



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

**PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:**

**DATE:** January 22, 2020

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 5:30 p.m.

**SELECTMEN:**

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

Selectman, Julian Kiszka, Vice Chairman  
Selectman, John A. Blinn, Sr.  
Greg Colby, Finance Director

**MINUTES**

*G. Taillon motions to approve the minutes of January 13, 2020. Seconded by J. Blinn.*

*Vote: 3-0-1 (F. Hart abstain)*

*Motion carries*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**VOTE ON THE 2020 PROPOSED BUDGET**

F. Hart states the Board proposed a budget of \$9,733,491.00. The Budget Committee proposed a budget of \$9,706,991.00. The difference is \$26,500 with the Budget Committee lower.

*G. Taillon motions to reconsider the budget. Seconded by J. Kiszka.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

F. Hart is concerned with the \$20,000 reduction in assessing made by the Budget Committee. The money was targeted for values-a-new for industrial properties.

G. Taillon states he did not realize what the money was targeted for. He also has concerns.

G. Taillon states the Budget Committee reduced solid waste by \$6500 with the idea the landfill could be manned by one employee instead of two to save money.

F. Hart states she does not agree with the reduction. She feels the \$20,000 for assessing is needed and the \$6500 for solid waste is such a small amount it is not worth reducing.

J. Kiszka agrees with F. Hart that the \$20,000 in assessing is needed.

J. Blinn agrees the \$20,000 should be included in the budget.

G. Taillon states we should trust the Highway Supervisor to run his department as he sees fit. He does not think the Budget Committee should be micro-managing departments.

F. Hart does not think the Board needs to re-vote the budget. The Board will leave it as is.

J. Kiszka reminds everyone that the budget is a bottom-line budget. The budget that goes on the ballot to the voters is the Budget Committee's Budget.

### **VOTE ON THE DEFAULT BUDGET**

The default budget is \$9,984,653 if you deduct the water budget. The formula to develop the default budget is set by law.

*J. Kiszka motions to recommend the default budget at \$10,142,097. Seconded by G. Taillon.*

*Discussion: J. Kiszka states there is a special formula for the default budget.*

*C. Colby states contractual obligations are included in the development of the default budget.*

*M. Pearson states it is logical that the default budget is higher than the proposed 2020 budget as the proposed 2020 budget is less than last year's budget.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

### **CONFIRM/RE-VOTE WARRANT ARTICLES**

F. Hart states she does not want the default budget however she is not comfortable with the stringent budget proposed by the Budget Committee.

*J. Kiszka motions to approved article P-20-02, Operating Budget General Fund in the amount of \$9,706,991. Seconded by G. Taillon.*

*Vote: 2-1-1 (G. Taillon no, F. Hart abstain)*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to revote all warrant articles that have a 5-0-0 vote including, P-20-04, P-20-05, P-20-06, P-20-07, P-20-08, P-20-09, P-20-10, P-20-11, P-20-12, and P-20-14. There is no second on the motion.*

*G. Taillon motions to reconsider P-20-03, Operating Budget Water Department. Seconded by J. Kiszka.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-03, Operating Budget Water Department in the amount of \$157,444. Seconded by J. Blinn.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-04, Public Works Facility – Phase 3 in the amount of \$350,000. Seconded by J. Kiszka.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-05, Contingency Fund in the amount of \$80,000. Seconded by J. Blinn.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-06, Pollard Road Culvert Repair in the amount of \$90,000. Seconded by J. Kiszka.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-07, Highway Department Equipment – Truck Bed in the amount of \$50,000. Seconded by J. Kiszka.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-08, Highway Department Equipment - Forklift in the amount of \$25,000. Seconded by J. Blinn.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-09, Capital Reserve Fund – Fire Department Apparatus in the amount of \$100,000. Seconded by F. Hart.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-10, Capital Reserve Fund Deposit – Fire Department Radio Fund in the amount of \$15,000. Seconded by J. Kiszka.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-11, Capital Reserve Fund Deposit – Buildings/Building Systems in the amount of \$28,000. Seconded by J. Kiszka.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-12, Capital Reserve Fund Deposit – Energy in the amount of \$25,000. Seconded by J. Blinn.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-13, Citizen Petition – SoRock Donation in the amount of \$7,729. Seconded by J. Kiszka.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-14, Capital Reserve Fund Deposit – Transportation in the amount of \$25,000. Seconded by J. Blinn.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-15, Create and Deposit to Information Technology Fund in the amount of \$15,000. Seconded by J. Kiszka.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-16, Funding for Permits to Fix the Cap of the Plaistow Landfill in the amount of \$150,000. Seconded by J. Blinn.*

*Discussion: J. Kiszka states he knows this needs to be done however we should prioritize and maybe wait a year on this.*

*F. Hart states we have the money in the unassigned fund balance. No taxes will be raised for this. She states the Board is proactive on issues and should be proactive with the Landfill Cap too.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-17, Treasurer. Seconded by J. Blinn.*

*Discussion: F. Hart states in the past we have had an elected Treasurer and the elected person does not necessarily have the correct skill set for the job. If a Treasurer is appointed interviews will be held to determine an appropriate skill set. The Town Manager will vet candidates and the Board will approve the selected person.*

*M. Pearson states an elected person must be a resident. If the person is appointed, they do not necessarily need to be a resident. It makes room for more candidates.*

