



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting held at Plaistow Public Safety Complex
27 Elm Street, Plaistow, NH

MINUTES:

DATE: Monday, December 15, 2008

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:33 pm

SELECTMEN PRESENT:

Chairman, John Sherman
Selectman, Lawrence Gil
Selectman, Robert Gray
Sean Fitzgerald – Town Manager

SELECTMEN ABSENT:

Vice Chairman, Daniel Poliquin – arrived 6:42 pm
Selectman, Charles Blinn - excused

MINUTES:

J. Sherman notes the review of the Minutes from the December 8, 2008 meeting is postponed.

AGENDA:

Update on Ice Storm “State of Emergency”

J. Sherman discusses the storm update, the current status of the Town and projections. He notes that the Selectmen meeting is not being broadcasted tonight due to cable outage but notes that they are being taped to air their meeting at a later date. He discusses that the Board of Selectmen is contemplating holding another meeting later on this week possibly on Wednesday, December 17 which will be a second meeting if there is power however he notes that it may be postponed or cancelled. He discusses that he will go directly into the status of the ice storm and extends his apologies to the public for any inconvenience. He notes that these are trying times for people and notes we will get through this. He wishes good health to people and notes the Town staff has been working hard during these difficult times and commends the efforts of both local Town staff and at State level staff.

S. Fitzgerald discusses the last several days noting it has been very busy and that the Emergency Management Supervisor, Bill Scully, is working diligently with Town personnel and notes that

Plaistow has been declared an emergency at both State and Town level. He turns the discussion over to Bill Scully.

B. Scully reports as of 5:50 pm tonight the statistics of yesterday morning was that approximately 1600 people were out of electricity which is about 41% of the residents, he notes that at the end of day yesterday it was down to 28% of the residents. He discusses Crane Crossing and Kingston noting they have received power, he notes initially they did the Route 125 grid area and notes there are spotting areas along Westville and Main Street. He discusses that during the day they went up East Road, last night there was a big jump from Sanborns to Kelly Road, today is Crane Crossing and Kingston Road as for tomorrow they are planning to have Plaistow up by this time tomorrow with some exceptions. He notes that if the service connection is ripped off of the house it is the homeowner's responsibility from the meter to house, they need their own electrician and it requires a permit which Town Hall will expedite. He notes Town will do inspection first and the paperwork later. He discusses that there are two crews in town which are tree clearing and he is hoping to have Plaistow up by Tuesday night. He discusses that they do a whole area first which they call it a grid, it is a large area and everything in that area needs to be set so if you see them at 9 am you won't see power to somewhere near 5 or 6 pm. He discusses that there is a shelter at Sanborn Regional School District and there was a warming center at Fish and Game on Saturday and Sunday. He notes the Fire Department has been very busy with pumping out cellars. He turns the reporting back to Sean for additional information.

S. Fitzgerald thanks Bill noting his long hours and his great work in protecting this community in this difficult time. He discusses that the Fire Department over the first 24 hours had received over 30 calls all day Friday and noted they went out for public assistance, a structure fire in the community, they have been working very hard checking the welfare of residents, investigating carbon monoxide in homes which is a big concern because the batteries are running out. He notes that the Fire Department has been out with six emergency pumps that have backup generators and that water is available at the Public Safety Complex for various usages however not for drinking. He discusses the emergency generator at the back of the complex noting it is running however it does have a small leak of antifreeze. The Police have been out day and night working in the community, they have received hundreds of calls nearly 400 calls for support, and they've transported residents to the Sanborn Shelter which have cots and food available. He notes the shelter operates very well and is a pet friendly shelter and notes that some pets can weather the storm better than people. He discusses the Highway Department which has been clearing trees and branches. He discusses the concern for high winds coming up and the central storm. He suggests for residents to be careful and to stay away from additional trees with lines. He discusses Greenough Road, Rose Avenue, Laural Avenue, Birch Street, Forrest Street, Nichols, Autumn Court, Dundee, Sweet Hill, Sequoia and the Main Street areas. He notes that the Public Buildings are being monitored by Dave Bowles and Mike Dorman. They are checking temperatures, winterized necessary buildings and have drained fire suppression lines. He notes that they are fortunate for the emergency backup generators from FEMA assistance and notes one is at the Safety Complex and the other one is at Town Hall and the National Guard will provide fuel for the generator. He hopes to have Town Hall up and running 100% possibly by Tuesday. He met with Superintendant LaSalle and notes that the schools in Plaistow are closed on Tuesday and then after that it will be day to day. He notes information will come out readily and will be posted at Town Hall on a regular basis. He is collecting information on additional

expenditures on this emergency declaration and noted that all are practicing good government strategies; they are looking at Federal assistance and will fill out all forms necessary.

