



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

**PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:**

**DATE:** September 9, 2019

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

**SELECTMEN:**

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

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

**MINUTES**

*G. Taillon motions to approve the minutes of August 26, 2019. Seconded by J. Blinn.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve the minutes of September 3, 2019. Seconded by J. Blinn.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**BOB HAMILTON**

This agenda item was requested by Selectman S. Ranlett. Neither S. Ranlett nor B. Hamilton are present. F. Hart asks the Board if anyone else would like to make a statement or comment. There are none.

**ASSESSING**

F. Hart states there is a letter in tonight's folders from our Assessing Agent Marybeth Walker. The ratio for 2019 has dropped to 76%. The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration requires median ratios to be between 90-110%. At a previous Board meeting the Selectmen voted to complete a Statistical Update this year to bring all values up to 98%. Some residential values will increase 25% or 26% while some commercial properties will increase 5%. Letters will be going out to taxpayers to explain the increase in values. Hearings can be requested and are limited to 15 minutes per property owner. The new valuations will be reflected in the December Tax Bill for 2019.

M. Pearson states the 25% increase in valuation is not related to taxes. Your tax bill will not increase 25% however your valuation may. The increase in taxes will average 7%. A valuation has not been done since 2016 so the increase this year is like a 2.6% increase over the last three years.

### **PENDING CIVIL LITIGATION**

During public comment at the last Board meeting Mr. Bracci referenced a confidential letter sent to Ms. Hart in 2018 regarding the removal of Mr. Ranlett as Chair of the Board. F. Hart reads an email she received from S. Ranlett asking for information regarding the letter and a meeting. In discussing this in public Mr. Bracci violated the Town Code and his Oath of Office according to RSA 42:1 (a). The document may be used in a civil litigation case. No further discussion on this issue will take place in a public session.

### **CHARTERS, MINUTES, EX-OFFICIO**

J. Blinn has a charter from both the Recreation Commission and the Conservation Committee. F. Hart recommends everyone read them and discuss any concerns at a future meeting.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES & BOARDS**

G. Taillon states the informational sheet is almost ready to be put on the website. He thanks Barbara Kiszka for all her help in putting this together. Contact through the website is limited to those that have a town email address. For the few that do not have a town email address perhaps a link might work. No personal emails will be used.

F. Hart states Barbara Kiszka is in the audience tonight and she publicly thanks her and G. Taillon for working on this project.

G. Taillon states the survey is on the website under "About Plaistow". Responses have been positive so far. It will also be posted to a face book page.

### **BUDGET PREPARATION**

F. Hart states Mark Pearson, Town Manager and Greg Colby, Finance Director have been meeting with Department Heads. The full budget will be presented to the Board in late September or early October. Once it is presented to the Board all questions will go to the Chair. She will bring the questions to the Town Manager and Finance Director for answers. The same process will occur with the Budget Committee.

G. Taillon asks if he can have a copy of the spreadsheet from G. Colby when it is ready. He would like to put the information into the dashboard/tool he used last year.

M. Pearson states he may have however, the date must always be listed first. He wants to prevent multiple spreadsheet being available causing confusion.

F. Hart would like to direct the Town Manager to present a budget which is 2.5% below the 2019 budget. She would like to know the Boards thoughts.

J. Kiszka asks where the 2.5% came from.

F. Hart states she has looked at the budget herself and feels a 2.5% reduction is an attainable goal.

M. Pearson has consolidated some personnel and outsourced some things which has eliminated rollup costs such as pension and healthcare insurance. There has been a large effort to contain spending.

G. Taillon asks if she means just the operating budget. She confirms she is referring to the operating budget.

J. Kiszka states he likes the idea, but he does not want quality to suffer.

M. Pearson states it would be a target. The Board will be able to increase or decrease the budget as they see fit. A 2.5% reduction would not be across the board in all departments.

J. Blinn states the changes in personnel made by M. Pearson will help the taxpayers and is a win for everyone.

J. Kiszka agrees it is a juggling act.

***G. Taillon motions to direct the Town Mangers to present a target budget that is 2.5% lower than the 2019 operating budget. Seconded by J. Kiszka.***

***Vote: 4-0-0***

***Motion carries***

### **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

- Attended Several Meetings
- Building Maintenance Supervisor – Paul Lucia
- Highway Department Supervisor – Dan Garlington
- Planning Assistant – Dee Voss
- Recreation Director – Christina Cruz
- Residents
- Businesses
- Human Resources – Lori Sadewicz
- Interim Police Chief Doug Mullin
- Interim Fire Chief John Judson
- Greg Colby – Finance
- Daniels Construction – Westville Bridge Project
- Attorney Kalman
- Water Department – Shawn Feeley
- Daltile – Derry NH
- Champagne Floors – Wayne Shore
- Westville Bridge Reconstruction – Site Visits
- Crepeau Painting
- Hastings Flooring
- Haverhill Police Meeting
- Southern NH Regional Waterline Project
- Clean Water SRF Grant

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Item # 2 will be pushed out to 2020.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

F. Hart asks if there is consensus to cancel the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and have a meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Board agrees.

F. Hart mentions to continue thinking about names for the road beside the Safety Complex.

### **OTHER FOLDERS**

The Accounts Payable, Signature Folder and FYI folders are being passed around.

### **SELECTMEN'S REPORTS**

G. Taillon

- Nothing to report.

J. Kiszka

- Attended the Energy Committee Meeting – the street light project is moving along.

J. Blinn

- Nothing to report.

F. Hart

- Attended the Energy Committee Meeting.
- Attended the Planning Board Meeting – there will be warrant articles to restructure some of the old regulations.
- Attended the Town Report Meeting. This year's theme will be "Turning the Page".
- Christina Cruz has provided some good information for the Old Home Day Parade. It will make next year's planning easier.

G. Taillon asks how Christina Cruz's position will be replaced.

M. Pearson states he will be meeting with the Recreation Commission soon and working on a plan.

J. Kiszka states the Wallball/Basketball Courts at Smith Field have a lot of cracks and he is concerned there may be a safety issue if something is not done to fix it.

M. Pearson asks if it should be closed.

J. Kiszka would like Mark to look at it and repair it or make a suggestion.

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

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

Public session closed at 7:40 p.m.

Public session resumed at 7:50 p.m.

F. Hart adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,  
Recording Secretary