

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

**PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**DATE:** March 24, 2008

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:35 pm

**PRESENT:**

**Vice-Chairman,** Lawrence Gil  
**Selectman,** John Sherman  
**Selectman,** Robert Gray  
**Town Manager,** Jason Hoch

**NEW K-9 DOG INTRODUCTION:**

Officer Porter introduced the new police dog, who is going through the academy currently. Stryker will be retired and Officer Porter's wife will take care of her new pet. The new dog's name is Cracken he is 2 ½ years old. His police academy graduation will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> and the NH State Police will be holding it. He will also have an 8-week narcotics course beginning in September.

Some examples of what a police dog can do, and what Stryker has done in his career: he has sniffed out money tainted by drugs, he found an intoxicated minor asleep in the swamp in below freezing conditions, he has also helped other towns in the area like Newton, Kingston, East Kingston, and Exeter, and has also assisted the NH State Police, the DEA and FBI.

Officer Porter also explained that there is an appropriate proto call for approaching a Police Dog, as there is for approaching any unfamiliar dog and that is to always ask the handler first.

L. Gil asked about how the retiring of Stryker will take place, does his training change? And how is he transitioned?

Officer Porter explained that his basic obedience will always stay but they will no longer put him in situations where he will need to be aggressive to suspects, he will not have to apprehend anybody and he will not go after anyone unless he is put into the position.

L. Gil asked how the sheltering is for both the dogs?

Officer Porter said that right now with the weather the way it is they both come into the house, however once it is nice outside, Cracken will be in a Kennel, but Stryker now the Porter's house pet will be aloud in doors.

R. Gray asked if Cracken would be ready for a demonstration for "Old Home Days"

Officer Porter said that he will be ready.

Officer Porter, and the dogs left at 6:50

**MINUTES:**

- L Gil made a motion to approve the motion, R. Gray seconded the motion, vote: 3-0-0, however the members had some minor changes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No members of the public wish to speak.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

J. Hoch received a letter from Wal-Mart regarding their protocol for testing stress on roofs during snow.

He received a flyer from Antioch New England Institute about the NH Selectperson Institute. The registration is underway for a program beginning April 19<sup>th</sup>, and if any selectmen are interested let J. Hoch know right away.

They received the first Cable Franchise fee payment of the year for \$23,523.86 the last payment they made was in August, and it was \$23,612.57.

J. Hoch has filed paperwork with DES for the wetlands permit for Garden Road Bridge.

There was a request to extend the time for service in Town Versus Silva case.

Merilyn Senter has confirmed that she is still willing to serve as the Town's representative to RPC, SPWTAC, and Route 125 Task Force.

J. Hoch sent a letter to the NH Rail Transit Authority explaining the current situation regarding the rails and advising them that Tim Moore would be the conduit of information from the Town to the Authority.

A staff member from Representative Carol She Porter's office will be available for constituents on March 26<sup>th</sup> between 11:15 and 12:15 in the Great Hall.

Bill Scully has sent the annual concurrence with Emergency Management Plan for signature. The staff is reviewing the resource list as it occurs annually.

J. Hoch gave a schedule for Town Manager recruitment to the Board members. Gary Jacques has passed along information: he has currently received 18 resumes, and 1 withdrawal, leaving a total of 17 active applicants. 15 are from New England states, 5 from New Hampshire, 6 from Massachusetts, 2 from Maine, and 1 from Connecticut. Three applications are from outside of New England, 1 from Florida, 1 from Illinois, and 1 from Arizona.

J. Hoch gave a page to the Board members providing some background data on costs for the Town Manager search and potential sources to pay for the cost. He suggested that there are several options that can be considered for covering the costs that include some revenues that are likely going to them this year, and some places where they have avoided some cost. Also looking at the Rite Aid development and to keep an eye on solid waste budget, they can pick up a savings where they are spending less than what is budgeted for. He is also suggesting waiving his own cost of living adjustment that would be effective April 1<sup>st</sup>.

R. Gray asked if J. Hoch has a conversation with the department heads to make sure they are aware that they will need to absorb higher gas cost in their budgets?

J. Hoch said that all the department heads are aware and have tried to do so. He also said that as part of the state they operate at a lesser gas price than the average consumer because they do not pay gas tax.

L. Gil asked if the State still has garages where they can save money by filling up there?

J. Hoch said that there are but none that are close enough to make the savings worth it.

J. Hoch's contract calls for 60 days notice of separation. When he provided the notice on January 21<sup>st</sup> it was accompanied by the offer that he would remain available until a new manager had been in place. He suggests continuing in the same manner as now through the second week of May. Which by then the assessment center will be completed and the board will have a better sense of availability and timetable of the preferred candidate. The cost sheet that he provided also shows that they move to a schedule of 8 weeks of 30 hours per week, assuming the new Manager starts on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

J. Hoch also made a document for the board to serve as a reminder about a few items that should still be remembered.

He put a memo from Chief Savage regarding a donation of a 2000 Chevy Blazer to replace the 1996 Ford Explorer assigned to the SRO. The Explorer was taken out of service to do the need of costly repairs. When the Chief comes in next week, they can handle the acceptance and any questions they might have.

