



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

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 12, 2007

PRESENT: John Sherman, Chairman; Lawrence W. Gil, Vice Chair; Daniel J. Poliquin, Jason Hoch, Town Manager

EXCUSED: Michelle L. Curran; Charles L. Blinn, Jr.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:35pm

MINUTES:

☆Motion by L. Gil and second by D. Poliquin. to approve the minutes of February 5, 2007.

VOTE: 3-0 U/A

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Henry Szmyt steps forward representing the Cable Committee and introduces Lori Shactman. Lori Schactman will be a new member of the Cable Committee.

L. Shactman states that her nephew runs the Plaistow cable show "Night Joint" and she became involved in helping to produce the program. She enjoyed the process and when she heard there was an opening on the Cable Committee she decided she wanted to get involved.

L. Gil asks if she has any new ideas for the Cable Committee and asks if she will be a cable operator.

L. Shactman states she has some ideas and is looking forward to meeting with the Cable Committee and learning what she can and cannot do. She is not going to become a paid cable operator.

H. Szmyt states that Lori is modest, he met with her for quite a while and she has some great ideas. She has a photography background and has an eye for framing. This is not a big jump for her. She understands what the function of the cable committee is and she will be an asset during upcoming negotiations and programming.

J. Sherman states that the Cable Committee is a great resource and the Board of Selectmen supports them in expanding programming.

KINDERGARTEN PRESENTATION:

Peg Ralph Director of Elementary Education for the Timberlane School District makes a presentation on Public Kindergarten. She is accompanied by members of the School Board.

She begins with the basic question, what is in the best interest of the child? This is public kindergarten. 12 is the number of districts in the country that do not offer kindergarten and all 12 are in New Hampshire. The new goal in New Hampshire is that every district shall strive to offer at least a ½ day kindergarten program. She presents the question, why public kindergarten? Continuity of curriculum, rigor, services such as nursing librarian, speech/language staff, OT/PT and Early Intervention are why kindergarten is needed. She states that the curriculum already exists. Projected district enrollment for the 2007-2008 year is 294.

J. Sherman asks why Kindergarten is not mandatory.

P. Ralph states that the State required age for starting school is 6.

P. Ralph states that only Atkinson needs to build room for this program. The State will fund 75% of this program.

J. Sherman asks if these will be rooms and not portables.

P. Ralph states that the building will be rooms, not portables. Because of the state funding there is a \$0 capital cost to the District.

J. Sherman asks what the costs of Atkinson building compared to the others communities using current space are.

P. Ralph states that she does not have these numbers. She states that they will need to hire 4.5 teachers because they will be able to shift some staff from other programs. Sometimes there are shifts in the populations.

J. Sherman asks where the increase will be.

P. Ralph states that the class sizes in years 2 and 4 will be at their max allotment and she stresses that no class will exceed their allotments.

D. Poliquin asks what will happen if more kids come in to these grades next year.

P. Ralph states that it looks like we are estimating a flat transition. Some communities may go up but at the same time others will go down. We do not foresee increases in elementary, we are seeing the increase in the jr. and sr. high school.

P. Ralph states that the operating costs for year 1 is \$352,800 and the state will be allotting \$352,900 for a \$0 impact. Year 1-3 there will be no tax impact. Year 4 Adequacy Aid will kick in and there will be a -\$102,486 impact.

J. Sherman asks about the increase in traffic.

P. Ralph states that yes, they are expecting traffic increases and they are trying to set up carpools and the private day care organizations are looking into busing the children.

D. Poliquin asks how the State comes up with this money.

P. Ralph states that this comes from the State education levy funds.

J. Sherman asks what the midday transportation costs were.

P. Ralph states that they would have been an additional \$135,000.

J. Sherman asks if State law requires bussing.

P. Ralph states that it is not until elementary school.

L. Gil asks if there is a reason the concentration of the 12 communities not offering kindergarten is in the southern tier.

P. Ralph states she does not know.

L. Gil asks what the impact will be on the private kindergartens.

P. Ralph states that they are some of their largest supporters.

L. Gil asks how much is in the Capital Reserve.

P. Ralph states that it is just over \$800,000.

L. Gil asks what the school has in surplus.

J. Hoch states that the schools are required to give this back, unlike the Towns.

D. Poliquin states he has heard from Pollard School that they are concerned with the traffic impact of these 85 children.

P. Ralph states that it is her hope that there will be carpooling and bus transportation in the morning. The traffic would come in the afternoon.

D. Poliquin states that historically traffic has been a problem.

P. Ralph states that this is something they will look into when they receive the vote.

D. Poliquin asks how many classrooms will be needed in Plaistow.

J. Sherman asks if the classrooms currently exist and if they are being used.

P. Ralph states that they are classrooms that are being used for some activities, but they will be shifting the space.

J. Sherman asks if there was something that we did not ask that she would like to tell us.

P. Ralph states that we have a wonderful parents group supporting this movement and they have a website with a lot of information. She suggests that people take a look at www.cctk.org.

J. Sherman thanks P. Ralph and the School Board members for coming.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Selectmen's Information:

J. Hoch states that in the Selectmen's information folder is the Southern New Hampshire Resource Conservation and Development Areas Council annual report, a copy of Primex's Awareness in Action Journal, a letter from Comcast explaining that convenience fee for phone payments was incorrectly listed on recent price notification, a copy of the required Human Services application for funding from CART and the report from Executive Councilor Hollingworth which included a reference to Granite Care Senior Wellness Initiative grant awards. He states that the Vic Geary Center applied for and received \$2,400 from this grant.

