



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: August 26, 2019

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

SELECTMEN:

Selectwoman, Francine Hart, Chairman
Selectman, Steve Ranlett
Selectman, Greg Taillon

Selectman, Julian Kiszka, Vice Chairman
Selectman, John A. Blinn, Sr.
Mark Pearson, Town Manager

MINUTES

S. Ranlett motions to approve the minutes of August 12, 2019. Seconded by G. Taillon.

Vote: 4-0-1 (abstain S. Ranlett)

Motion carries

PUBLIC COMMENT

F. Hart states the purpose of public comment is to allow people to state a point of view. It is not an engaging conversation with the Board. Public comment will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.

Sam Cafiso, 52 Kingston Road states his comments are as a private citizen. They have nothing to do with his membership on any board or committee. He states the NH State requirement for assessing properties is to have a revaluation every five (5) years. He listened to a previous Board meeting and does not understand the rationale behind a revaluation more than every five (5) years. In his opinion it does not soften the blow, it only saves the increment of increases and you pay more in the four (4) years in-between.

F. Hart states she would like to meet with him to explain the reasoning, there is a much bigger context. She thanks him for his comment.

Bob Hamilton, 3 Balsam Way states he has attended many Board meetings and there has always been interaction between a person making a comment and the Board. He states the Board took a pledge for liberty and justice for all, yet he does not think that is accurate. He wants to respond to things that were said about him at the last Board meeting. He states as an elected auditor he has only communicated with the assessing department on one (1) occasion. It was with Susan Henderson and it was for personal reasons. He reviewed tax sheets which is public information and he clearly indicated where his information came from and it was accurate information. He feels the Board accused him of looking into assessing and doing something improper.

F. Hart recommends he make an appointment to meet with her.

Bob Hamilton thinks it is absurd that the Board will not engage with someone making a public comment.

He states the job of Budget Committee Chair and Town Auditor are two (2) of the most thankless jobs in any town. He states Senator Chuck Morse agrees. When he is acting as an elected official Plaistow resident's will always come first. He thinks the Board's resistance to review the tax records he provided might be a red flag.

F. Hart thanks him for his comment.

Peter Bracci, 2 Balsam Way states he has come to the conclusion the Board and the Town Manager are not primarily acting for the residents. The reasons he cites follow:

1. At the public hearing on July 15, 2019 a vote was made by the Board to do a statistical update before the public spoke.
2. He believes F. Hart voted against the people at a Planning Board meeting regarding ProQuip.
3. He believes the Board trashed Bob Hamilton's reputation at the meeting of August 12, 2019.
4. He states a prior Town Manager entered into a contract with JRM before it was necessary, and it was costly to the Town. He feels the current Board did the same thing by entering into a new contract with the current Town Manager before his contract had expired. Again, being costly to the Town.
5. He feels an action in 2018 to remove S. Ranlett as Chair was unrepresented and disturbing. It involved a letter of contempt and a meeting at Mr. Bracci's house.
6. He feels a statistical update shifts the burden of taxes to the residents.

F. Hart thanks him for his comment.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW DISPATCHER

Mark Pearson introduces Dianne D'Ioria as a new full time Dispatcher. She comes to Plaistow with experience.

Dianne states she grew up in Lawrence. She graduated St. Mary's High School and Northern Essex with a degree in criminal justice. She worked as an Administrative Assistant for about 15 years. Dianne then took a job in Lawrence for the Fire Department. After a short layoff she became a 911 Call Taker, worked the Front Desk and as a Dispatcher. She has all the necessary training and certification and is happy to be working in Plaistow.

F. Hart states we are delighted to have her and welcomes her.

J. Kiszka makes a statement that he agrees with the concept Mr. Cafiso mentioned, of only doing a revaluation every five years however, he agrees a statistical update is necessary this year. This statement is made as a point of order.

PLAISTOW EXCHANGE CLUB

Maxann Dobson is here representing the Plaistow Exchange Club. This year Plaistow will follow Chester's tradition of decorating scarecrows for Halloween. The kits are being sold for \$25.00. All money raised will go towards programs of service for the Town. Some of the programs the Exchange Club has done include the Freedom Shrine at Pollard School, giving toiletry items to seniors and veterans, mums for seniors and they passed out several flags at Old Home Day. There will be a contest for the scarecrows with winners of the following categories; funniest, scariest, patriotic and original. As of today, two (2) more categories have been added; best commercial business and best municipality. You can pre-order a kit on Face Book and pickup will be at the Library September 7th and 8th.

