



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: January 29, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30pm

SELECTMEN:

Selectman, John Sherman, Chairman Selectman, Tammy Bergeron, Vice Chair
Selectman, Steve Ranlett Selectman, Julian Kiszka
Selectman, Peter Bracci Town Manager, Mark Pearson
Finance Director/Assistant Town Manager, Greg Colby

VOTE ON WARRANT ARTICLE P-18-02, OPERATING BUDGET

J. Sherman states the meeting will be slightly out of order of the agenda tonight. He turns the meeting over to G. Colby, Finance Director/Assistant Town Manager.

G. Colby states all the warrant articles for 2018 are done and signed except for P-18-02, Operating Budget.

S. Ranlett motions to recommend P-18-02, Operating Budget. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

G. Colby states the operating budget is \$9,555,795. and the default budget is \$9,506,742.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

G. Colby leaves the meeting to deliver the forms to the Town Clerk.

MINUTES

S. Ranlett motions to approve the minutes of January 15, 2018. Seconded by P. Bracci.

Vote: 4-0-1 (abstain T. Bergeron)

Motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REVIEW RESULTS OF PUBLIC HEARING

J. Sherman states the public hearing on the budget went well on January 16, 2018. He asks if any of the Selectmen have anything to add.

No one does.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT (part 1)

J. Sherman states we are waiting for some School Board Representatives to arrive. We will start the Town Mangers report.

M. Pearson states he attended the potable water meeting in Concord on January 18. The Budget Committee Chair, Francine Hart and Selectmen J. Kiszka and P. Bracci also attended. The next meeting will be held on March 12. Plaistow was the town most prepared for the meeting yet we are last on the distribution line for potable water. There are still a lot of unknowns and no financial decisions were made at the meeting. M. Pearson states we do need about 300 users to make potable water affordable and keep the system flowing properly. The State's goal is to provide potable water to the residential homes affected by MtBE.

J. Kiszka states the Town's consultants were prepared for the meeting and their work is nearly complete. We are ahead of other Towns for the planning portion. He was disappointed in the lack of preparation of other Towns. However, for other Towns the potable water system will be supplemental as they all have another water source.

P. Bracci was disappointed that there were not more details and figures available.

M. Pearson states Normandeau and Underwood were being paid by the State. The State just recently stopped their funding so the work stopped too. M. Pearson has asked the State to consider turning the funding back on.

M. Pearson discusses the purpose of article P-18-25, Conversion of Fire Suppression Water System to a Potable Water and Fire Suppression Water System. Basically, it is a language change only. It is an alternative, potable water might be coming but the passing of the article is not binding and there is no cost to the town. Any cost of potable water will be borne by users. There is no downside to this passing. However, if it does not pass according to law we must wait two years before attempting to change the article again. By that time the State will not have funding to award to Plaistow. Back in 1973 there are studies that state the fire suppression system should be both a potable water and fire suppression system in the future.

P. Bracci asks if all the warrant articles pass are we bound to things other than fire suppression to keep water circulating to solve the 55 homes affected by MtBE.

M. Pearson states the Board still controls the funds. The passing of the article does not bind them. Haverhill and Methuen are still possible backups to potable water. If we connected with Haverhill as well as New Hampshire, Haverhill could be used as an emergency backup. Plaistow would be Haverhill's backup too. It would be reciprocal. If warrant article P-18-25, Conversion of Fire Suppression Water System to a Potable Water and Fire Suppression Water System, passes nothing changes.

DISCUSS KENO/KINDERGARTEN WITH SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Peter Bealo and Susan Sherman are two of Plaistow's Representatives to the School Board. They are present tonight to discuss kindergarten in Plaistow. The State of New Hampshire does not have mandated kindergarten. In 2007, the Town of Plaistow, through a warrant article approved ½ day kindergarten. In 2013 the town approved full day kindergarten if parents pay for the extended day. Currently the State of New Hampshire contributes \$1780. per child for kindergarten students. The State plans to increase the amount per student based on Keno revenues. In 2019 the estimated additional amount for each kindergarten student will be \$1200. The state anticipates the amount increasing as revenues increase. Once issue for Plaistow is that full day kindergarten is not tuition free and from what we know the funding is for towns who offer full day tuition free kindergarten. There are a lot of moving parts and some unknowns. The enrollment for full day kindergarten may

increase if parents do not have to pay for it. There is no specific downside to the allowance of Keno.

