



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

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

DATE: June 18, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: 6:34pm

PRESENT: Michelle Curran, Chairman; Lawrence Gil, Vice Chairman, John Sherman, Daniel Poliquin (6:45pm); Charles L. Blinn, Jr.

MINUTES:

► Motion by J. Sherman and second by L. Gil to approve the minutes of June 4, 2007.
VOTE: 3-0-1 C. Blinn abstains.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No members of the public wishing to speak.

PRIMEX:

Gary Stenhouse from Primex is present to discuss the Town's Workers Compensation coverage. Primex is a Risk Management Pool and not a business. He presents a package to each Selectman and describes the history and services offered by Primex.

D. Poliquin arrives at 6:45pm.

J. Sherman asks for J. Hoch's opinion on where we stand.

J. Hoch states that we are doing very well. He states that staff works well on this issue, the Joint Loss Management works well and we are looking at the PRIME plan.

J. Sherman would like us to look at the ten best practice models.

L. Gil asks if there are any trends in the coverage and what issues are on the rise.

G. Stenhouse states that like other towns, Plaistow has issues with slip, trips & falls and lifting issues. Water, Fire & Police are common high risk. He gives the example of a firefighter having put out the fire and then tripping while taking off his bunker gear.

CORRESPONDENCE:

J. Hoch states that the Town has received a flyer for the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Regional Planning Day to be held on June 19th, a notice from Comcast that the NFL network is moving to the Sports Entertainment Package, flyer from Local Government Center regarding Junkyard Licensing workshop, letter from the Office of Energy & Planning thanking J. Hoch for presenting at their annual spring conference,

copy of Old Home Day agenda, payment schedule from SAU 55, letter to Conservation Commission and Planning Board from NHDES regarding general water conservation measures, Rockingham Planning Commission annual meeting notice, testing results from NHDES for Lido monitoring Area, note from Donna Page thanking the Town for the May 27th reception for Don Sargent, email from Kristen Savage regarding dogs at the recreation fields, meeting notes from the Old Home Day Committee, notice that Selectmen Gil's appointment to the Rockingham Planning Commission has expired, 2 thank you notes to the Fire Department and an email from Old Home Day Brian Levasseur indicating his resignation effective on July 11th.

M. Curran recognizes the issues of dogs at parks. She is a dog owner and states that the majority of people are responsible and leash their pets. She asks if there has been an incident.

J. Hoch states that there has not been any mention of any incident.

C. Blinn states that you always need to be aware of dogs and the potential for issues.

D. Poliquin states he spoke with J. Hoch and C. Malette regarding this issue. He states there has not been a problem and there is an issue of people fearing large dogs. He feels that people pay taxes in the Town and people should be allowed to bring their dogs to the fields. He states that parents are responsible for children and their tendency to run up to dogs. He states that people should clean up after their pet and if not, we should ticket them. He does not see the need to incur the costs for a doggie park. He does not think this is necessary. He feels owners should be allowed to bring dogs to games, on a leash.

J. Hoch states that our ordinance states that dogs need to be controlled and does not specify a leash. He states a leash is something we can add to the ordinance.

L. Gil states that this issue comes up on Old Home Day each year.

M. Curran will pass along to the Planning Board that L. Gil is interested in being reappointed to the Rockingham Planning Commission.

J. Sherman suggests that a letter of thanks be sent to B. Levasseur for his work on Old Home Day.

FINANCE:

J. Hoch states that each Selectman received a copy of the new grant procedure in their folder. This procedure is intended to clarify a handful of issues related to managing grant paperwork internally.

CABLE:

J. Hoch states that the Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the Cable Studio and equipment have gone out to vendors and are due back in mid July.

RECREATION:

J. Hoch states that he spoke with the Recreation Director regarding the paving at the new fields on Old County Road. David Hoyt will be paving the road into the park from Old County Road and we are only paving our driveway and the parking lot with the fenced in area.

D. Poliquin asks if striping is included.

M. Curran asks for the square foot of the area to be paved.

J. Hoch will look into both of these questions. He states that a team from Home Depot will be coming to Smith Recreation Field to do some sprucing up, painting, brush cutting, replacing the chain coming into the park and other odds and ends.

J. Sherman asks who the Home Depot Team will be working under the direction of.

J. Hoch states that they will be organized by Recreation Director Carli Malette.

PLANNING:

J. Hoch states that he, Planning Coordinator Leigh Komornick and Planning Chairman Tim Moore met with consult Bruce Mayberry looking for updating impact fees. We would like to target revisions of the Public Safety Fee and then the School Fee.

J. Hoch states that we are not able to incorporate the consultant's impact fee update costs in this year's budget cycle. We will need to plan for this in the next budget season.

J. Sherman asks if the build-out study is complete.

J. Hoch states that it is in the final 95th percent of completion. We will have a final presentation when it is complete. He states that the requests for Capital Improvement Plan projects have gone to department heads and the text of the document is being revised.