J. Sherman inquires if he is being lead to believe there is FEMA reimbursement.

S. Fitzgerald notes it will go county by county and there is a federal threshold for federal assistance. He informs all that Town Hall folks have been here answering phones and will be here to get government back up and running.

J. Sherman discusses priorities of people regarding how to pay their taxes he notes they are not open at Town Hall, but can come here to the Safety Complex and inquire as to where the Tax Clerk is housed.

S. Fitzgerald notes that the Tax Collector is coming here tomorrow and states there are concerns with traffic and emergency services and the Town is currently looking at Wednesday for more information regarding when core services will be back up and running.

B. Scully discusses the scheduled shut down for the generator at the Safety Complex is at 8pm to switch over the generators. He recommends taking the present generator off line for repairs even if the emergency is over. He discusses the estimated cost for a recore radiator which is 22 or 25 years old and notes that the people who sell this type of radiator are out of business and a new one would cost approximately \$2,600. He suggests taking the present radiator out, ship it out to be fixed which would cost approximately \$1,800. He notes the labor would be about \$1,000. His opinion is to have this done now while they have the National Guard generator here. He discusses where the money can come from and inquires if the Public Safety Impact Fees could be used.

R. Gray discusses RSA noting the Selectmen can spend without obligation and agrees that this is the time to have this done and inquires about reimbursement.

B. Scully notes he is not sure about reimbursement however it is in the EOC and notes if not then when we do FEMA billing we can bill for use and fuel which will be some reimbursement but notes it is on next year. He discusses what is being requested is the repair.

J. Sherman notes he is in favor of this being repaired.

S. Fitzgerald notes his concern is about the cash and where we are fiscally. He notes the economy is struggling and notes the safety issue for the public. He discusses that this is something we could find a way to fund. He indicates he is doing a cash flow analysis for the next 12 months and notes the Town is not getting the same revenue as last year. He notes the fixing of the generator should be high priority and to look at it carefully.

J. Sherman discusses the draft list of After Action list and notes there are always things that can be improved upon or perhaps money that we can spend.

Motion by D. Poliquin to give the Emergency Management Director permission to get the generator located at the Safety Complex radiator recore at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.

2nd by R. Gray.

B. Scully notes that he appreciates that type of motion.

J. Sherman agrees and notes the \$4,000 max makes sense and discusses that the other generator being here may not come around again.

Chief McArdle notes FEMA crew is tying in the generator in at Town Hall and there are no lights, they are using vehicle's headlights for lights and he is presently sending lights down to them to help their visibility.

S. Fitzgerald discusses that the National Guard is maintaining the generator such as the refueling of it.

Vote 4-0-0.

Motion passes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roy Jackson of 142 Main Street notes the Fire Department has been extremely helpful. They have pumped out his basement and have done a tremendous job.

D. Poliquin asks about Comcast.

B. Scully notes that he has not dealt with Comcast, he discusses Fairpoint coming in to put in poles.

J. Sherman notes if someone still has wires down on house or on street to please contact us.

B. Scully discusses the power outage and notes Unitil knows and they are riding all the lines to identify them and they are going down all streets to do such. As a reminder he notes that all wires on the ground should still be considered a hazard. He discusses that the house to pole is homeowner's responsibility and that the top of meter box to the pole is Unitil's responsibility. He discusses general information and notes to all that they should consider any wire is live whether newly down or down for three days.

J. Sherman notes they can call here at dispatch.

B. Scully discusses the hazards of generators if not wired correctly and notes they can wire from house to street accidentally.

L. Gil discusses damage to head of junction box at house and inquires if this is new requirement or something always in place.

B. Scully notes you have to put meter box in on Town permit and the homeowner is responsible if it is ripped from building.

J. Sherman discusses Sanborn High School in Kingston which is a shelter and notes if you know of anyone that has to get there during the day or night there are cots available. He notes Plaistow residents are already there and there is food and drinks available. It is a new school and the cafeteria which he and Sean visited and noted it is very nice.

R. Gray communicated to the public that if you have an elderly resident or neighbor go and check to make sure they are okay even if the power goes on please check and if you think there is a problem call dispatch. He also communicated that during power outage we don't want people taking advantage of misfortune so please keep your eyes open and do so for your neighbors as well.

