



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

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

DATE: January 8, 2007

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

CALL TO ORDER: 6:35pm

MINUTES:

☆ **Motion by M. Curran and second by L. Gil to approve the minutes of December 27, 2006.**

VOTE: 3-0-2; L. Gil and C. Blinn abstain.

CART:

Merilyn Senter and Scott Bogel from CART are present for the discussion.

Merilyn states there appears to be outstanding questions from the Selectmen meeting on the 27th and last week's Budget Committee meeting. She states she is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of CART and Scott Bogel is from the Rockingham Planning Commission. She reviews the paperwork in the packet including the budget summary. She states she was dismayed at the discussions of both meetings. She states she has been working for more than 15 years to get transportation to the residents of Plaistow. She states in March 2005 there was a warrant article (P-41) which addressed CART but didn't mention the name then. She states in the intent it spelled out how much was being requested of the Town. She states it succeeded in passing at \$2,000 for the first year with costs going up the following years.

J. Sherman states the breakdown of costs to each town is included in the packet. He states this is based on population.

Scott states five factors go into the funding formula; total population, senior population, disabled population, low-income population and equalized value of tax base. He states this formula was derived in 2004 in consultation with each of the towns.

Merilyn states they're not asking Plaistow for the largest allocation.

J. Sherman states Plaistow's share is 6.1% of the total. He states one thing that has been confusing is the structure of the agencies (RTC and CART).

Merilyn states the goal of RTC was to put itself out of business and become CART. She states there are funding requests out for both.

J. Sherman asks if RTC is now out of business.

Merilyn states not quite yet. She states they're working with the Attorney General's office to either merge it with CART or dissolve it. She states there are some legal questions being answered.

Scott states that RTC currently owns the vehicles. He states having the non-profit status that RTC possesses is beneficial to CART in order to access charitable grants. He states some foundations won't give grants to public agencies. He states CART may apply for its own separate 501 C3 non-profit status.

J. Sherman asks if RTC funds would be rolled into CART.

Scott and Merilyn state yes.

M. Curran asks for the mission statements of both organizations.

Scott states he doesn't have them tonight but can e-mail the information.

M. Curran asks for the year-end financial statements for RTC.

Merilyn states this can be made available as well.

M. Curran asks how many residents from Plaistow have utilized CART.

Scott states as of December there were no Plaistow residents that had used CART.

Merilyn states the most recent rider just started on December 20th and this individual wrote a letter to the organization.

J. Sherman reads the letter from Mr. Connolly. He also reads the letter from the Town Clerk in support of CART.

J. Sherman asks about the progress with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Scott states there has been no further progress on their request for proposals on a Medicare brokerage.

Merilyn states this is a state-wide effort to get all the groups similar to CART under one umbrella.

Scott states one plan calls for a system of regional brokerages and then DHHS is looking at a stand-alone statewide brokerage for Medicaid transportation.

Merilyn states RSA 239-a: II reads municipalities that fail to fund CART will not have representation on the CART Board of Directors and the town's residents won't get rides from CART.

D. Poliquin states they won't be prevented from getting rides altogether.

M. Curran states the Town supports three other agencies that provide rides to residents. She states RTC provided 8 rides last year to Plaistow residents. She states the RSVP volunteer service should possibly get more money since it is more heavily used. She states she isn't in favor of giving \$2,500 to an organization that gave 8 rides to Plaistow residents last year and that is no longer going to exist. She states another concern is larger towns contributing to CART and with only a couple vehicles, the chances that Plaistow residents will be turned down is great. She states it is a concern that the Town would put so much of its funding into one organization. She states there is no guarantee of more service to the Town.

D. Poliquin states another concern is that CART isn't going to facilities that Plaistow residents are utilizing like Exeter Hospital and hospitals in Northern Massachusetts.

Scott states the policy is that if someone calls from one of the member communities and a ride is available at the time requested, the ride would be provided. He states there may be a marketing problem. He states the out of region service destinations may not be the ones most desired by Plaistow residents at this point. He states the list was established based on services not provided in the nine-town region and special requests from the Boards of Selectmen in the towns. He states they're also looking at current trip patterns from RTC. He states the plan is to review future requests and make changes as the demand warrants. He states they will look again at destinations in the spring. He states they hope the numbers will continue to grow for Plaistow residents.

