing the accomplishments Irish-American citizens have made to our community and our nation. He mentions the many accomplishments of T. Cullen and would like to proclaim Sunday, March 17th, 2019 be declared Irish Heritage & Cultural Appreciation Day in Plaistow.

P. Bracci would like people to remember Charles Cooper, WWII Veteran who passed away on February 13, 2019 at the age of 98 years. He was married for 72 years and his wife passed away 2 days after him. All our WWII Veterans are heroes.

S. Ranlett mentions another Plaistow WWII Veteran, Roy Jeffrey. He was at the calling hours and funeral for T. Cullen. R. Jeffrey has also been active in Plaistow.

J. Sherman states one legacy of T. Cullen is when you think of him you will smile. He was a good man with good humor.

S. Ranlett wants to thank Mr. Sherman and recognize all he has done as a Selectman for the past 18 years. He was a mentor to S. Ranlett when he first became a Selectman.

S. Ranlett also wants to thank Mr. Barcci for serving as a Selectman for his 3-year term.

RESULTS OF POLICE PROSECUTOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

M. Pearson states we received one (1) response to the Police Prosecutor Request for Proposal (RFP). The proposal is from Coyle Law for a fixed price of \$52,000. per year. The firm has two (2) attorney's. The principal attorney has twenty-four (24) years' experience prosecuting criminal cases in Rockingham County Circuit while the other attorney has eight (8) years' experience with the New Hampshire Public Defender's Office and two (2) years' experience assisting in the prosecution of six (6) local police departments. The cost of our current contract with Rockingham County Attorney's Office is \$67,906. per year. If the Board would like to move forward, M. Pearson suggests the contract with Coyle Law should begin on July 1, 2019. This allows enough time to end the current contract with Rockingham. The savings will be \$7,953. for the 2019 budget year. The services provided by Coyle Law are more inclusive than our current services.

P. Bracci asks what the police department thinks of the proposal.

M. Pearson states they have not been asked.

S. Ranlett states the RFP was written with the police departments input.

S. Ranlett has a concern that one (1) of the two (2) attorneys in the firm might be leaving. He is concerned that might have a negative effect.

M. Pearson knows who S. Ranlett is referring to and states the attorney did not get another job. Also, the contract is with the firm not an individual.

F. Hart motions to direct the Town Manager to enter into a contract with Coyle Law, subject to conducting a background investigation and checking references, in the amount of \$52,000.00 annually beginning July 2019 for the "Prosecution Services for Plaistow Police Department" one-year proposed contract dated February 21, 2019. Seconded by J. Sherman.

Discussion: J. Sherman wants to make sure there will be no reduction in quality.

M. Pearson states he does not know Kevin Coyle personally however he has never heard anything negative about him. K. Coyle worked in Londonderry for 23 years and has a good reputation.

S. Ranlett agrees it seems to be a good fit for the Town of Plaistow.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

SALE OF TOWN OWNED PROPERTY, 2010 BMW

M. Pearson states a few years ago the police department purchased a 2010 BMW 3 Series Coupe 335i through asset forfeiture for \$4400. The car has not been used and recently it was discovered the vehicle was inoperable. The vehicle was sent for repairs for the ignition and keys. The work cost \$968. The vehicle still needs a lot of work to make it operable. The estimated cost of the remaining work including the blower motor, brakes, tires, traction control, electrical faults, cooling system, and a water pump will be approximately \$13,000. This car is not needed by the police department. The Interim Police Chief and M. Pearson recommend the Board authorize the sale of the car to the highest bidder with a minimum bid of \$5400. Any money over the \$5400 will go into the general fund.

S. Ranlett asks where the car was taken for repairs.

M. Pearson replies a place on Westville Road that specializes in German cars.

J. Sherman asks what other options are available.

M. Pearson replies, none really. The police department has no need for the car.

J. Sherman supports selling it. Yet, he wonders what the original purpose was for acquiring the car in the first place. It must have been worth more then. This makes him think we should have a better process before accepting vehicles through asset forfeiture.

M. Pearson states there are no other unused vehicles at the police department. Since the car was not paid through with taxpayer money a policy is not really needed.

