



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: February 12, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:32pm

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

T. Bergeron motions to approve the minutes of February 5, 2018. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC HEARING – CREATION OF A CEMETERY SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT AND KENO

J. Sherman opens the public hearing for the Creation of a Cemetery Special Revenue Account at 6:35pm.

No one from the public wishes to ask questions or speak.

J. Sherman closes the public hearing for this item at 6:36pm.

S. Ranlett motions to create a special revenue account for the cemetery. Seconded by J. Kiszka.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion passes

J. Sherman introduces Lynda Plante, Deputy Director of the NH Lottery.

Lynda states the game of Keno was passed by the Governor to help supplement funding for full day kindergarten. The option was brought to cities first. Out of eleven (11) cities, seven (7) agreed to have Keno in their cities. There are sixty-four (64) establishments in NH currently operating Keno. Now fifty (50) towns have put it on their ballots for March voting. Once Keno is passed in a town an establishment with a liquor license may apply for a Keno license. The establishment gets an eight (8) percent commission. The establishment typically earns fifteen (15) to twenty (20) percent in increased revenues by selling more food and beverages. Therefore, the whole community will win.

T. Bergeron asks how much do we get per student.

L. Plante replies for the fiscal year 2019 it will be \$1100. per kindergarten student.

J. Sherman states we need to define full day kindergarten. Plaistow offers ½ day kindergarten without a fee. Full day kindergarten is available if parents pay a fee.

L. Plante states some answers will have to come from the State Department of Education.

Keno revenues will go to the NH Lottery from the cities and towns offering it. The NH Lottery will forward the monies to the State Department of Education. They are in charge of doling the money out. If not enough cities and towns participate the program may end however if all goes well the goal is to increase the dollar amount per student to as much as \$1800. The State hopes the program will work and keep growing. It is another source of revenue for the State.

T. Bergeron asks if any other funding will be available to assist if a new teacher or classroom is needed for kindergarten students.

L. Plante states no, it will just be the \$1100. per child.

P. Bracci asks if the amount is \$1100. per child or up to \$1100.

L. Plante states it is \$1100 per child with hopes of increasing the amount in the future.

J. Kiszka states the real issue for Plaistow is that parents now pay approximately \$4500. for full day kindergarten. Will they get a credit of \$1100.?

L. Plante states that question needs to be answered by the NH State Department of Education. She is hopeful the answer is yes but she cannot speak for them.

J. Sherman opens the public hearing for Keno at 6:47pm.

No one from the public wishes to ask questions or speak.

J. Sherman closes the public hearing for this item at 6:48pm.

J. Sherman states there are still some issues to be determined.

J. Kiszka asks L. Plante to try to get an answer to his question regarding parents paying for full day kindergarten in Plaistow.

S. Ranlett states Keno is already on the ballot. No motion is needed tonight.

PREPARE FOR TOWN ELECTIONS

Everyone is all set. No discussion occurs.

REVIEW FINANCIAL REPORTS

J. Sherman refers to a spreadsheet he created which is in everyone's folder. The sheet shows all the proposed warrant articles for 2018 and their impact on property taxes. If all the proposed warrant articles were brought forth to the ballot and passed the increased funding needed would be just over 2.2 million dollars. The sheet shows warrant articles that were cancelled for 2018. It also shows changes in dollar amounts for some warrant articles and some warrant articles will not impact taxes as they will be funded through the general fund, grants or other miscellaneous sources. The last column of the sheet shows the property tax impact of the articles that did make it to the ballot for 2018. If all of them pass the funding impact on taxes will only be \$422,000 which is much lower than the 2.2 million starting point.

M. Pearson states the beginning process of creating and deciding upon warrant articles is like a wish list. You start with everything you want and end up with a list of what you choose to fund which is significantly less than the starting point.

J. Kiszka mentions the warrant articles that are to be discontinued are not shown with a dollar amount. If they pass those funds will go back to the general fund. The sheet does not show how that will help the general fund.

J. Sherman states he left the figure off because he thought it would be too confusing.

M. Pearson states having the discontinued funds come back to the general fund, unassigned fund balance will help with next year's budgeting.

There is consensus amongst the board for an updated review of the unassigned fund balance for a future meeting in the next few weeks.

M. Pearson states there are a lot of moving pieces to the puzzle regarding property taxes. Two factors involve the legislature at the State House and the school district. The State used to contribute thirty (30) percent towards the NH Retirement Fund however that stopped a while ago. Recently, there was a bill to have the State contribute fifteen (15) percent to NH retirement however the bill failed by one vote. If it had passed it would have helped the Town save money. The other factor is the school district budget. At the deliberative session last week over a million dollars was added back to the budget. That will have a significant impact on setting the tax rate next fall. We should also look at revenue over the last 10 years. We have been able to basically absorb the amount of money that the state used to pay for towards NH Retirement which the Town is now paying while keeping the tax rate fairly stable.

S. Ranlett states the NH Retirement is self-funding and is one of the top in the country.

J. Sherman states this discussion will be continued as part of the unassigned fund balance review for a future meeting.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Potable Water & Other Meetings

Meeting with Jill Senter – Conservation Committee

P.A.C.E. Meeting – Workforce Issues in New Hampshire

Employee Annual Evaluations

Health Insurance Opt-Out Report

Town Hall Pay Scale

Sale of Town Owned Land Follow-up

Meeting with INTEGRATED IT – EOC at Safety Complex

Meetings About Access to Recreation Land North of P.A.R.C.

Proof Read the Ballot

2017 Annual Town Report

T. Bergeron asks when the last time non-union employees received a pay increase.

M. Pearson states some employees received a bonus while some received a raise. It was not consistent.

M. Pearson states job openings in Plaistow are hard to fill. There are not enough qualified applicants.

SIGNATURE FOLDER

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Reviewed

SELECTMAN REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

S. Ranlett

- Will attend the Planning Board Meeting next Wednesday
- Old Home Day Meeting – couldn't attend due to a conflict
- School Deliberative Session – the budget was increased over 1 million dollars, no one spoke against it

J. Sherman

- Will attend the Rec Commission tomorrow.
- The Town Report was sent to the printer. It will be back on 2/26.
- Attended the Public Safety Building Committee Meeting last week. There was a concern about the EOC equipment not arriving prior to the Open House however it should be all set now.

P. Bracci asks what will happen with the road we must put in.

J. Sherman states M. Pearson set aside money from the Safety Complex budget to complete the road.

T. Bergeron

- Attended the Public Safety Building Committee Meeting last week. A tour of the Fire Station was taken. The commercial hood for the stove recommended by Eckman is too expensive. The Town will try to do this on their own in.
- Attended the Elder Affairs Movie held at the Library on 2/9.

S. Ranlett mentions a copy of a letter in tonight's folders regarding the 2017 Preservation Award to Bill Bartlett for his work at the Main Street Depot. He thanks Bill for his hard work.

J. Kiszka

- Assisted in proofing the ballot. There were no errors.
- Will attend the Energy Committee next Wednesday. He invites others to attend. They will be looking at putting solar panels on the capped landfill.
- Attended the P.A.C.E meeting last week. M. Pearson was a speaker.

P. Bracci

- Will attend the Con Com this week.
- Will attend Candidates night next Tuesday.
- Reminder – Valentine's Day is Wednesday.

J. Sherman mentions the Boards schedule. There is not meeting next week 2/19 due to President's Day. We will meet on 2/26. The agenda is light except for the Potable Water Discussion. He is considering skipping 3/5 however that will not be decided tonight. We will meet on 3/12.

J. Sherman adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm
Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Recording Secretary