J. Sherman states the next CART Board of Directors meeting is a week from tomorrow. He states he will try to attend and request the alternate destinations.

M. Curran states the Town is already supporting the service providers that CART uses and money is already allocated in the budget. She states she feels that the Town is contributing twice for the same service.

Merilyn states she has driven for RSVP and Salem Caregivers and they're private vehicles that are not handicapped accessible. She states she stopped driving for these agencies when she had to transport a person in a wheelchair. She states she can't see asking a private citizen to do this. She states on the system structures chart there are not just two vehicles.

J. Sherman states the vehicles CART has access to have wheelchair lift capabilities.

Scott states the other organizations provide a baseline level of service and there is an unmet need over and above that and CART is trying to provide this requirement.

M. Curran asks if both Boards are volunteer positions.

Merilyn states yes.

Scott states his participation on the CART Board is part of his job with Rockingham Planning Commission but there is no extra stipend.

L. Gil states this is a worthwhile project going forward but it needs tracking.

Merilyn states it is in the intent of article P-41 that if an agency is unproductive the Selectmen have the authority to discontinue funding.

Scott states Plaistow riders in RTC reached over 200 and over the last few years it hasn't been heavily marketed. He states when CART was launched letters were sent out to those in the RTC database.

D. Poliquin states RTC and CART are two separate entities and may never become one. He asks why CART hasn't applied for its own 501-C3 status.

Scott states they've been trying to get a meeting with the Attorney General's office in this regard. He states they haven't pursued their own application because a merger was a possibility.

D. Poliquin states the only thing CART is going to do is develop routes for vans to travel and these would be passed onto the broker contractor for dispatching. He asks why CART is asking for money when the Town already pays other agencies.

Scott states it covers a portion of the contract with Easter Seals and additional vehicle service (90 hours per week) and paying Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority to deal with the federal funding, insurance needs, etc.

J. Sherman states CART doesn't need vans and personnel since these are out there and just need to be coordinated.

Scott states yes, lack of driver time is a factor.

L. Gil asks what the incentive is for the agencies to connect with CART. He asks if they are going to save money.

Scott states they want the need met and like having the dispatching for their vehicles done by a separate entity. He states they get their funding from DHHS and they're moving toward this coordination model and funding would be channeled as such.

J. Sherman states \$6,000 currently goes to Greater Salem Caregivers. He asks what the future will look like for them.

Scott states he's not sure what portion of the \$6,000 goes toward transportation.

J. Sherman asks about Lamprey Healthcare.

Scott states CART is trying to build on this baseline.

J. Sherman asks if they're at capacity.

Scott states he's not certain. He states his understanding is they do weekly shopping runs and they tend to fill up the vehicle.

J. Sherman asks if they go to Exeter Hospital.

Scott states he knows they do medical transportation but he's not certain if they do trips other than their own clinics.

M. Curran asks what will happen to the vehicles if RTC dissolves and CART becomes its own agency.

Scott states if RTC is merged into CART, the DOT agreement would transfer to CART. He states there are two vehicles with RTC and another three that rotate in through Easter Seals.

J. Sherman asks if CART is asking for a total of \$6,700.

Merilyn states yes.

Scott states if the Town funded at \$4,200 instead, it would translate into less vehicle time provided. He states the \$2,500 for RTC gets an equal amount in federal funding. He states the same is true of the CART money.

J. Sherman asks if CART was asking for \$4,200 because it was understood that \$2,500 was in the budget for RTC for a total of \$6,700.

Merilyn states yes.

J. Sherman states there is no money in the operating budget for this and there is \$4,200 in the warrant article for CART.

☆Motion by L. Gil and second by C. Blinn to put \$6,700 into the operating budget under RTC.

D. Poliquin states he doesn't feel the Town has gotten its moneys worth with RTC and this was the original reason it was voted on to take it out and he can't see funding an additional \$4,200 on top of that for CART. He states it doesn't give the citizens of Plaistow an option to vote on it.

M. Curran states the Board has to consider what the people want. She states in the future it could provide the community with services greatly needed. She states it is in the beginning stages and she wants to ensure the most service possible to the residents. She states she wants to see what CART is going to do for the citizens in Plaistow. She states she'd keep it as a warrant article and states last year the Town received 8 rides for \$2,500.

C. Blinn asks if transportation fees are going to be reduced or eliminated from other agencies because of the coordination of efforts.