J. Sherman discusses neighbors helping neighbors such as the elderly and notes a lot of people have left so there are homes unoccupied so he communicated that you may want to keep an eye on your neighbor's home and if you see anything call the Police. For damages he notes that one of the things you can do is to take photos of damage which he notes certainly will help with the insurance claims and that having photos of damage will help get the claim processed.

S. Fitzgerald discusses food and notes that food which has not been properly refrigerated for 12-24 hours should not be eaten, it should be disposed of.

J. Sherman notes that trash is on normal pick up.

S. Fitzgerald notes some streets are not passable but will work on those areas.

J. Sherman questions the follow up issues. He discusses how they had information but could not get it to the people. He suggests the newspaper and notes we can improve this area. He notes this is one of his frustrations of how to get this information to the public

S. Fitzgerald discusses that he spoke with the Superintendent of Schools, community notifications and the reverse 911. He discusses emergency management and the unique strategies to get communities served. He notes people came to Town Hall and notes frustrations of people.

J. Sherman discusses Timberlane which has not taken the approach of a complete close it is on a day to day basis due to the conditions in various towns.

S. Fitzgerald discusses folks looking to get rid of debris and asks folks to hold off on that. He discusses Police Department and Fire Department and their concerns when they see smoke. He notes they will come up with strategies for debris and discusses the Highway Supervisor, Dan Garlington.

J. Sherman notes there is no open burning of limbs in Plaistow.

R. Gray notes at a later date we may have some open burn day however Selectmen will notify the public of this.

S. Fitzgerald notes as the grid get energized people should unplug utilities such as computers and TVs to avoid surge to electronics when power is back on. He notes he hopes to have Town Hall back up and running tomorrow.

J. Sherman thanks all volunteers and Town Employees and On Call employees at Fire Department. He extends thanks to Dennise Horrocks and Carli Malette who have done a lot of work this weekend. He thanks Dan Garlington, Jon Lovett, Dave Bowles and Mike Dorman who assisted the Emergency Operations Manager.

S. Fitzgerald notes the Town Employees have been walking through communities and knocking on door and passing out leaflets and pamphlets regarding shelters.

J. Sherman requests of the public to please help your neighbors and let your neighbors help you. He discusses the agenda and notes if we cannot deal with items on the agenda it was because we had higher priorities.

S. Fitzgerald notes his computer is in his office and he is working off of a dispatcher's computer at the Fire Department. He has been busy with supporting emergency services over the past 4 days and will get the Board updated with information for updated budgets. He notes meetings regularly with Emergency Management Staff and notes quite a bit of items to deal with for example, Town Hall and the emergency generator.

J. Sherman notes postpone items regarding budget and discusses tentatively scheduling a meeting for Wednesday night. He discusses no Planning Board meeting and notes postponement of meeting Wednesday night is dependent of other factors. He inquires if there are any other items that are needed to be done tonight. He also notes that one thing that is needed to get on the record is the following: At one point this weekend, Sunday afternoon there were 3 Selectmen here monitoring the situation, not official meeting, no decisions made, had discussion of status of things coming up in the future, but mostly to get update on where we stood for the storm. He notes Larry, Dan and he were here on Sunday around 2 or 3 pm and that Bob was also here but not at same time as them.

R. Gray notes he was here on Friday night, came down on Saturday morning, attended a meeting where they discussed moving elderly people and going door to door. He notes Carli was right in there wanting to get on the fire truck to go door to door and he notes Jon Lovett has really stepped up to the plate. He discussed that when we do have time we will review what took place here and adjust accordingly what needs to be improved upon and that it is a well oiled operation thanks to employees in the Town.

J. Sherman notes no adjustment needed to employees, remarkable job, we just need to give them better systems and support.

S. Fitzgerald notes there will be a meeting early morning regarding getting power on and he notes that he wants to see holiday lights and cheer.

J. Sherman extends to all to be optimistic as you can there is a lot of people working hard. Take care of friends, family and neighbors. He inquires if the Board wants to review Non Public Minutes.

Motion by L. Gil to go into Non Public to review the prior Non Public Minutes under RSA 91A:3, II (a) and (c) Reputation and Compensation.

2nd by D. Poliquin.

All selectmen polled:

J. Sherman = yes

D. Poliquin = yes

L. Gil = yes

R. Gray = yes

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

No discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Nothing to report this evening.

SIGNATURE FOLDER:

No discussion.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS:

No discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Audrey Michaud