*J. Kiszka states we have had Treasurers that leave the job because they do not like it, or they do not have the knowledge to do the job.*

*F. Hart personally and publicly thanks Nancy Bolduc for her great assistance in helping us out this year.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-18, Expendable Trust Fund Highway Department Equipment. Seconded by J. Blinn.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-19, Expendable Trust Fund Old Home Day. Seconded by J. Blinn.*

*Discussion: J. Kiszka does not like the wording. It sounds like donations can only come from the advertising brochure.*

*G. Taillon states it is written as donations or proceeds. He suggests adding a comma after the word donations.*

*There is agreement to add a comma.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-20, Town Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Trust Fund. Seconded by J. Blinn.*

*Discussion: this warrant article will just create the fund. If it passes a policy will be created to manage the fund.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-21, Conflict of Interest. Seconded by J. Kiszka.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries*

*G. Taillon motions to approve P-20-22, Sports Betting. There is no second.*

*F. Hart motions to reconsider putting this article on the ballot. Second by G. Taillon.*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion carries.*

F. Hart states, the State of New Hampshire will allocate 10 licenses and they will distribute funds throughout the State. She states it might be better to hold off on this warrant article until we know more. We can add it next year.

G. Taillon states it will not bring revenue to Plaistow however it may have a significant impact on traffic. If it goes on the ballot it is just to “opt-in”. We need to study it more. Residents can still bet if they want. They can register and bet online.

J. Kiszka believes there are too many “ifs” as to where money will go.

F. Hart asks if everyone is in favor of removing the Sports Betting Warrant Article from the ballot. There is consensus to remove this warrant article from the 2020 ballot.

To recap, the work “garage” will be removed from article P-20-04. It will now read, Public Works Facility. Article P-20-22, Sports Betting will be removed. The location for the Deliberative Session will be changed to Pollard School.

### **PREPARE FOR DELIBERATIVE SESSION**

F. Hart states each Selectman reads a few Warrant Articles at Deliberative Session. She makes the following suggestion:

F. Hart will read P-20-02 through P-20-06

J. Kiszka will read P-20-07 through P-20-11

G. Taillon will read P-20-12 through P-20-16

J. Blinn will read P-20-17 through P-20-20.

The Board agrees.

F. Hart would like the Board to arrive at 8:45 a.m. After the Deliberative Session they may need to re-vote some warrant articles if changes are made.

G. Taillon recommends if anyone wants to make a change to a warrant article, they should have the motion written on paper and where you perceive the change should be. He notes it will change the bottom line only if it passes.

J. Kiszka states in addition to the Voter’s Guide he would like to see a video made. A lot of people will not take the time to read the Voter’s Guide however they may watch a short video. He recommends the Planning Board warrant articles be included.

F. Hart thanks J. Kiszka for the idea. It adds to open, transparent government.

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT TEMPORARY COVERAGE**

Our Health Officer will be out on medical leave for a while. She did her due diligence and has arranged for the Salem Health Officer, Brian Lockard to help out while she is on leave. The Board needs to sign the paperwork to make it official.

***J. Kiszka motions to appoint Brian Lockard as the temporary Health Department Inspector. Seconded by J. Blinn.***

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

***Motion carries***

### **SMITH CORNER ROAD SINKHOLE**

M. Pearson states there was an unanticipated collapse on Smith Corner Road. There are pictures in tonight's folders. This is a good illustration of how important the contingency fund is. Since he has been Town Manager there has not been a year without some type of road collapse. We do not necessarily use all the funds every year however we what is needed.

The collapse on Wentworth Ave was another example. The damage was worse than expected. Until the road was dug up the extent of the damage was unknown.

M. Pearson states no action needs to be taken. He just wanted to make the board aware of the situation. Smith Corner Road will be fixed in the Spring.

G. Taillon states if there is money left in the contingency fund at the end of the year it goes back into the general fund. You only used what you need.

M. Pearson reiterates, the contingency fund is important especially when the operating budget has been thinned down so much. It creates a greater need for the contingency fund. He hopes this warrant article passes. It is only January and we already have the issue at Smith Corner Road. If the heating system at Town Hall broke the cost would probably be a least \$5000. Without a contingency fund, where will the money come from?

F. Hart states we are in violation of the law by not posting minutes to the Budget Committee Meetings. She wants the Town Manager to hire a transcriptionist.

***J. Kiszka motions to direct the Town Manager to arrange for a transcriptionist to write minutes for the Budget Committee. Seconded by G. Taillon.***

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

***Motion carries***

M. Pearson states a transcription service will need assistance from the Budget Committee Chair to know who is speaking. A service will not recognize voices.

G. Taillon asks what is expected of Selectmen on Election Day?

F. Hart states that will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Board/Water meeting scheduled for Monday; January 27 should start at 6:15 p.m. This will allow enough time to discuss a cable equipment purchase prior to the Water Meeting.

J. Kiszka states there is online training available for Elections if anyone is interested.

M. Pearson reminds the Board that the Moderator and Town Clerk are the Officials in charge of Elections. The Board of Selectmen may assist however any issues should be handled under the direction of the Moderator and Town Clerk.

**OTHER FOLDERS**

The signature folder and the FYI folder are being passed around.

F. Hart adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,  
Recording Secretary