M. Curran states no since they can also go for matching federal funds.

J. Sherman states getting feedback on the participation is important. He asks if there is a process in place on how the data will be gathered.

Merilyn states it is being tracked at the dispatcher level. She states in March 2005 the voters approved the creation of CART with future costs.

M. Curran states it is a trial basis that funding could be increased or decreased depending on how it services the Town.

Merilyn states whatever the CART Board decides will be okayed by the RTC Board.

J. Sherman states he does think it is appropriate that it be in the operating budget. He suggests putting it in the operating budget but not paying the money up front. He states the Board could review the usage quarterly before funding the next quarter.

Merilyn asks that the line item in the budget be changed from RTC to RTC-CART.

D. Poliquin states a majority of the Board already voted that it be a warrant article for \$4,200 and the \$2,500 was already taken out of the budget with the support of the Budget Committee and he won't vote in favor of the motion.

Scott states most of the other communities funded it through a warrant article.

VOTE: 3-2-0; M. Curran-nay, D. Poliquin-nay.

☆Motion by L. Gil and second by C. Blinn to withdraw Article P-07-21 (CART) from the warrant.

VOTE: 5-0-0.

Merilyn states she is working on getting the CART info on the web site and cable.

★**Motion by M. Curran and second by D. Poliquin to review the CART results quarterly and vote on allocating the funding quarterly.**

VOTE: 5-0-0.

TOWN HALL RENOVATION COMMITTEE:

Bob Gray, Barry Sargent and Dave Bowles are present for the discussion.

J. Sherman states there may be questions regarding what is included in Phase III.

M. Curran asks about the list of dollars attached to each line item. She mentions the curtain on the stage, the potential for a 2nd floor bathroom, etc. She asks how the Town can feel confident with the dollar figure with so many outstanding questions.

Bob states regarding the stage area, the Committee always intended to use this as a public meeting area and this wouldn't be accessible without lift accommodations. He states the folding partition by the elevator cannot go up per the Fire Chief and the Committee wants to make the warrant article \$80,000 instead of \$86,000. He states as long as there is a bathroom in the building that is ADA accessible it isn't necessary to have one on the 2nd floor also be ADA accessible.

M. Curran states if use of the second floor is being encouraged, you'd want to make the bathroom handicapped accessible.

J. Sherman states if the cost is reasonable.

M. Curran asks about the remaining \$27,000 leftover.

Bob states he won't think about that until the Town votes on this article.

Barry states after Town Meeting the Committee is dissolved and it will be up to the Selectmen.

D. Poliquin asks if there are more detailed drawings.

Barry states the original architect did drawings early on.

Bob states the architect didn't do any for phase III. He states the only thing an engineer would be needed for is the lift and possibly the bathroom.

D. Poliquin asks about the plumbing plans.

Bob states the plans were drawn up by the Building Inspector. He states the Building Inspector also stated the septic system could handle another bathroom.

D. Poliquin asks how they arrived at the figures.

J. Hoch states the Building Inspector obtained ballpark estimates from contractors. He states if the article were to pass, they'd need to come up with a game plan on the bathroom, etc. He states the numbers are estimates and there is a real possibility that some items will be more or less.

L. Gil asks about the proposed location for the bathroom and why it is not directly above the first floor bathrooms.

Bob states accessibility would be an issue for the elderly and handicapped.

L. Gil states it would be possible although inconvenient to access.

Bob states that is correct.

J. Sherman states he's heard comments from residents about the Committee wanting to paint things that have just been painted in the last year.

Barry states they're working with an interior decorator on this and are not ready with a recommendation yet. He states the recommendations will be presented and then the Board can decide.

M. Curran states she thinks the main charge of providing more office and meeting space has been accomplished. She states a concern is that this additional work can be done with the remaining money in the budget. She states she thinks the main charge can be done without asking for the \$80,000. She states the \$8,000 for the lift concerns her along with the new bathroom, etc.

Barry states he disagrees because he doesn't want to do it piecemeal down the road when it is going to cost more.

D. Poliquin asks why they'd go with the tin ceiling and not a less expensive look alike.

Bob states below the original tin ceiling is the duct work for the air conditioning.

Barry states a lot of the Town is interested in the historical perspective and there is also a portion interested in the modernization of the building.

D. Poliquin asks about the \$150 for the front fireplace.

Barry states it was a working fireplace at one time and this would be for a simulated fire in the fireplace.