FIRE:

J. Hoch states that Tanker-5 was struck by a passenger car on June 1, 2007. The vehicle did not stop and was not in the vicinity for Police to pursue. A light scratch is on the tanker and the Fire Chief believes it is not worth fixing. J. Hoch states that information regarding the Federal Assistance to Firefighter Grant and the scheduled Public Hearing next week is in each Selectman's folder. J. Hoch reminds residents that the Town has an ordinance prohibiting Class B & C Fireworks.

J. Sherman suggests that the ordinance prohibiting fireworks in Plaistow should be placed on cable.

POLICE:

J. Hoch states that the Town has received three bids for the police cruisers for sale. J. Hoch states that he spoke with Chief Savage regarding using cameras for speed monitoring and Chief Savage indicated there needs to be a statute in place allowing installation of cameras on public ways for traffic enforcement. J. Hoch presents a copy of the proposed outside detail ordinance for the Police Department to cover situations when projects or activities would interfere with the normal flow of traffic. He states that the intent of this ordinance is to have an appropriate mechanism for requiring outside details for road blockage, including private functions. J. Hoch states that one of the concerns is that someone is having a band or loud party and the noise is spilling over. If there is this type of event residential streets are being blocked and details should be used.

M. Curran asks how the roads were determined.

J. Hoch states the police designed the street listing and it revolves around streets that are traveled frequently and/or lead to other streets.

M. Curran states that this is an issue that could be a hind sight is 20/20 type of situation.

J. Hoch states that we have an obligation to residents to have the streets free for travel.

J. Sherman states that he would like to look at a noise ordinance.

M. Curran states that we have a noxious use ordinance. However, it is difficult to determine decibel use.

J. Sherman states that he remembers a State Noise Law that allowed Towns more flexibility. He would like to have a conversation on this in the future. He has had complaints from residents regarding motorcycles.

M. Curran states that often sound is deceiving and travels. She can hear the High School Band practicing in the evening at her house.

D. Poliquin asks if the detail ordinance would be redundant.

J. Hoch states that this formalizes it in the front end and not in a reactionary way.

D. Poliquin foresees issues with people not calling before an event.

J. Sherman states that he could see someone calling for a wedding or large graduation party.

HIGHWAY:

J. Hoch informs the Board that the State of NH has confirmed that the crosswalk on Main Street & Elm Street is on the approved list and is an eligible site for an in street sign. He states that we placed a sign in the crosswalk and so far it has been constructive.

C. Blinn states that Haverhill, MA has a system that keeps the crosswalk paint visible. He will research this and bring it back to the Board.

WEB:

J. Hoch states that Virtual Town Hall is willing to bill us a prorated annual fee from when we go live through the end of the year and then a full year beginning in 2008. He, Dennise Horrocks and Nikki Carr met with a rep and began the basic design concept for the web page. The next step will be to meet with individual departments about content. J. Hoch states that if people have pictures of the Town please email them to J. Hoch or N. Carr.

M. Curran suggests that we contact Bob Hobbs of the Historical Society because he has photographed a lot of the historic buildings in the Town.

TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS:

J. Hoch states that he would like the Selectmen to confirm that they are comfortable with the wall color choices and the maroon stage curtain from the presentation at the last meeting. He states that he found a separate carpet sample that he is recommending that is a higher quality and the lowest bid price we have received. He states that Rose Bayek and Nikki Carr have agreed to help him find a few more alternatives for the curtain fabric for the Great Hall.

L. Gil likes the colors.

M. Curran states that she is concerned with the green trim color.

C. Blinn states that it looks dark.

D. Poliquin does not like the complete color scheme. He likes the yellow but not the maroon and he does not like the curtains. He feels there should have been more choices.

L. Gil asks if the Town Hall Committee chose this palette.

J. Hoch states that this came from the committee. A sub committee was chosen and they recommended this palette.

J. Sherman states that he was concerned with the darkness of the carpet.

J. Hoch states we have found a carpet that has the colors but is lighter. He states that Rose Bayek and Nikki Carr have agreed to assist in getting more material choices for the windows.

M. Curran suggests painting the damaged area to get a full view of what it would look like.

C. Blinn states the whole idea is to bring it back to the 1900s.

J. Sherman would like quotes on the wooden blinds.

D. Poliquin would like quotes on vertical and horizontal blinds.

PAN AM RAILWAYS:

J. Hoch states that he had a very positive meeting with Pan Am Railways. They discussed the possibilities of expanding rail service to Plaistow and the issues associated with it. They will be doing some additional work to review what physical improvements to the lines may be necessary to manage those areas where there are only single tracks. In addition, they suggested Amtrak also would need to be supportive. They will have conversation with Amtrak and he suggested that he would do the same and are working on setting that up now.

