



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

**SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** March 5, 2007

**PRESENT:** John Sherman, Chairman; Lawrence W. Gil, Vice Chair; Michelle L. Curran; Daniel J. Poliquin; Charles L. Blinn, Jr. (6:40); Jason Hoch, Town Manager

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 pm

**MINUTES:**

*★Motion by M. Curran and second by D. Poliquin. to approve the minutes of February 26, 2007.*

**VOTE:** 3-0-1 J. Sherman abstains.

**TOWN REPORT DEDICATION:**

J. Sherman announces that the Board of Selectmen chose Bernadine FitzGerald as the person the Town Report is dedicated to. He presents B. FitzGerald with the first copy of the Town Report and a plaque with a picture of the cover and the dedication framed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No members of the public wishing to speak.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

***Correspondence:***

J. Hoch states that we received a fully executed septage agreement with Manchester, NH. We received a letter from New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) regarding proposed sale of land along Route 108 to abutter Ronald LaPlume. The parcel is 2900 square feet. The Town is being notified of the proposed sale to see if it has an interest in purchasing it for \$4,300. We need to respond in 30 days. Copy of the letter and maps in your folder.

M. Curran states that she believes this parcel is too small for Town use.

J. Sherman asks that the Conservation Commission look at this.

J. Hoch states that there is a copy of Family Mediation statistics in each Selectman's folder.

C. Blinn arrives at 6:40pm.

J. Hoch states that he sent a letter to Bill Lambert at the Department of Transportation regarding Main Street pedestrian issues. He mentioned the lights, signs and knockdown signs in the street and asked for additional recommendations as well as suggested protocols for installing and requesting these signs.

**Assessing:**

J. Hoch states that each Selectman received a memo regarding an abatement denial in their packet, as well as a status report of abatements received.

J. Sherman states that this was a well prepared packet.

M. Curran states that she agrees with J. Sherman and states that the information explained why the abatement was denied.

J. Sherman would like to see the last few years of abatement request numbers.

**Police:**

J. Hoch states that each Selectman received a copy of the Eagle Tribune article regarding the Police pawn slip program. He informs the Board that the Chief conducted an audit of investigative petty cash funds and found no discrepancies.

J. Sherman asks if this is a regular routine audit.

J. Hoch states this is.

**Ambulance:**

J. Hoch states that there is an issue with the AMR contract in Danville. He states that this contract was negotiated with the Fire Chief's from each of the Towns involved. Danville would like to have a meeting on this Wednesday at 7:00pm. Both Chief McArdle and Deputy Chief Lovett are not available. They were both part of the negotiations.

J. Sherman states it is his opinion that if our representatives are not able to attend this meeting and if any changes are made, we would ask for another meeting to discuss this.

**Water:**

J. Hoch reviews the 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.

M. Curran states that whenever we rely on an outside entity she worries about liability.

J. Sherman states that in the last paragraph of the memo it states that we would indemnify the owner from liability.

D. Poliquin states that he does not have an issue with the adequacy of the fire pond, but he has not seen the plans. He is not positive what the flow rates should be at hydrants at this time. The issue is volume. He believes this is a good idea. He can only see the sense in an exchange for even amount of years. The owner needs to have this either way, he is not upgrading. He would like it in the contract that this pump be maintained and operable at all times. He gives the example of Market Basket's pump being down for 3 months and no one knowing.

J. Sherman states that he likes the idea of this being an exchange of the same amount of time.

M. Curran states that she likes this also.

J. Hoch states that the State could take 5 years to finish their part of the project,

J. Sherman states the contract could read it could be up to five years but no less than three.

C. Blinn asks where we come in.

D. Poliquin states that when we put our piping in, is when we will tie in to the system. This is slated for 2007. Rockingham Athletic Club's system is operable at this time.

C. Blinn asks if we tie in, will we then give him an abatement.

M. Curran states that this would just be abatement on the water fee for the time designated.

J. Hoch states that if we chose not to tie in then we are putting in a dry pipe this year. Rockingham Athletic Club has a fire pond out back; we are going to tie into this pond until we go live. In payment for this we are going to abate him the costs of the water fee for the same amount of years.

M. Curran asks what the connection and disconnect price are going to be.

J. Hoch states he does not have that information tonight, but will bring it back to the Board.

***Pump House:***

J. Hoch states that he reviewed the option for providing access to the pump house on Maple Ave. It appears that the backhoe may be a viable option when there is heavier snow.

***Bills of Interests:***

J. Hoch reminds the Board that last week he discussed compiling a list of bills of interest from the Legislative Bulletins. He asks the Selectmen for their bills of interest. He wants to have this ready to discuss with our legislative delegation.

M. Curran states that she spoke to a gentleman about the movement to ban smoking in private clubs in NH. She states that because it was brought to her attention she wanted to bring this to the Board. The people that came to her feel this is infringing on their rights as a private club and they do not feel this could be enforced.