Bob states there are people in the Town that are very passionate about the Town Hall. He states whatever can be done to help this cause he is willing to work toward. He

states this is \$50,000 below what they originally planned to ask for. He states it was about \$131,000 in the CIP.

D. Poliquin states he has no problem putting the warrant before the Townspeople.

Barry states he got a call from his brother and he'd like to make another significant donation toward this project. He states his brother would like to revisit the Town Hall again and look at the project. He states he'd probably like to wait until after Election Day to make the donation. He states if there is money left over after this phase it may be time to set up a fund for the Town Hall.

M. Curran asks how this differs from the article proposed.

J. Hoch states the current proposed article is for all Town buildings and this could be a replacement for that or alternatively do it for non-emergency items.

J. Sherman states he'd like to under spend the warrant article by the amount of the donation and have the excess go back to the taxpayers.

L. Gil asks about a fund for Town Hall preservation, similar to the Library fund.

Bob states the Budget Committee wanted questions answered about the doorway in the Great Hall and the lift. He asks the Town Manager to check with the Building Inspector on whether an engineer is needed for either of these.

C. Blinn states rebuilding the Town Hall has restored a piece of history. He states this building was given to the Town. He states he doesn't think the wheelchair access to the stage is necessary. He commends the Committee on the work it has done. He states he supports the article.

Bob states the folding partition is being removed from the list and the warrant article can be reduced by \$6,000.

REVIEW OF BUDGET & WARRANT ARTICLES:

J. Sherman states the desire from some members of the Board was that the recommendations also show the vote. He states the Budget Committee has already done so.

J. Hoch states the only change is from earlier tonight and the new total for the 2007 proposed operating budget is \$6,718,346.

**☆Motion by L. Gil and second by M. Curran to recommend Article P-07-02 (Operating Budget) to the warrant.
VOTE: 4-1-0; M. Curran-nay.**

☆Motion by L. Gil and second by C. Blinn to recommend Article P-07-03 (Highway Block Grant) to the warrant.
VOTE: 5-0-0.

☆Motion by M. Curran and second by D. Poliquin to recommend Article P-07-04 (Road Paving) to the warrant.

J. Hoch states the numbers have gone down since the last discussion. He states \$120,000 is being carried forward from last year's Highway Block Grant.

VOTE: 5-0-0.

☆Motion by M. Curran and second by L. Gil to recommend Article P-07-05 (Drainage) to the warrant.
VOTE: 5-0-0.

☆Motion by M. Curran and second by C. Blinn to recommend Article P-07-06 (Roads in Budget) to the warrant.
VOTE: 5-0-0.

☆Motion by L. Gil and second by C. Blinn to recommend Article P-07-07 (Town Hall Renovations) to the warrant for \$80,000.
VOTE: 4-1-0; M. Curran-nay.

☆Motion by L. Gil and second by M. Curran to recommend Article P-07-08 (Highway Equipment Trust Fund) to the warrant.
VOTE: 5-0-0.

☆Motion by L. Gil and second by D. Poliquin to recommend Article P-07-09 (Highway Department Truck) to the warrant.
VOTE: 4-1-0; C. Blinn-nay.

☆Motion by L. Gil and second by M. Curran to recommend Article P-07-10 (Highway Garage Capital Reserve) to the warrant.

J. Sherman states he will vote in favor of it but he thinks it can be done with less money.

C. Blinn asks about the amount.

L. Gil states a significant amount of engineering will be needed if the Town ends up using the landfill site.

VOTE: 5-0-0.

☆Motion by M. Curran and second by D. Poliquin to recommend Article P-07-11 (Buildings Capital Reserve) to the warrant.

VOTE: 4-1-0; J. Sherman-nay.

☆Motion by M. Curran and second by C. Blinn to recommend Article P-07-12 (Fire Capital Reserve) to the warrant.

VOTE: 5-0-0.

☆Motion by L. Gil and second by M. Curran to recommend Article P-07-13 (Water Capital Reserve) to the warrant.

VOTE: 4-1-0; J. Sherman-nay.

☆Motion by M. Curran and second by C. Blinn to recommend Article P-07-14 (Recreation Fields) to the warrant.

VOTE: 3-2-0; M. Curran-nay, D. Poliquin-nay.