L. Gil asks if they said anything about the State being a player in this.

J. Hoch states that Pan Am saw Amtrak as the bigger issue than the State. Meetings will be held to find out the logistics.

HB 335:

J. Hoch states that HB 335 seeks to add a definition of unnecessary hardship into law. The bill is currently retained in the committee.

MTBE REPORTS:

J. Hoch states that he spoke with Health Officer Dennise Horrocks about the MBTE reports. The Town does receive the reports regularly from the State who has the responsibility to monitor progress and trends.

L. Gil would like to check and see if we can get the report.

HILLCREST AVENUE:

J. Hoch states that we have received a drainage easement deed for Hillcrest Avenue, the Attorney's certification will be provided and the deed will be recorded at Rockingham Registry of Deeds.

LANDFILL MEASUREMENTS:

J. Hoch states that Surveyor Dan Johnson has been updating field measurements at the landfill in order to update the numbers on settlement and pooling.

LEGAL FEES:

J. Hoch states that he spoke with Attorney Kalman regarding the Balamotis case and has confirmed that this is not the type of case that creates exposure for costs.

CELL TOWER/WATER TOWER:

J. Hoch states that he received a proposal from Fiber Tower Network Services to place a 29" diameter dish on the water tower and a 4' x4' cabinet at the base. Their proposed rent is \$150/month. He will gather more information and come before the Board.

J. Hoch states that the Town started this when it was more difficult to find areas for coverage and that the market has changed over time to smaller equipment and lower rents.

J. Sherman states that we made a good deal back then.

D. Poliquin states he has a concern with bonding and adding/removal of equipment.

ASSESSING SERVICES:

J. Hoch states that he inquired at the Department of Revenue for sample RFPs for assessing services. He has received two samples and will be working on a draft for the Selectmen to review.

BOARD CHARTERS:

J. Hoch states that each Selectman received a packet in their folder with Committee and Board Charters that N. Carr was able to find in our records.

OLD HOME DAY:

J. Hoch states that he received a budget from Brian Levasseur and it is consistent with the approved budget.

M. Curran asks what the difference is in the price of the parade.

C. Blinn states that the parade may cost \$300 more and this will need to be worked out.

BOSTON POST CANE:

J. Hoch states that the Town is seeking nominations for a recipient of the Boston Post Cane.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES:

J. Hoch states that he spoke with the Library Trustees who are initiating the process to draw down the balance of the Mary Nelson Trust to advance pay the note on the library.

J. Sherman states that this is the only debt that we carry.

OLD BUSINESS:

M. Curran states a resident approached her regarding a scheduling error in the baseball schedule. This caused some children to miss games.

SELECTMAN REPORTS:

J. Sherman states that the Recreation Commission will be meeting this Sunday night. The Concert Schedule is out and concerts will be on Wednesday evenings starting July 4th – August 8th starting at 6:00 PM. He reads the number between 300-400 children involved in the baseball & softball programs and the fields that need to be scheduled.

C. Blinn states that he attended the Old Home Day meeting. He states that M. Curran, C. Blinn and J. Sherman will be marching in the parade. He reviews the events and states the events will be rain or shine.

L. Gil states that the Conservation Commission met with two reps from NHDOT regarding the jug-handle of Route 125. He states that if the information had been presented previously, this meeting would not have been needed. They discussed a response letter that was drafted regarding the Brown Estates water plan as well.

D. Poliquin states that Jim Valetta passed away and he extends his condolences to the family. D. Poliquin states that he was a member of the Board of Examiners for the Fire Department and feels we have some good candidates. He will be attending Family Mediation this week.

M. Curran states that there was no quorum for the June 6, 2007 Planning Board Meeting. They will be meeting this week with a double agenda.

J. Hoch reviews the process for the Special Town Meeting. The voting will occur on September 18, 2007.

NONPUBLIC:

► Motion by J. Sherman and second by L. Gil to enter into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91a: III 2c&d sale of real property and reputation.

ROLL: L. Gil – yes, D. Poliquin – yes, M. Curran-yes, C. Blinn – yes, J. Sherman-yes

► Motion by J. Sherman and second by D. Poliquin to accept the nonpublic minutes of June 4, 2007, as amended.

VOTE: 4-0-1 C. Blinn abstains.

► Motion by J. Sherman and second by L. Gil to seal the nonpublic minutes of 4-5-2004, 4-4-2004, 6-27, 2005, 11-28-2005 minutes for 1 year.

VOTE: 4-0-1 D. Poliquin abstains.

► Motion by J. Sherman and second by L. Gil to exit nonpublic session and seal the minutes for seven days pursuant to RSA 91a:III 2c&d sale of real property.
ROLL: L. Gil – yes, D. Poliquin – yes, M. Curran-yes, C. Blinn – yes, J. Sherman-yes

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole Carr
Recording Secretary