



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: February 5, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:31pm

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

MINUTES

S. Ranlett motions to approve the minutes of January 29, 2018. Seconded by T. Bergeron.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

S. Ranlett motions to approve the minutes of February 1, 2018. Seconded by T. Bergeron.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

S. Ranlett motions to approve the minutes of February 3, 2018. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

HAZARDOUS MITIGATION

Theresa Walker from the Rockingham Planning Commissioner's Office is here along with Dennise Horrocks, Emergency Management Deputy, and Mike Dorman, Emergency Management Deputy. Lt. Baldwin, the Emergency Management Director was not available to attend tonight. T. Walker begins by stating the Hazard Mitigation Plan is mandated by FEMA. The main purpose is to plan for natural disasters such as major storms, floods, and droughts. There are three (3) parts to the plan:

- Type and impact
- Critical facilities
- Discussion (what should be in place in case of an emergency)

FEMA looks at what a town has in place not what they wish they had in place. If a town does not have a Hazard Mitigation Plan, the town cannot apply for funding if a disaster occurs. A Hazard Mitigation Plan lasts for five (5) years.

J. Sherman asks where the list of goals and objectives came from.

T. Walker responds they come from the state.

J. Sherman states some of the goals and objectives concern manmade not natural disasters.

T. Walker responds yes some of them are manmade such as a problem caused by a culvert.

J. Sherman asks if the previous Town Planner's name should be removed.

T. Walker states no as he was a part of the process while he was here.

J. Sherman asks about the ranking of the Staplee Criteria.

T. Walker states the higher the number, the higher it is on the list, the higher the priority for the town to complete it is.

D. Horrocks states the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be posted on the Town's website.

J. Sherman states the committee members are listed on page three (3). He asks why the Chief of Police and an Executive Position were not part of the committee.

D. Horrocks responds Lt. Baldwin was a representative for both Emergency Management and the Police Department.

T. Walker states typically a Town Manager or Administrator is not part of the committee. Although we could add one the next time if we want to.

J. Kiszka asks if an economic resiliency plan should be part of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

T. Walker states that is a very good question and great idea but currently it is not required as part of the plan. She believes it will become incorporated into the plan in the future.

M. Pearson asks if FEMA has any funding to help with droughts. Some wells in Plaistow have been significantly impacted by drought. Would the town be eligible for any assistance or money now? If so, could funds be used to get potable water to town?

T. Walker responds, maybe if the need for potable water is due to drought. This would need to be addressed/sited in any application to FEMA for funding. It should also be mentioned that Plaistow has no sufficient water source. It would be very good for Plaistow to get to know a staff person in Concord (appointee) who could keep the town notified if FEMA opens any funding for water sources.

D. Horrocks thanks the team including Chief Jones, Chief McArdle, Dan Garlington, Greg Jones, Theresa Walker, Mike Dorman and Lt. Baldwin for all their hard work.

S. Ranlett motions to accept the Hazard Mitigation Plan dated February 5, 2018. Seconded by T. Bergeron.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

DELIBERATIVE SESSION REVIEW

J. Kiszka motions to amend the third line of the explanation of article P-18-13, Public Works Facility, by adding the words “Town Owned Property” in front of the words “Penn Box site”. Seconded by T. Bergeron.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

J. Sherman motions to add the wording “such as EEE, West Nile etc.” following “mosquito-borne diseases” to the explanation of article P-18-22, Mosquito Control Expendable Trust Fund Creation and Deposit.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

S. Ranlett motions to add a sentence to the end of the explanation of article P-18-25, Conversion of Fire Suppression Water System to a Potable Water and Fire Suppression Water System, written as “state law precludes re-voting this for two (2) years”. Seconded by T. Bergeron.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes.

J. Sherman would like to make sure the Voter’s Guide has all pages numbered. He mentions putting the final version on a different color paper.

There is consensus amongst the Board to use white paper but have the footer of each page stating, “final version approved by the Board of Selectmen, February 5, 2018”. It will be uploaded to the website tomorrow.

P. Bracci states future deliberative sessions should include a scheduled break and some finger foods or snacks.

R. Ranlett states the starting time should be moved to 9:00am.

J. Kiszka liked the water presentation.

J. Sherman states he thinks there is a positive feeling amongst voters.

S. Ranlett reiterates the water article does not mean potable water will happen, it just gives the town the possibility of bringing it to Town.

J. Sherman hopes voters look at the bigger picture, what is good for the community and not to vote bases on personnel feelings or inaccurate information found on some social media places. If a water line goes by your house and you do not hook up, you will not pay for water. One house may have no issues with water while the next house may have significant issues. If warrant article P-18-25 does not pass, Plaistow must wait two (2) years before voting on it again. By then the State will not have any funding left for potable water projects. This is a unique one time offer for the State of NH to provide significant funding to Plaistow.

M. Pearson suggest the Board have a Question and Answer session on Potable Water at the regular Board meeting on 2/26/18. Keith Pratt of Underwood Engineering will be available to attend and answer questions. M. Pearson also recommends a similar session on March 12, 2018 to have information from the State Water Commission Meeting which will be held earlier that same day.

T. Bergeron is in favor of both meetings.

S. Ranlett thinks March 12 is too close to the election which is the very next day.

J. Kiszka and P. Bracci do not think there will be enough information for a February 12 meeting.

J. Kiszka is very disappointed the State is holding their meeting the day before elections. He feels it should be sooner.

J. Sherman is in favor of both meetings.

S. Ranlett stresses to the public passing the warrant article does not mean we will get water. It does mean we have the opportunity to get water. There is no tax impact by voting in favor of the article.