J. Sherman will send his list but he is interested in bringing up general issues on recycling, rail service and water conservation.

***Property:***

J. Hoch states that last week the Board discussed a memo about property sales. He is looking for feedback tonight on the issue.

M. Curran states that she does not feel we need to sell these properties and she would be more comfortable with this going to auction. She states that one parcel connects to a border community.

J. Sherman states that he agrees, specifically with the border property on Massassoit Blvd.

L. Gil states that the Conservation Commission wanted to look at this property closely. They are withholding judgment until they look at it in person.

J. Hoch states that he was looking for the general direction of the Board.

D. Poliquin asks if this could be an auction or a sealed bid. He asks who pays for the research and fees incurred during the sale.

J. Hoch states there are several methods. All the costs of the transaction would be the responsibility of the prospective buyer.

J. Sherman asks if we have something in writing about notifying all boards before proceeding in this situation. He remembers this document being in existence.

J. Hoch will look into this.

J. Sherman states that the Opens Space and Town Owned Land & Property Committee were going to look into all Town owned land and the costs of the land.

J. Hoch asks the Board how they would like to proceed.

J. Sherman states he would like all boards and committees made aware and see what their input is. He feels we should put this on hold and investigate the property more closely.

***Mosquitoes:***

J. Hoch states that he and the Health Officer attended a videoconference regarding the State's mosquito surveillance, prevention and response plan. Notable at this point is that the 2006 Public Health Threat has been extended into 2007. This means that we will be eligible for 25% State reimbursement for larviciding activities in the spring as well as adulticiding later in the season. The reimbursement does not include trapping. Additional information about prevention, risk and how the virus is transferred was presented.

***Taped Presentation on Warrant Articles:***

J. Hoch states that he and J. Sherman taped a presentation on the 2007 Warrant Articles.

J. Sherman asks if anyone has seen the report or schedules.

J. Hoch states it was paired with Tim Moore's taped discussion of 2007 Planning Articles and it is on a 2 hour loop. He will look into the exact times it will air.

***NIMS Training:***

J. Hoch states that he completed the online NIMS introduction course and Public Information Systems course. He reminds the Selectmen that this can be done in the class set up by the Health Officer or independently online. It is important that the Selectmen complete this.

***Old County Wells:***

J. Hoch asks the Selectmen if they remember when discussion began on the Old County Road wells. He is putting together background information on this subject.

M. Curran states that there was nonpublic discussion.

L. Gil states that much of the conversation was during meeting in 2006.

J. Sherman states that discussion began around November 2005.

L. Gil states that much of the public comment came when Mike Farrell came in as Interim Town Manager.

***Town Report:***

J. Hoch states that Town Reports will be available to the public on March 6<sup>th</sup>. We will have books and CDs available, as well as the complete report posted on the website.

J. Sherman states that the books and CDs will be available at Town Hall, Library and Safety Complex.

***Snow/Sidewalk Maintenance:***

J. Hoch states that each Selectman received a memo from Maintenance Supervisor David Bowles concerning the volume and push back from the State road. He discussed an excerpt from the minutes of 9/28/2006 regarding discussion about parking on Park Ave. He states that J. Sherman comment was that the "question was how would people get into the building since the crosswalks don't get snow removal." He states that he provided each Selectman with a copy of the snow removal and ice control policy approved in 1999.

J. Sherman states that he did mean sidewalks or pathways when he used the term crosswalks.

M. Curran states that if the budget passes and we purchase new equipment, it will be easier to maintain around the Town Hall.

L. Gil states that looking at D. Bowles memo the storm size and time of the storm was an issue. He feels that if we do not maintain the front walkways of Town Hall then you force people into the road. They do not have the option to get out of the passenger door.

D. Poliquin states that he knows the State is winging snow onto the sidewalk. He believes that the Town Highway Department is capable of pushing this back. He believes that it is the Town Hall and that is the main concern. He does not feel comfortable mandating the residents to maintain the sidewalks. He would like to make sure the bankings at Pollard School are not too high. He does not think that all sidewalks should be maintained.

J. Sherman states that this makes sense to him. We have not made a commitment to maintain the sidewalks. When he was on the Budget Committee it was always the comment that we do not maintain sidewalks.

D. Poliquin states that the curbing has changed the way we maintain this sidewalk.

M. Curran asks N. Carr if there is an ordinance that restricts Town Employees from parking in front of Town Hall.

N. Carr states the Selectmen did pass an ordinance that mandates employees do not park directly in front of Town Hall from the telephone pole at the edge of the horse shoe to the other telephone pole at the beginning of Park Ave, on the same side of the road as Town Hall. There was an exception made for the Selectmen's Executive Secretary Ruth Jenne. N. Carr states that since Carlene Sarty's accident more employees are parking on the side of and back of Town Hall.