J. Hoch emailed Lee Malony from CART and explained that there was not an interest in revisiting the contribution for 2007. She is putting together some 1<sup>st</sup> quarter numbers and will be in touch to come to a future meeting.

Carli advised J. Hoch that Vic Geary has already taken care of the issue regarding the tax stimulus paperwork. He is assisting people with the paperwork and all the materials are available at the center.

J. Sherman explained that there is a tax stimulus package, however unless you filed the previous year they do not send it to you, it is available at the Vic Geary Center, they have all the information and paperwork, and if you still can not get a good answer or help, then get in contact with a board member.

J. Hoch said there is MS 2 in the board members signature folder, it is to be filed with the DRA

He has a copy of 2006 and 2007 budgets and actuals and 2008 budgets (with line item detail) available. J. Sherman asked if they could get the documents on the website? J. Hoch will work on getting the documents on the website.

All submissions to the DRA that need to occur after Town Meeting are being put together and J. Hoch will deliver them next week.

J. Hoch has received 3 proposals for updating parcels and tax maps. He will be reviewing them and will have a recommendation on Monday.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

L. Gil spoke to Tim Moore regarding integration; his concern is there a committee to make sure there is a smooth transition with the change?

J. Hoch said that their intension is to have the plan running and in action, using it by May or June

L. Gil asked if J. Hoch has heard of any issues with the program so far?

J. Hoch said that there is some anxiety on how it will be working.

L. Gil explained that his concern is that there could be some issues and then they will not have J. Hoch there to fall back on.

J. Hoch explained that that is why they are trying to get it up and running now while he is still here. He also said that for a number of years there have not been any buildings updated.

J. Sherman asked when would they be able to see a demonstration of the program?

J. Hoch said that he could give them a web address on where the site is working in about a month. He also explained that the reason it is taking so long is because he is bringing data together that has never been linked or merged, they need to work on cleaning up the information before they get it out publicly.

L. Gil asked if there are any other communities in the area that has a program this integrated?

J. Hoch, said that the consultant has a lot of New England experience.

R. Gray asked for clarification that if J. Hoch gives the Board the Beta Site to look at, is there any way they can change any of the information?

J. Hoch said that it is just a snap shot of the general data and cannot be changed.

J. Sherman said that April 14<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> is spring clean up week.

J. Sherman also asked J. Hoch about them receiving questions about assessments last year?

J. Hoch said that he would look at the break downs of the properties though 06-07 most of the property rates were at 95% but commercial and industrial condos were at 76%, the board decided to increase the value they were assessed at. There were 70-75 notices of change.

L. Gil told the board about 2 notices he received regarding Eagle Scout Ceremonies.

## **SELECTMEN'S REPORTS**

L. Gil: the Conservation Committee would like to have a table at Old Home Days. The Town Forest is interested in lot consolidation. The number of parcels in the forest they would rather consolidate than have a surveyor come out. They also talked about the Rite Aid construction and the drainage structure; eventually they will have direct drainage to the wetlands.

J. Sherman: The Budget Committee meeting is tomorrow 3/25/08. He attended the tour on Old County Road of the new building; eventually it will be open for the public. Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> will be opening day at the Recreation field. The Recreation Committee is holding a Raffle for Red Sox tickets, if you are interested call the Rec. Department. The Rec. Department is also hosting a bund of fundraisers, and if you are interested in volunteering, then become a member of the friends of recreation. The egg hunt brought a good crowd about 300 people showed up, there were 8,000 eggs hidden and it was a great turn out with great participation.

R. Gray: Thursday he went on the tour with Carli through the new building. He met with J. Hoch for town issues. The Planning Board meeting they had a preliminary discussion about locating a landscaping business; currently it is an Auto Body business. They also discussed the commercial property Casey's Diner; the issues they discussed were 1. Drainage, they are coming up with a system to have the drainage go under the parking lot it looks great. And 2. The traffic flow, they ran some numbers of traffic during peak hours. One idea to take care of the traffic flow issue is to make 2 left turning lanes. R. Gray asked if the board had any thoughts on the issue?

L. Gil said that the meeting he attended suggested widening the road to accommodate the people who would have to take a right hand turn.

J. Sherman wants a solution forcing people to have to go toward Rout 125 rather than the center of town. Which would be to go along with the idea of making 2 left turning lanes.

L. Gil has a concern with vandalism on the recreation field. He would like to ask the Recreation department to price security equipment.

J. Sherman asked if he can wait a week, because he believes that Carli has already priced some security devices.

R. Gray agrees that they should be proactive with security, however he does not believe that there is a system that can restrict people on the fields when they are not aloud to be.

L. Gil suggested security cameras, however does not know if it will be cost efficient.

- L. Gil made a motion to go into nonpublic under 91-A:3 II (b), R. Gray seconded the motion. Vote: L. Gil in favor, J. Sherman in favor, and R. Gray in favor- 3-0-0
- R. Gray made a motion to come out of nonpublic, L. Gil seconded the motion, J. Sherman said to seal the minutes for 60 days, vote: L. Gil in favor, J. Sherman in favor, R. Gray in favor- 3-0-0

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 pm**

*Respectfully Submitted*  
*Christine Metcalf*