S. Ranlett motions to direct the Town Manger to advertise an "Invitation to Bid" with a minimum bit of \$5,400 for the sale of a 2010 BMW 3 Series Coupe 335i, color blue with approximately 51,659 miles to the highest bidder above the minimum bid required, and to deposit the first \$5400 into the Drug Asset Forfeiture account and any remaining funds be deposited in the Unreserved Fund Balance/General fund. Seconded by F. Hart.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

SCHEDULE FOR POLL COVERAGE

J. Kiszka states whoever can be there will be. He will not be able to be inside the polls this year.

J. Sherman will be there from 11:00am – 3:00pm and from 6:00pm to closing.

F. Hart will be there from 10:00am to closing.

S. Ranlett will be there as much as possible.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

- Attended Several Meetings
- NH Department of Environmental Services MtBE Grant
- Potable Water
- Safe Routes to School Meeting
- Public Works Garage Information
- Audit
- Meeting with Teamsters and Police Captains
- Police Prosecutor RFP
- Personnel

ACTION ITEMS

Reviewed

OLD BUSINESS

P. Bracci states two weeks ago an accusation was made by resident Lisa Gardella during public comment. He believes the town needs to know what has been done to prevent a similar situation from happening again. He does not want anyone in the future to feel intimidated in Town Hall. He feels we owe the citizen's an explanation and L. Gardella an apology.

J. Sherman states he received a message from Lisa Gardella on his answering machine the morning following the meeting. He did call her back as a courtesy. He told her it was not his decision to make yet it is his opinion that he did not think it was a good idea for the two of them to speak since L. Gardella threatened legal action. L. Gardella agreed and the conversation ended.

J. Kiszka states he also spoke to L. Gardella and basically had the same conversation.

M. Pearson states it is the policy of the Board to listen to people who speak during public comment but not to respond.

S. Ranlett agrees and states you can't pick and choose who you will respond to.

M. Pearson states after L. Gardella spoke he told the Board he would look into any contracts for maintenance of police vehicles. He researched all the files from the Police Department and Town Hall. No contract was found for Skips Garage or Freedom Tire.

S. Ranlett believes there were contracts that were never signed.

M. Pearson states there were responses from Request for Proposals (RFP's) from Skips Garage and Freedom Tire but no contracts.

J. Kiszka states he saw the files M. Pearson reviewed and agrees there are no contracts. He also went to Town Hall and asked employees if they noticed or heard any disruption during the meeting between M. Pearson and L. Gardella. He was not made aware of anything unusual.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

S. Ranlett

- Received an email from a resident on Jessie George Road questioning the placement of the stop sign. S. Ranlett recommended the resident bring his concern to the Highway Safety Committee.
- Would like the sample ballot to be accessible from the home page of the website next year.
- Attended Tom Cullen's funeral today. It was a nice service and the eulogy was well done. A recording of Tom singing was part of it.

J. Sherman

- Will attend the Recreation Commission Meeting on Wednesday.
- Will vote tomorrow and be at the polls most of the day. He urges people to read the voter's guide.
- Congratulates the School Nurse Winner chosen by the School Nursing Association. This year's winner is Kate Sherman-DeRoche, J. Sherman's daughter who is the Pollard School Nurse.

P. Bracci

- The Conservation Commission Meeting schedule for last week was cancelled.

F. Hart

- Assisted with ballot testing on Tuesday.
- Attended the Energy Committee Meeting. There are 2 subcommittees. One is working on energy audits. They now have the full report from Margaret Dillon. There is a plan to prioritize and begin work on an energy project. The other subcommittee is working on LED street lights. Not much progress has been made which is disappointing.
- Had planned on attending the Planning Board Meeting and apologizes for missing it. She did speak to John Cashell. He researched numbering of houses/buildings in town. Basically, it starts with the Police Chief then is followed up by the Code Enforcement Officer and the Assessing department.

J. Kiszka

- Attended the Energy Committee Meeting.
- Attended Tom Cullen's funeral.

F. Hart motions to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (A) Public Employee; (B) Hiring; (C) Reputation; (D) Property Transactions; (E) Pending or Threatened Litigation; (I) Emergency Functions Related to Terrorism; (J) Confidential Information in Adjudicative Proceedings; (L) Consideration of Legal Advice. Seconded by J. Sherman.

Board Polled: J. Kiszka = yes, P. Bracci = yes, J. Sherman = yes, S. Ranlett = yes, F. Hart = yes Motion passes

Exited public session at 7:59pm

Reconvened public session at 8:15pm

J. Kiszka adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Recording Secretary