L. Gil states that he looks at this as more of a consequence of the Town decisions. We put walkways in to make a more stable walk area for people. He states that if people are parking in the back, then the sidewalks/walkways need to be maintained so the employees are not in the road on Park Ave and Main Street.

***Conservation Commission:***

J. Hoch states that he researched the creation of the Forest Fund and Conservation Land Acquisition Fund in reference to question about using those funds to purchase trees. It appears that considering amending the purpose of the Conservation Land Acquisition Fund may be useful in the future.

L. Gil states that there are several funds. There was one we thought would allow us to purchase Elm Trees and put them in various points on the Recreation Field.

J. Sherman states that he is in full support of this.

L. Gil states that at one point, purchasing trees was in a tree line in the budget.

J. Sherman states that since we cannot currently tap into this account we need to budget for the future purchase of trees.

J. Hoch states that it is conceivable that the Conservation Commission could research their funds and possibly shift funding.

***Old Home Day:***

J. Hoch states that the Town received 5 proposals for fireworks. He and the Chairman of the Old Home Day Committee will review them, the committee will meet and provide an update and recommendation at the Board of Selectmen Meeting on March 19, 2007.

***Timberlane Regional School District Annual Report:***

M. Curran states that there is a mistake in the budget/default budget section of the report. The default budget is said to be the same as last year's budget, but this is not the same number as the budget.

J. Hoch states that it is the budget and the approved raises and contractual costs incurred in the year.

J. Sherman states that Danville and Sandown actually go down and Plaistow and Atkinson are increasing. Plaistow is going up \$ .85 per 1,000. If your house is assessed at \$300,000 then the tax impact is \$250. Danville and Sandown will be going down. Atkinson is going up half of ours. These are their estimates not ours.

***OLD BUSINESS:***

M. Curran asks for the answer of the sprinkler head.

J. Hoch states that M. Dorman was away last week and he was in charge of this project. He will get an answer when he is back.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

J. Sherman states that CART will be providing rides to Pentucket Medical and Merrimack Valley Hospital. This will not be on a daily basis; it will be on a varying schedule. He states that when reviewing the summary of information it is clear that the ridership from Plaistow is low. CART realizes this and is trying to expand to suit the needs of Plaistow.

L. Gil asks if they are able to go to other facilities in Haverhill.

J. Sherman states it was not discussed but could be presented to them.

L. Gil states this is a work in progress and if we can research going to other facilities then we may increase ridership.

J. Sherman states that they spoke about Exeter Hospital and possibly going forward with brokering with Lamprey Health.

M. Curran states that there is some money going forward from last year's allotment to Rockingham Transportation Council.

**SELECTMEN REPORTS:**

M. Curran states that she has Planning Board this week. In the next few weeks they will be looking at Elderly Housing and a possible Starbucks.

J. Sherman states there will be an organizational meeting of the Budget Committee next week. He reminds voters that voting is at Pollard School and the polls are open from 8am to 8pm.

C. Blinn states he does not have a report.

D. Poliquin states he does not have a report.

L. Gil states that the Conservation Commission discussed the DOT parcel on Route 125. The Conservation Commission had issues with a jug-handle that would allow Town Vehicles to perform U-turns. This jug-handle will be across from Larry's Clam Bar. The Town acquired the McGirr property in 1991-1992. The plans from this land never happened. The location of this jug-handle is within 20 feet of Kelly Brook. This could be a safety issue. The drainage from this will be on a pad going away from Kelly Brook. However, we could not find an elevation that would determine the flow of the water from the highway. There are structures that keep salt and sediment that can be accessed and cleaned out, as opposed to letting all the matter flow out.



J. Hoch states the project engineer did make a response to the Conservation Commissions concerns and this was forwarded to the Conservation Commission. There are also plans for their review.

L. Gil is concerned with flooding in the area. They are looking for more clarification.

J. Sherman asks if they could get something out of this.

L. Gil states it is a lot of wetland and there is no way to easily get to the dry land.

J. Sherman would like to brainstorm on what we can get from the State.

J. Sherman states that he was not here last week, he asks if utility taxing was discussed.

J. Hoch states that last weeks update was that the language was sent to DOT.

J. Sherman believes we should be able to get more money.

J. Hoch states that the court ruling methodology was to tax on the amount of space they are using. They try to come up with the cost of the air space.

J. Sherman states this is something we would want to discuss with the Legislators.

M. Curran asks for clarification on exemptions.

J. Hoch states that he will confirm with Assessing. There may be a reason for this.

**NONPUBLIC SESSION:**

**☆Motion by L. Gil and second by M. Curran to proceed into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91:3: II (a) matters of compensation.**

**Roll: M. Curran-yes, C. Blinn-yes, D. Poliquin-yes, L. Gil-yes, J. Sherman-yes  
All Yes:**

Nicole Carr is excused from the meeting at 7:59 pm and J. Hoch is asked to record the nonpublic session.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicole Carr  
Recording Secretary