

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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DRAFT MINUTES

DATE: March 10, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: 6:34 pm

PRESENT:

Charwoman, Michele Curran

Vice-Chairman, Lawrence Gil

Selectman, Charles Blinn

Selectman, Dan Poliquin

Selectman, John Sherman

Town Manager, Jason Hoch

Member of the public, Tim Moore

President of the greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, James Jajuga

MINUTES:

- J. Sherman made a motion to approve the minutes from March 3^d, 2008.
D. Poliquin seconded the motion.
Vote: passed, 3-0-2

- J. Sherman made a motion to approve the minutes from February 12th, 2008.
D. Poliquin seconded the motion.
Vote: passed, 4-0-1

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No members of the public wish to speak at the moment.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

J. Hoch introduced the minute taker Christine Metcalf.

J. Hoch passed around a flyer from Primex, the workers compensation company about meeting their new Chief Executive Officer.

J. Hoch received a letter from Family Mediation, looking for an annual appointment of representative.

- There was a motion by J. Sherman to reappoint D. Poliquin and Barbara Tavitan.
L. Gil seconded the motion.
Vote: 4-0-1

J. Hoch showed the board the Annual Report from Merrimack Valley Planning Commission.

J. Hoch discussed the job posting on ICMA website, NHMA, VT League of Cities and Towns, Maine Municipal Assn, and Mass. Municipal Association. There is also an ad in NH Sunday News,

J. Hoch discussed the new part-time maintenance employee for the library; Matt Sadewicz started this past week.

J. Hoch discussed a press release from the Police Department about an arrest of alleged bank robber. K9 Stryker will be used by the department until this fall when the new dog becomes fully certified. The department would like to have a brief ceremony with the Board at that time, to officially retire him. Chief Savage recommended to J. Hoch a conditional offer of employment to Kristian Hanley to fill Officer Naismith's vacant position. The start date is expected in early April, at that time he will begin the next session of the academy. Chief Savage and J. Hoch discussed introducing the new police dog at Board of Selectmen meeting on March 24th.

J. Hoch sent an email follow up with Steven Ireland at the DOT regarding the intersection at Old Danville Rd, and Rt. 121, Steve forwarded his message to the Bureau of Traffic, and J. Hoch followed up with a formal letter. He got a response from Bill Lambert, Bureau of Traffic, saying that he will get back to it in a week or two.

The warrant article/ budget review is being aired on cable now.

J. Hoch discussed the updated procedure for cemetery payments in anticipation of rate change on April 1st; he said that there has been a small flurry of people to buy plots.

J. Hoch discussed the Abraham Lincoln program at the Civil War Celebration in September; the grant paperwork has been filed with the NH Humanities Council to support it.

Town reports have come in, with all the pieces put together they came in under budget. They will be available tomorrow, at the Town Hall, library, and safety complex.

Voting portion of town meeting is tomorrow at 8 am till 8 pm, once votes are counted, they will be passed on to J. Hoch and he will have them on the website tomorrow night.

J. Hoch discussed the findings of the MBTA possibly being interested in a spot near Haverhill; these findings came to them via the newspaper. He handed the conversation to L. Gil to lead.

L. Gil had brought it up with a planning board, to establish train service here. Here was surprised about the article because he had not heard much of an interest from the Massachusetts end. He had sent an email to the Senator Baddour, and got a response asking for something in writing. The article discussed stations north of the border as well as lay over stations north of the boarder. L. Gil is not looking to take on Bradford's problems however is interested in looking into the benefits, and possibly entering into some negotiations with MBTA. He has received only one email of opposition, and he still warrants the town to look into it.

M. Curran invited Former Senator James Jajuga to talk.

J. Jajuga is currently the President of the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, which includes Plaistow, seven other NH communities and five other MA communities. He discussed that he arrived at the chamber in August, and he looked at some of the burning issues, one being rail stops. Jajuga believes a rail stop in Plaistow is a great idea. He reviewed the idea with Senator Baddour, they both agree that rail services is a need in Plaistow. MBTA is looking it over. Jajuga suggested to the board that they meet with him, Senator Baddour and MBTA. They are willing to meet in Haverhill, to start the dialog.

Questions from L. Gil:

Gil, questioned the fact that the awareness of the MBTA wanting to move North of the boarder came out of the blue?

Jajuga, responded that there is a transportation bond bill and it is a crucial time to use it the bill is in the committee right now.

