



PLAISTOW BOARD

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

DATE: January 13, 2020

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:34 p.m.

SELECTMEN:

Selectwoman, Francine Hart, Chairman - Excused
Selectman, Greg Taillon
Mark Pearson, Town Manager

Selectman, Julian Kiszka, Vice Chairman
Selectman, John A. Blinn, Sr.

MINUTES

G. Taillon motions to approve the minutes of January 6, 2020. Seconded by J. Blinn.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC HEARING – SPORTS BETTING

J. Kiszka opens the Public Hearing at 6:36 p.m.

Coach Bard, 341 Main Street asks if this meeting is for contracts such as Draft Kings and big players who will have a retail location in Plaistow. What is the discussion about in more detail?

G. Taillon states to the best of his understanding the State will assign ten (10) licenses to retail locations to house a sports betting parlor inside. Resident can register and bet online.

Coach asks how a resident can become an agent or handler and how will Plaistow benefit if a sports betting place is located in Town.

G. Taillon states any revenue would go towards education however details are not known yet.

Tonight, the discussion is to see if the Town should “opt in” to allow sports betting in Town. The State will choose the locations. The Board of Selectmen can vote to put a warrant article on the ballot this year or not to. A valid citizen’s petition would also place it on the ballot. If nothing happens this year we can wait until next year.

J. Kiszka states this is similar to the allowance of Keno. A warrant article was placed on the ballot for Keno in 2018. It will be regulated by the State and they will come up with a formula to disburse revenue.

J. Kiszka states he spoke to the Town Manager and Police Chief to get their opinions regarding public safety issues.

Coach is concerned about impacts to traffic.

J. Kiszka states the Board is concerned with Public Safety.

J. Kiszka closes the Public Hearing at 6:46 p.m.

J. Kiszka believes it should be put on the ballot for voters to decide. He asks the Town Manager to speak about Public Safety.

M. Pearson states he has thirty (30) years of experience dealing with horse race betting with ten to twelve thousand visitors. In that time span there were only a couple of incidents. It is highly regulated and there is no evidence of increased crime.

G. Taillon is concerned that sports betting may promote or encourage gambling addiction.

J. Blinn believes it may enhance someone's business like Keno did.

J. Blinn motions to place a warrant article on the ballot that reads; To see if the town will vote to allow the operation of Sports Betting within the Town pursuant to the provisions of NH RSA 287-I. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 2-1-0 (G. Taillon no)

Motion carries

J. Kiszka calls for a vote to recommend or not recommend the article.

Vote: 1-1-1 (J. Blinn yes, G. Taillon no, J. Kiszka abstain)

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

M. Pearson introduces Brandon Thibault. Brandon is a graduate of Whittier Regional Technical High School. He also has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Rivier University in Criminal Justice. Prior to joining the Plaistow Police Department on December 8th, 2019, he was employed by Proscaper, LLC as a landscaper/machine operator.

Brandon introduces his fiancé, daughter, parents and brother. He is happy to be here.

J. Kiszka welcomes him.

M. Pearson introduces Jonathan Campbell. He and his wife Allison live in Haverhill. Jonathan is a graduate of Venice High School and of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. He has a bachelor's degree in Professional Aeronautics. Jonathan served in the United States Navy. Prior to joining the Plaistow Police Department, he was employed by Portsmouth International Airport as an Air Operations Manager.

Jonathan states he had a full career as an FAA Air Traffic Controller which often involved providing supportive and encouraging communication to pilots especially in tough situations. His past communication experiences will enhance his capabilities as a dispatcher.

Martha Fowler, Town Clerk swears Brandon Thibault into office.

DEFAULT BUDGET

M. Pearson states Greg Colby, Finance Director/Assistant Town Manager prepared the default budget. G. Colby is not here to present it as he went home sick. The default budget is based on law yet some of it is up to interpretation.

M. Pearson points out last year's budget was \$10,070,710.00 The default budget listed on page 4 is \$10,142,097.00 then the water budget needs to be deducted leaving the 2020 default budget at \$9,984,653.00 which is slightly less than the 2019 budget. Since the 2020 proposed operating budget was decreased it will make the 2020 default budget higher.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL CLOSEOUT

Dee Voss, Administrative Assistant for the Planning Department is present tonight and is happy to report the Safe Routes to School Project is complete. The items on the punch list attached to the Certificate of Substantial Completion were addressed in the fall and inspected by Hoyle, Tanner and Associates as well as New Hampshire Department of Transportation personnel. The Town of Plaistow still has a one (1) year warranty from the date of final acceptance.

D. Voss recommends the Board accept the project.

G. Taillon motions to accept the Safe Routes to School Project identified as FED: X-A004(363) and NHDOT: 40312, which includes sidewalk improvements from Pollard School to 7 Elm Street. Seconded by J. Blinn.

Discussion: J. Kiszka is disappointed that sodium light fixtures were used.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

WARRANT ARTICLE FOR SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS

M. Pearson states the balance in the fund is \$200,000. Recently, he met with Chief Knudsen and Deputy Chief Judson to discuss a plan for purchasing new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's). Chief Knudsen recommends forming a committee to research the different types of SCBA's and what would work best for the department. The need is not urgent. The department has enough for now.

M. Pearson states the Board can add a warrant article to add funding to the account this year or hold off. The Board of Selectmen are not the agents to expend from this account.