J. Sherman thanks Susan and Peter for their presentation.

FINALIZE VOTER'S GUIDE DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

The Voter's Guide will be inserted into some of the Town Reports. There will be about 100 Voter's Guides available at deliberative session. Paper copies will be available at Town Hall and the Plaistow Public Library. The Voter's Guide will also be posted on the website. A slide will be put on channel 17 stating where Voter's Guides are available. There is consensus amongst the board to decide closer to March 13 if Voter's Guides will be available at the polls.

P. Bracci asks if we can find the number of hits on the website.

M. Pearson states we can find that information.

J. Sherman refers to a handout in the folders. The Budget Committee would like a line added to the explanation (in the Voter's Guide) to article P-18-23, Fire Department Full-time Staff Position. A suggested sentence is "the estimated annualized cost for the position, including associated roll up costs would be \$79,980.24".

J. Kiszka motions to add the explanation "the estimated annualized cost for the position, including associated roll up costs would be \$79,980.24" to article P-18-23. Seconded by P. Bracci.

Vote: 2-3-0 (no J. Sherman, S. Ranlett & T. Bergeron)

Motion fails.

DELIBERATIVE SESSION PREPARATION

Each selectman chooses some of the warrant articles to read at deliberative session. J. Sherman mentions department heads can speak in support of an article however it would be best to let the person know you are planning on calling on them in advance.

There is a brief discussion about a Citizen's Petition warrant article. Most of the Board is not aware of this. M. Pearson will check with D. Voss.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT (part 2)

- Snow Day – Wednesday January 17, 2018
- Potable Water & Other Meetings
- Rockingham County Nursing Home Ribbon Cutting
- Submitted the Town Manager's 2017 Report for the Annual Report
- Westville Road Bridge
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
- Budget Committee Public Hearing
- Department of Revenue SB2 Towns & Schools Annual Meeting (March) Timeline
- Potable Water Survey Results
- Winter Snow and Ice Removal of Sidewalks
- Non-Union Staff Employees Annual Salary/Hourly Wage Report
- Town of Plaistow Municipal Solid Waste Contracts 2000 – Present

- Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant (Application Cover Letter)
- CERT Team

M. Pearson has a copy of an agreement from February 8, 2010 between the State of New Hampshire and the Town of Plaistow. In the agreement the Town is supposed to plow all the sidewalks along Route 125 from East Road North. He has directed the Highway Supervisor to do this.

P. Bracci does not agree with this. He asks if the sidewalk plow is up and running yet.

M. Pearson replies it is not ready to be used yet. A sander attachment will be needed to maintain sidewalks.

S. Ranlett does not think plowing the sidewalks without the proper equipment is a good idea either.

P. Bracci motions to delay plowing the sidewalks until all proper equipment is in place, as described in the memo dated January 29, 2019 from M. Pearson to the Board. Seconded by S. Ranlett.

T. Bergeron reads a statement from page three (3) section I of the agreement stating the initial term of this agreement shall expire on April 15, 2018. M. Pearson states this is under the landscaping section of the agreement and he believes it is not for the sidewalk maintenance. There is consensus amongst the Board for M. Pearson to get a legal opinion from town counsel regarding the agreement before any plowing or clearing of the sidewalks is done.

S. Ranlett rescinds his second.

P. Bracci withdraws his motion.

This item will be on the agenda next week. M. Pearson should have a reply from legal counsel.

AUCTION ITEMS

The date of item number two (2) should be changed to April 30, 2018.

SIGNATURE FOLDER

J. Sherman states the manifest, and signature folders are going around.

SELECTMAN REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

S. Ranlett

- States the first Planning Board of the month was cancelled however he thought it was the most recent meeting so he did not attend.
- Asks if the sign out front can be changed on Friday to state the deliberative session for the school district.

T. Bergeron

- Nothing to report.

J. Kiszka

- Attended the Water meeting in Concord
- Citizen's Petition – voted favorably at the Planning Board Meeting on 1/24. Also 80 Plaistow Road has put in an application with the Planning Board.
- Tomorrow at 7:00pm there is a meeting regarding marijuana in Haverhill.

- The last Energy meeting was cancelled due to poor weather and has not been rescheduled yet. The LED lighting project at the Library is moving forward.

P. Bracci

- Attended the Conservation Commission Meeting on 1/18.
- Tomorrow evening there is a program at the Library regarding Library funding.
- Wants to be clear on the policy of selectmen seeking the advice of town counsel without consent of the Board.

J. Sherman

- The Town Report Committee met recently – things are in good shape.
- He would like to schedule a presentation for the dedication of the Town Report before it is available to the public. The deadline for distribution is February 6, 2018.
- He mentions an article he read in NH Legislature. It is about assessing and having business report income and expense information yearly.

J. Sherman adjourned the meeting at 8:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Recording Secretary