F. Hart states the Plaistow Exchange Club supports many things in town.

WESTVILLE ROAD BRIDGE UPDATE

M. Pearson states Aaron Lachance of Hoyle & Tanner is the Project Engineer. Dee Voss is the Project Coordinator. They are both here tonight to provide an update. Aaron states the paving started today. The road will not be open until Wednesday morning. The guard rails will be installed tomorrow. The school busses will be able to use the road Wednesday. Following Wednesday there will be intermittent lane closures until the project is complete.

G. Taillon asks for a status on the crack in the concrete.

Aaron states it is not fixed yet, however it is on the punch list and will be fixed before the project is completed.

G. Taillon asks what caused the crack?

Aaron replies they are not sure; however, they think the angle of the plane between the headwall and wingwall was slightly off. The crack is aesthetic, yet it will still be fixed before the project is closed out.

Dee would like to thank all the residents and business on Westville Road for their patience and cooperation during the project. She states it was not unnoticed or unappreciated.

F. Hart thanks Aaron for the update.

LIBRARY NEW SIGN

Cab Vinton, Library Director and James Peck, Chair of the Library Trustees are here to discuss a new sign for the Library. The Library is twenty (20) years old and the current sign has reached its useful life. The presentation is provided as a courtesy since the Library does not fall under the Town's Zoning Ordinances. The Library Trustees want to get an electronic sign/message board. It will be tastefully done and will serve as a test for other potential digital signage in town. No flashing lights will be used. The sign would be visible from both the north and south on Main Street. Messages can be updated in less than a minute and can be done remotely from anywhere with internet access. The sign would be able to show more than one (1) message at a time. The sign could be used by Town Departments for important messages in addition to Library messages. The Library is willing to pay for the full cost of the new sign. No taxpayer money will be used. The sign can be dimmed or turned off at night. Cab states he will work with abutters to make sure the sign does not cause problems for them.

J. Kiszka states it is important to work with the neighbors, yet he is concerned that if the Library gets an electronic sign it may be opening Pandora's box. The Town has never used an electronic sign even though it can.

S. Ranlett asks how the Library will pay for it.

James Peck replies the Library gets money from fines, passports, fundraising and donations. They have money in a capital reserve account.

F. Hart asks if a different message can be put on different sides of the sign.

Cab Vinton replies, he is not sure, but he would be very surprised if not.

F. Hart asks who decides what message is put on the sign and what will the priorities be. She states parameters should be set.

Cab Vinton agrees. The priority for messages would be programs for the Library.

G. Taillon asks if the sign will be high enough to be seen above snow in the winter. He also wants to know if the Town should consider changing the signage regulations using the information the Library obtained in their research.

F. Hart states this will be considered at the Planning Board level.

J. Kiszka is concerned with the height.

F. Hart asks when the sign will be done.

James Peck replies there is a Trustees meeting on September 10th, and it will be discussed. They want to have it done before the end of the year.

F. Hart states the sign presented tonight fits in well with the Town Village.

There is consensus amongst the Board to allow the Library Trustees to move forward with obtaining a new sign.

CHARTERS, MINUTES, EX-OFFICIO

F. Hart states Conservation Commission will meet next week, and she hopes J. Blinn will be able to get a charter.

J. Blinn states they have started working on the charter and it will be finished at the next meeting. Then he will bring it to the Board. He will also have a charter for the Elder Affairs Committee soon, however that is a Town Manager's Committee, so the rules are different.

F. Hart asks how many members are on the Conservation Commission and if he, as the Ex-Officio Member is a voting member.

J. Blinn states he is not a voting member. There are seven (7) voting members on the committee. The main problem is that at most meetings they do not have a quorum.

F. Hart thinks as the Ex-Officio member J. Blinn should have voting privileges.

J. Kiszka states on some of his committees as the Ex-Officio he is not a voting member.

F. Hart thinks it should be recommended that Ex-Officio Members are always a voting member.

G. Taillon agrees.

F. Hart would like J. Blinn to recommend this at the next Conservation Commission meeting.

F. Hart wants to have G. Taillon added to all correspondence with the Recreation Commission as he is the Alternate Ex-Officio Member.

J. Kiszka states typically Ex-Officio Members of committees do not vote the will of the Board since the issue was not discussed by the Board.

S. Ranlett recommends "hot topic" issues should be discussed at Board meetings and the Ex-Officio will vote the will of the Board on those occasions. There is agreement with the Board.

TOWN CODE REVIEW

S. Ranlett begins with Chapter 90 Herbicides and Pesticides. He would like to make sure that the spray used by Dragon Mosquito does not conflict with the ordinance and if it does, we should add this as an exception.

G. Taillon states Dragon Mosquito uses a natural bacterium to spray. He called and asked as he was concerned for his beehive.