After more discussion there is consensus amongst the board to have both sessions (2/16/18 and 3/12/18). They will occur at the beginning of the regularly scheduled Board meeting and last until approximately 8:00pm.

J. Sherman states the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee worked the budget out. He states there were no “no” votes at all from the Budget Committee. Their tally was one hundred fifty-nine (159) yes votes and only two (2) abstains.

UPDATE ROUTE 125 PLOWING SIDEWALKS

M. Pearson reports on the information received from Attorney Kalman, town counsel. The section of the contract that states, “the initial term of this agreement shall expire on April 15, 2018” is specific to landscaping only. When it comes to maintaining sidewalks, we are bound by the contract to plow them.

P. Bracci would like to know if M. Pearson has checked with other towns to see if they clear sidewalks.

M. Pearson replies, no.

P. Bracci would like to see the contract with the State re-negotiated so the Town of Plaistow would not be responsible for sidewalk maintenance. Both S. Ranlett and J. Kiszka agree.

J. Kiszka states the Board knows and understands the contract they just do not agree with it, therefore they want it re-negotiated.

J. Sherman asks the Town Manager his opinion.

M. Pearson states it would not be easy. A phone call could be made to NH DOT however he does not think it will result in a positive re-negotiation.

J. Sherman states perhaps we could offer to trade something to absolve that portion of the 2010 contract.

M. Pearson states he will try.

T. Bergeron states we really do not want the responsibility of keeping up with the landscaping maintenance of the Route 125 Islands either. That could be terminated if done according to the initial agreement stating it shall expire on April 15, 2018.

There is consensus amongst the Board to see if M. Pearson can renegotiate the contract in reference to sidewalk maintenance and landscaping maintenance of the islands along Route 125.

REVIEW/APPROVE NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

S. Ranlett motions to approve the non-public minutes of 10-2-2017. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

S. Ranlett motions to approved and keep sealed the non-public minutes of 1-8-18. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 4-1-0 (no P. Bracci)

Motion passes

S. Ranlett motions to approve and keep sealed the non-public minutes of 1-15-18. Seconded by T. Bergeron.

Vote: 4-0-1 (abstain P. Bracci)

Motion passes

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Potable Water & Other Meetings

S.E.C. Meeting

Met with J. Senter – Conservation Committee

P.A.C.E. Meeting

Sidewalk Plow Update

Meeting with Methuen Construction

25th Year Walmart Celebration

Special Board of Selectmen’s Meeting

P. Bracci would like the sidewalk plow used for “our” sidewalks.

M. Pearson states we do need to get a sander attachment for it. There is one in stalk with a dealer for \$5000.00

P. Bracci thinks we should wait on the attachment.

J. Sherman states the price will probably increase if we wait.

S. Ranlett motions to direct the Town Manager to purchase the sander at a price not to exceed \$5000.00. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 4-1-0 (no P. Bracci)

Motion passes

SIGNATURE FOLDER

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

ACTION ITEMS

J. Sherman states this has been renamed to Future Agenda Items.

Reviewed – Change the due date for the first one to April 30, 2018.

SELECTMAN REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

S. Ranlett

- Reminds everyone the Timberland School District’s Deliberative Session is Thursday, February 8 at 7:00pm at the High School.
- He would like the Board to think about meeting every other week. J. Sherman agrees but thinks we should wait until after March elections.

J. Sherman

- Attended a program at the Library on “How We Fund Public Services in NH”. It was presented by a fiscal policy institute. One of the topics was a look at the historical trends of revenue. He will fill in the Board with more detail at another meeting.
- The Town report is very close to being printed. It should be back by 2/26.

M. Pearson suggests a Board Representative, a Budget Committee Representative, the Town Clerk and either G. Colby or M. Person meet to review and proof the warrant articles on the ballot to avoid the issues that occurred last year. This should be ready for next week. J. Kiszka volunteers to be the Board Representative.

J. Sherman mentions the Recreation Commission scheduled for 2/14 will be changed to 2/13 due to Valentine’s Day.

T. Bergeron

- Nothing to report.

J. Kiszka

- Attended a program at the Library on “How We Fund Public Services in NH”. Many people attended and he thought it was a good program.
- Attended the special BOS meeting last Thursday.
- Attended Deliberative Session.
- Will attend the school deliberative session this week.
- Will attend the Public Safety Building Complex Committee this Thursday and then go to the PACE meeting with a topic of retaining quality employees.
- Every Thursday a group of veterans get together at Battle Grounds Café in Haverhill on Washington St. All veterans are welcome. It is informal.

P. Bracci

- Attended Con Com on 1/18/18. Diesel World is expanding, ProBark is now in compliance with NHDES, identifying prime wetlands in town makes it more difficult to amend it later if need be. Once it is labeled “prime”, that is it. Timberland High School wants to expand their sprinkler system for athletic fields.

M. Pearson states a representative from Timberlane High School told him they are very interested in getting potable water if it comes to Town. There are water issues with shortages, quality and costs.

S. Ranlett would like an update on the property sold by the Town at the December Auction.

M. Pearson states an update will be provided soon. There are a few properties that have issues with attorney’s, a few buyers have backed out and St. Jean’s is now looking at second bidders. Some of the properties are still in process and not all closed in the original thirty (30) day time frame. Anyone who backed out did lose their deposit.

P. Bracci would like an update on the employees who opted out of health insurance in favor of the increased stipend.

J. Sherman adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm
Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Recording Secretary