J. Sherman congratulates Carlene Sarty for the grant the Vic Geary Senior Center received.

Assessing:

J. Hoch continues reviewing the correspondence and states that the Department of Transportation Bureau of Right of Way is to quitclaim a portion of Route 125 easement not needed. He reviews a letter from Avitar regarding statewide assessing issues.

J. Sherman states that he saw that the town of Hopkinton converted from CLT software and suggested that making contact with them could be productive.

J. Hoch states that he and Attorney Sumner Kalman reviewed the procedure for amending pole licenses for Verizon.

J. Sherman comments that each Selectman received a copy of the petition.

Resignation:

J. Hoch states that Part-time Dispatcher Scott LaFrance resigned.

Petty Cash Policy:

J. Hoch states that he is working on a petty cash policy and it is in the Selectmen's folder for review. The intent is to cover existing departments that use petty cash and provide for some committees using a petty cash system. The Old Home Day Committee has asked for this type of policy.

J. Sherman asks if there is a list of appropriate Department Heads and Committee Chairs.

J. Hoch states that currently the list is limited to Carlene Sarty, Ruth Jenne and a provision for the Old Home Day Committee. He states that he is working with the Police Chief to develop a more detailed policy for the Police Department.

J. Sherman would like a list for the records.

Special Detail Revolving Fund:

J. Hoch states that he met with the Police Chief, Finance Director and Treasurer regarding the procedure for operation of the special detail revolving fund and everyone is on board.

J. Sherman asks if we are charging enough to recover the administrative costs.

J. Hoch states that right now he is comfortable with the fee.

Waterline:

J. Hoch reviews a potential agreement with Rockingham Athletic Club regarding Town use of their fire pond in the new section of the fire suppression system to be constructed at Old County Road. This agreement would allow the Town to use their fire pond to supply the section of new pipe. In exchange, Rockingham Athletic Complex would not be charged for the first five years the system is active.

J. Sherman asks if the waterline expansion plan has a timeline and will be active in 5 years.

J. Hoch states that we are dependent on the Route 125 construction; he will look into getting an update. This plan is for 5 years after it goes online. This plan is to reimburse the owner when we go online.

J. Sherman asks if this comes with the Town Manager's recommendation.

J. Hoch states it does.

D. Poliquin states that he is concerned with the maintenance and liability on the part of Rockingham Fitness. If there is a failure in the system he would expect it would be repaired in a certain amount of time.

J. Hoch states that this is tied into their occupancy and use of the facility. He agrees this is a good component to look at.

Tire Disposal:

J. Hoch states that Waste Management gave 2 options regarding tire disposal. The first is that we place a container at a location in the Town. The container has a rental fee of \$125 per month. Each tire that is collected in the containers would be disposed of at a fee of \$2.25 per tire. The second option is that we conduct periodic tire drop-off days. There is drop off and rental fee of \$275 for the container and a disposal fee of \$2.25 per tire.

J. Sherman states that neither one of these plans seems to be the answer. He asks if there are other vendors to look at.

J. Hoch states that this is possible and if we went with one of these options we would need to look at use. He states that the container system and the disposal fee seems to be inline. In Littleton they owned their container and paid the fee.

L. Gil asks what other communities do.

J. Hoch states that the container system is generally the preferred way.

L. Gil asks if anyone burns tires for fuel.

J. Hoch states the common practice is to shred them.

J. Sherman asks what private companies do.

J. Hoch states that they store them on site.

D. Poliquin suggests that we do this similar to the way we dispose of monitors. He suggests that we have a sticker system and put them out like white goods.

J. Hock suggests combining a collection time with Household Hazardous Waste Day.

J. Sherman states this is a service that should be offered to people.

D. Poliquin states that the first year he would expect to see a larger number of tires collected then in subsequent years. He believes this would be due to people storing tires at their homes due to the lack of current options.

Selectmen would like to explore this more.

J. Sherman would like to look into regional options.

Town Hall Renovations:

J. Hoch met with the Town Hall Renovation Committee. They are moving ahead with design and color options. He will make a scope of work list for the Board of Selectmen to review and decide on. He spoke with Cable Coordinator Bob Carolan regarding the speakers in the Great Hall. The current plan is to place speakers in the ceiling after all the construction is completed.

D. Poliquin asks what we do in the meantime. The current speakers are not old. They were working in the fall.

J. Hoch states that the current system has feed-back issues.

L. Gil would like to see the end product be something that we can grow and expand with.

Fire Department Grant:

J. Hoch states that the Fire Department has received \$700 in grant money from Walmart. The funds will be used to offset the cost of spare portable radio batteries.

★Motion by D. Poliquin and second by L. Gil to accept \$700 to offset the costs of portable radios.

J. Sherman would like a thank you note sent to Walmart and verbally thanks them.

VOTE: 3-0 U/A

Library:

J. Hoch states that he will be meeting with the Library Trustees on February 13, 2007.

NEW BUSINESS:

J. Sherman states that Eagle Tribune ran an article on Salem, NH needing to build a salt shed. He thought this may be of interest to those on the Highway Garage Committee.

L. Gil states that he read an article about the use of recycled plastic as a building material. The recycled material does not react with the salt. It is used as a building material, similar to wainscoting.

J. Sherman states that the CART meeting is next Wednesday at 2:00pm.

J. Sherman reads a recreation event update.

SELECTMEN REPORTS:

L. Gil attended the School District Meeting.

D. Poliquin states he has nothing to report.

J. Sherman states that this is a slow time of year and he has nothing to report.

J. Hoch reminds the public that Town Offices are closed on Monday, February 19, 2008 and there will be no Selectmen's Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

J. Sherman declares the meeting adjourned at 7:53pm,

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Carr
Recording Secretary