J. Kiszka asks if the current equipment is okay.

M. Pearson replies, yes.

J. Kiszka asks if there is consensus to not have a warrant article this year for the SCBA's. We are not in jeopardy and it will not compromise public safety.

The Board agrees to hold off this year.

G. Taillon states he has worked on the format of the warrant articles, so they all look the same. A statement has been added in parenthesis stating majority vote required to all except one (1) warrant article. It was thought that P-20-18, Expendable Trust Fund Highway Department Equipment required a 3/5 majority vote. G. Taillon went through all the Department of Revenue (DRA) information and found a majority vote is all that is required. The wording on articles that will have money withdrawn from a fund are now consistent.

Article P-20-13, Capital Reserve Fund Deposit – Recreation is discussed. There is no current plan to spend the money.

G. Taillon states perhaps we should hold off on the article and not include it this year.

J. Kiszka thinks it should be left in the hands of the voters.

J. Blinn asks if it will affect the Recreation Department's Budget.

M. Pearson replies, no it will not change the budget. The money would just go into a capital reserve account for future projects.

G. Taillon motions to not place the Capital Reserve Fund Deposit – Recreation on the ballot this year. Seconded by J. Blinn.

Vote: 2-1-0 (J. Kiszka no)

Motion carries

J. Kiszka motions to accept the minor changes in the Warrant Articles/Voters Guide to make them more consistent. Seconded by J. Blinn.

Vote: 3-0-0

Motion carries

J. Kiszka attended the last budget committee meeting and he was very surprised at some of the votes. He feels they did a good job however he did not see the logic in some of the votes. He was shocked at the number of no votes.

G. Taillon states he was also very surprised.

J. Kiszka states it may cost taxpayers more money in the end.

J. Kiszka states at the last meeting Selectman Steve Ranlett resigned. The Board did not officially accept the resignation. He would like to do it now.

M. Pearson replies, we have his resignation in writing. A vote to accept it is not required.

J. Kiszka states the website should be updated. G. Taillon no longer has a Town phone, yet the former phone number is still listed.

J. Kiszka wants to find replacements for the committees/boards S. Ranlett was the liaison to.

J. Kiszka volunteers to be the Selectmen's Representative for the Public Works Facility.

M. Pearson states it is substantially complete.

J. Blinn volunteers to be the alternate Selectmen's Representative for the Highway Safety Committee.

G. Taillon volunteers to be the alternate Selectmen's Representative for the Planning Board.

J. Blinn volunteers to be the alternate Selectmen's Representative for the Cable Commission.

J. Kiszka states S. Ranlett was also the alternate to the Rockingham Planning Commission.

Both G. Taillon and J. Blinn will think about it.

J. Kiszka would like a cable show done on all the warrant articles. It was not done last year however it has been done in years past.

G. Taillon states it might be considered swaying the voters.

J. Kiszka states it should be done by the Chairs of the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee and it should just be factual. The idea is to explain the facts of warrant articles. For example, he thinks it should be done as follows:

- A yes vote means "this" will happen.
- A no vote means "that" will happen.

J. Kiszka checked with New Hampshire Municipal Association to see if the Board should vote on recommending the Citizens Petition Warrant article. The answer is yes. The Budget Committee should also vote on it as it involves Town money.

J. Kiszka calls for a vote to recommend the Citizens Petition for SoRock.

Vote: 0-3-0 (J. Kiszka, G. Taillon, J. Blinn no)

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

- Attended several meetings.
- Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Interconnection Project – Update
- New Highway Garage – Update
- New Public Works Garage Open House – January 25 & 26, 2020 (Reminder)
- Asset Management Clean Water SRF Grant \$30,000
- Proposed Salt Shed RFP
- Recreation Commission – Update on Engineering Design
- Public Safety Complex Road Cemetery Expansion Projects – Still Waiting
- Timberlane Rear 2017 Tax Sale of Land – Completed
- 33 Garden Road 2019 Tax Sale of Land – Completed
- Systems Engineering Meeting – IT Security Assessment
- Staff Meeting
- Personnel
- The Highway Department is moving equipment into the new building.
- He will no longer focus time on the Salt Shed since the Budget Committee is not supporting it.
- Tomorrow a Code Enforcement/Building Inspector will be sworn in since M. Dorman is on medical leave. He will be able to take care of any legal issues if they arise.

The next water meeting will be held on January 27th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. The focus will be on rate setting.

ACTION ITEMS

Reviewed. If the Board decides to sell any Town owned property in the future, we will check it thoroughly before hand.

OTHER FOLDERS

The Accounts Payable Manifest, signature folder, assessing folder and the FYI folder are being passed around.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

G. Taillon

- The work on the Warrant Articles/Voters Guide is almost complete. He is waiting for some balances on funds. He has noticed there is no consistency in the names of some of the funds. He would like to see standardized names used.
- Attended the Regional Meeting of the Governors Office for work force housing in New Hampshire.

J. Blinn – was on vacation and has nothing to report.

J. Kiszka

- Attended the Rockingham Planning Commission Meeting in North Hampton regarding the housing shortage in New Hampshire.
- Attended the Budget Committee Meeting.
- Would like to complete an asset search in the future on anyone filing for the elderly exemption.

G. Taillon states we should start with a review of the current policy.

J. Kiszka adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Recording Secretary