F. Hart suggests this be reviewed with Dennise Horrocks, Health Officer.

J. Kiszka asks if Dragon Mosquito gets permission to spray from the Conservation Commission.

M. Pearson states, it is not necessary for companies like Dragon Mosquito to get permission as they are licensed by the State and must satisfy State Requirements.

G. Taillon states we should clarify who makes the decision to spray.

M. Pearson replies it is the Board of Selectmen not the Conservation Commission.

F. Hart states we will table this for now.

The next chapter is 95 Housing Standards.

S. Ranlett discussed the chapter with Mike Dorman, Code Enforcement Officer. M. Dorman stated the code is written correctly.

The only suggestion is to add Attached Dwelling Units to section 95.2. Also make sure he/she and him/her is updated throughout this chapter.

The next chapter is 108 Loitering.

S. Ranlett states this is enforced by Court and New Hampshire RSA's trump Town Ordinances. If someone is panhandling, there is nothing we can do to stop it. The person has a right to do it. He does not think we need this chapter. There is consensus amongst the Board to remove this chapter.

The next chapter is 114 Mosquito Control.

S. Ranlett recommends adding Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and any other disease that may be carried by mosquitos in section 114-1. Purpose.

The next chapter is 123 Officers and Employees.

S. Ranlett states the purpose of this chapter is to make it clear that Selectmen cannot serve as a Department Head to any Town position. There is already a State Law for the same reason, therefore S. Ranlett does not think this chapter is needed. There is consensus to remove it.

PLAN FOR 9/11 CEREMONY

The Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, September 11th at 6:00pm. It will be similar to past years. Both the Flyzik and Gavriel Families have been invited. One or two Selectman should speak. G. Taillon volunteers and S. Ranlett may say a few words.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Attended Several Meetings
- Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA) Decision
- Westville Road Bridge Reconstruction
- Cell Tower (Water Tower) Work
- Public Works Garage Information
- American Legion Post 34 POW/MIA Vigil
- September 11th Ceremony
- Finance Department
- 2020 Budget Planning
- Personnel Evaluations
- Personnel/Vacancies
- Explosion at 100 Plaistow Road
- Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella, PLLC – Right of Way Ordinance
- Two RFP's are on the website for landscaping the Route 125 Islands.

ACTION ITEMS

Reviewed

OTHER BUSINESS

F. Hart discusses the Pollard Road Culvert Replacement. We have applied for a grant through the Aquatic Resources Management (ARM) Fund program. In order to show support for the project it is recommended the Board provide a letter with the grant application. Dee Voss, Planning

Coordinator Administrative Assistant has drafted such a letter. F. Hart will sign the letter if the Board agrees. They agree.

OTHER FOLDERS

F. Hart states the Accounts Payable Manifest and FYI folder are going around.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

J. Blinn

- There will be an ice-cream social for elders on 8/29 at Stillwell's. It is free for Plaistow Seniors.

S. Ranlett

- Nothing to report.

G. Taillon

- Added the survey to the Town website to gather feedback. Has been using the help library from CivicPlus (website software vendor) and is finding it helpful. He will work with Barbara Kiszka to get the informational sheet with a section for applying to be a committee member posted to the website.

J. Kiszka

- Attended the CIP meeting. A lot of progress has been made.
- Attended the SAU Withdrawal meeting. S. Ranlett helped facilitate the meeting.
- Attended the Town Report meeting.
- Attended the Energy Committee meeting. A few members went to visit Affinity Lighting in Dover. It was very impressive.

F. Hart

- Attended the Energy Committee meeting. They are looking into solar panels on the Salt Shed.
- Attended the Planning Board meeting. There is a lot of current activity in Plaistow.

G. Taillon motions to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II for purpose of approving non-public minutes, (A) Public Employee; (B) Hiring; (C) Reputation; (D) Property Transactions; (E) Pending or Threatened Litigation; (I) Emergency Functions; (J) Confidential Information; (L) Consideration of Legal Advice. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

***Board Polled: F. Hart = yes, J. Kiszka = yes, S. Ranlett = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes
Motion carries***

Public session closed at 8:22 p.m.

Public session resumed at 8:23 p.m.

S. Ranlett 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)

BOS 08/26/2019

***Emergency Functions; (J) Confidential Information; (L) Consideration of Legal Advice.
Seconded by J. Kiszka.***

***Board Polled: F. Hart = yes, J. Kiszka = yes, S. Ranlett = yes, J. Blinn = yes, G. Taillon = yes
Motion carries***

Public session closed at 8:23 p.m.

Public session resumed at 8:35 p.m.

F. Hart adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Recording Secretary