☆Motion by M. Curran and second by D. Poliquin to recommend Article P-07-15 (Conservation Fund) to the warrant.

VOTE: 5-0-0.

☆Motion by M. Curran and second by D. Poliquin to recommend Article P-07-16 (Middle School Resource Officer) to the warrant.

VOTE: 3-2-0; M. Curran-nay, C. Blinn-nay.

☆Motion by M. Curran and second by L. Gil to recommend Article P-07-17 (Selectmen Salary) to the warrant.

J. Sherman states this is a good place to save money and he will vote against it.

VOTE: 4-1-0; J. Sherman-nay.

☆Motion by D. Poliquin and second by M. Curran to recommend Article P-07-18 (Town Clerk Salary) to the warrant.

VOTE: 5-0-0.

☆Motion by L. Gil and second by D. Poliquin to recommend Article P-07-19 (Tax Collector Salary) to the warrant.

VOTE: 5-0-0.

☆Motion by M. Curran and second by D. Poliquin to recommend Article P-07-20 (Special Detail Trust Fund) to the warrant.

VOTE: 5-0-0.

J. Sherman states Article P-07-21 (CART) has been removed from the warrant and the article numbers in the motions will continue as listed for now but will be different going forward.

☆**Motion by M. Curran and second by L. Gil to recommend Article P-07-22 (AIDS Response Seacoast) to the warrant.**

VOTE: 4-1-0; D. Poliquin-nay.

☆**Motion by M. Curran and second by D. Poliquin to recommend Article P-07-23 (Centennial and Civil War Monument) to the warrant.**

VOTE: 5-0-0.

☆**Motion by M. Curran and second by D. Poliquin to recommend Article P-07-23 (Fire Wards) to the warrant.**

NOTE: On the draft memo of warrant articles dated 1/5/07 the two articles above are both listed as P-07-23.

J. Hoch reads the intent of the Fire Wards article. He states it eliminates the Board of Fire Engineers.

J. Sherman asks if it is changing the RSA.

J. Hoch states no, it is to amend the adopted portion of the RSA.

Consensus of the Board is to insert into the intent that this will be effective with the 2008 Town Meeting vote.

VOTE: 5-0-0.

☆**Motion by M. Curran and second by C. Blinn to recommend Article P-07-24 (Haynes Boulevard) to the warrant.**

J. Hoch states this is a petitioned article and he reads the intent.

C. Blinn states he thought the road was going to be used with the new shopping center.

M. Curran states it would convert back to the two owners. She asks if the developer needs to come back before the Planning Board in this case.

J. Hoch states he spoke to Leigh and it wasn't part of the site plan approval.

M. Curran states it affects the way the trucks come in and out of the shopping center.

J. Hoch states it would be an internal service driveway.

C. Blinn asks for a copy of the signatures.

VOTE: 0-5-0. Motion does not pass.

☆**Motion by M. Curran and second by L. Gil to recommend Article P-07-25 (Carbon Coalition) to the warrant.**

J. Hoch states this is not a petitioned article. He states it is a state wide initiative.

VOTE: 4-1-0; M. Curran-nay.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Consensus of the Board is to review at next week's meeting.

SELECTMENS REPORTS:

M. Curran states she was unable to attend the Town Report Committee and Planning Board meetings. She states the Planning Board passed the affordable elderly housing ordinance. She also states the ZBA denied the application for the cell tower.

C. Blinn states he has nothing to report. He compliments the ZBA on their handling of the cell tower application.

J. Sherman states he attended the Budget Committee meeting last week and the Committee took votes on the warrant articles and budget. He states final votes will take place tomorrow night. He states the Public Hearing is Wednesday night at 7pm. He states the school district public hearing is also Wednesday night.

D. Poliquin states he had no meetings this past week but he did attend the site walk for the cell tower. He states the balloon could be seen from several locations around Town. He agrees with C. Blinn that the ZBA handled the application very well and kept control of the meeting.

L. Gil states he covered the Planning Board meeting. He states most of the meeting was the discussion of the elderly housing overlay district and finalizing the wording. He states the recommendation was to lower the requirement from 30% to 10% affordable housing and the Planning Board moved it to 15%. He states there was also discussion regarding the characterization of roadways (i.e. Planning Board wanted access roads and roadways).

ADJOURNMENT:

J. Sherman declares the meeting adjourned at 10:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Mullings
Recording Secretary