Gil, asked about the Pentucket situation does the state legislature have to agree to MBTA coming North and or South, have they done it?

Jajuga, said he can not answer that question he has not discussed it with Senator Baddour. He also explained that he is close to Senator Baddour and if this is something that Plaistow wants, and will be good for the community they will work together, with Plaistow.

Questions from J. Sherman:

Sherman, asked, what does a lay over involve?

Jajuga, explained that the Down Easter stops down town, and several trains stop in Bradford, the lay over is when the train pulls over to the side. He also explained that the Bradford location was the wrong site for the lay over.

Sherman, asked, after accomplishing the rails in Newburyport, what did you find as the biggest roadblock?

Jajuga, answered that the biggest roadblock was the money. He said that it was well worth the cost for the 11 miles of rail in Newburyport because it was a tremendous economic boom.

Sherman, asked if there were any kinds of studies, such as economic studies for Newburyport done before hand?

Jajuga, said that there was an economic study done, he said it is probably kept at the Chamber of Commerce, they found that the percentage increase would be dramatic.

Sherman, asked if the board could have them to review?

Jajuga, is going to try to get them to the board.

Tim Moore came up to speak; he was chosen to represent Rockingham County on a 30-member committee for the Down Easter. He explained to the board that; they have money in their funds that is to be spent if there is a long-term agreement for the rails. The money has been renewed twice. Now that Down Easter Services have been established they have been very successful. If the town of Plaistow cannot get MBTA to negotiate the Down Easter is another option, although it does make more sense for the MBTA to stop in Plaistow, it is just an idea if they do not corporate. He suggested sending a letter to The Down Easter Services and mention the meeting with J. Jajuga and to ask for their input. He also explained that long-term station maintenance is very expensive. Exeter, Dover and Durham, all have rail service with the Down Easter. All three cities

built their own stations, and they pay to maintain them. The routine maintenance is expensive and the rail liability insurance is very expensive also, he said roughly \$40,000.00/year however, that is a real rough estimate. They are looking for ways to alleviate some of the burden on the cities; Moore suggested that a statewide deal might be something to be look at.

Questions:

J. Sherman asked if there are any impact fees?

Moore, explained that many towns look for zone increases, however this case it may be difficult.

J. Hoch discussed the zone increase, and that it may be difficult, they may be better off with a tax increment finance.

L. Gil, asked if Moore is the person that they can go to ask questions about how to get things started, or questions about information on the rail?

Moore, said yes and that they are a true state Authority not just a committee.

- J. Sherman made a motion for J. Hoch to write a letter to Senator Baddour.

L. Gil seconded the motion.

Discussion: M. Curran, said that it is a good idea and a step in the right direction. Gil said that we should meet Senator Baddour, there are a lot of issues here and we don't want to take on Bradford's problems. It is incumbent for us to look into it. Sherman agreed, and said that we need to explore and look into it.

Vote: 5-0-0

J. Jajuga offered to meet in Haverhill, as a middle point. Hoch was going to work to coordinate a time for the meeting. Curran said that after the meeting, they can bring it back to the board, and they will hold a public meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Sherman asked Hoch to update the calendar.

D. Poliquin also had a calendar update; family mediation is actually the 3d Wednesday of the month not the second.

Curran and Hoch discussed breaking grounds and paper sub division that have never came to deeds.

Curran also asked about a follow up meeting with Old County Road?

Hoch said that there is a reschedule.

Sherman, said the Regional Selectman Meeting is next Thursday in Hampsted.

Poliquin discussed police details. He believes that the police department should be there for the general safety of the public, he has found that they are usually there speaking with the company. He believes that we they have detail work they should be for the safety of the public

Hoch suggested, when they have the Police Department in to speak with the Board they will add the concern to the list.

REPORTS:

Sherman: Budget presentation is now on cable; he hopes that they presented worthwhile information. Last Saturday little league softball and baseball tryouts, there were over 100 kids, he said that it was great to see such a turn out. Also the Recreation Commission has a new program for people who want to participate, but can't. It is called "Friends of Recreation" it is for fundraising.

C. Blinn, had no report.

L. Gil, discussed the planning commission discussion on Rite Aid site, the next meeting is on the 19th. Also there is a proposal for the under ground water treatment, but he needs to know more about it. He also discussed the Highway Department, and the recreation fields.

D. Poliquin, had no report.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 8pm