



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES:

DATE: Monday, March 9, 2009

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:39 pm

SELECTMEN PRESENT:

Chairman, John Sherman
Vice Chairman, Daniel Poliquin – arrived 7:46 pm
Selectman, Charles Blinn – arrived 6:56 pm
Selectman, Lawrence Gil
Selectman, Robert Gray
Sean Fitzgerald – Town Manager

J. Sherman asks for a moment of silence for the passing of Norm Bouchard's wife. Norm is on both the Cable Committee and the Budget Committee.

MINUTES:

Motion by R. Gray to approve Minutes of Monday, March 2, 2009 as written.

2nd by L. Gil.

Vote 2-0-1.

Abstain L. Gil.

Motion passes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one from the public wishing to comment.

AGENDA:

Vote Authorizing the Issuance of Tax Anticipation Notice (TAN)

S. Fitzgerald discusses revenues and expenditures which are on a spreadsheet that he has presented to the Board. He discusses that it looks as though we may need a TAN, however he is going to do everything he can to try and avoid such. He discusses the technical issues and the projected revenues from May of 2008 and May of 2009 noting the variances. He notes we are not receiving the same revenue as we have in the past; discusses having enough money on hand for present; avoiding the issuance of a TAN; challenges and requirements; his request tonight to receive an approval from the Board noting this would be the best way to avoid any financial problems and he discusses his Cash Flow chart which he has presented to the Board.

J. Sherman questions the high expenditure in February if they were for paying off the TAN and what are Sean's strategies to avoid a TAN.

S. Fitzgerald discusses the weekly Staff meetings and the challenges we are facing as a Town, noting each department has helped by making better decisions regarding the budget and expenditures. He discusses Timberlane School District bill; looking at our weekly warrant; putting bills together; looking at the payment cycle; flexibility regarding flexing a couple of days in payment; obligations; taxes; payroll and contracts. He notes he is confident in the Town Staff.

J. Sherman and S. Fitzgerald hold a discussion on the school payment figures.

J. Sherman asks Sean to find out why it fluctuates.

R. Gray inquires as to where the anticipated expenditures for March thru May 2009 come from.

S. Fitzgerald notes the summary is from an itemization of contracts the Town has noting, he sat with the Finance Director to get this information.

R. Gray inquires as to what is being done to fix the problem so we do not have this in the future.

S. Fitzgerald notes we've had some of those discussions during the budget and proceeds to discuss the amount of money the Town has to manage and stabilize the cash flow; one time expenditures and dipping into it; revenues and interest, noting this is not a bad thing, just something we need to be cognitive of in the future. He discusses tightening up expenditures and the budget to help ensure the end of year finances.

R. Gray holds a discussion with S. Fitzgerald of unused fund balances.

S. Fitzgerald discusses bills and services. He uses the example of a Police Officer at Wal-Mart and sending the bill out a little earlier.

R. Gray inquires if our cash flow would be eased if we went to quarterly instead of an annual billing cycle. He also inquires if it is legal to do such.

J. Sherman discusses the idea of sending out tax bills quarterly, noting he is not suggesting this as a strategy, but merely using it as an example. He notes he is not advocating this, he is just saying it to help people understand. He discusses not getting revenue early enough, and questions what kind of borrowing power we have as a Town and what kind of rating.

S. Fitzgerald discusses that he has spoken to Bond Counsel regarding this last week and notes that the Town does not have a rating. He notes he is not looking for a long term loan just something short term and that we may be down a couple of points and that rates are more favorable today than 6 months ago.

R. Gray notes he is not advocating, he is just asking the question that if we were collecting taxes on different months would it make a difference.

J. Sherman notes yes, however he doesn't think we can do this.

R. Gray questions if the Town changed the fiscal calendar year what would happen, how would that effect the cash flow, and would that make a difference.

J. Sherman notes it would differ if you had a 6 month year, however you would have to transition into it and eventually you would still have the same issue.

S. Fitzgerald notes with a structural problem like this he doesn't think we would be able to make up the difference and biannual would still haunt the Town. He notes he will report back to the Board and get a chart to the Board which would be helpful to show the trends.

Motion by R. Gray "the Board of Selectmen, votes to grant authority to the Town Manager for the authorization of the issuance of a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) for the Fiscal Year of 2009".

R. Gray asks if the motion should allow the Town Manager to apply for the TAN for the entire fiscal year 2009 and not just for the first billing.

S. Fitzgerald's response was that he's asking for that motion so he doesn't have to come back to the board in six months to go out for another TAN.

2nd by L. Gil.

Vote 4-0-0.

Motion passes.

Update of Garden Road/Stimulus Project

S. Fitzgerald discusses his meeting with Tim Moore and Marilyn Senter; the red listed bridge; raised and appropriated funds; construction cost and state funding and the Town's local match. He notes these plans are nearly "shovel ready" and the project is moving forward. He discusses his letter to Cliff Sinnott, Executive Director of Rockingham Planning Commission, and notes he has not heard a reply yet but is anticipating one.

J. Sherman thanks Tim Moore and Marilyn Senter for bringing this to their attention that it was not on the list of the economic stimulus funding packet. He notes this bridge is a safety issue. He asks Sean to get a copy of the letter and attachments that he has presented to the Board over to Norm Major.

S. Fitzgerald notes he will do such however he did speak with him on Saturday regarding this.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

S. Fitzgerald discusses the update and follow up meeting with Representative Norm Major on Thursday to review the proposal by Governor Lynch to close the Plaistow Court House. He

notes that Selectman, Dan Poliquin, and Deputy Chief Kathy Jones also attended this meeting. He provided the Board with notes to review and discusses his meeting and key discussion points.

J. Sherman discusses an email that he received from Sean O'Neil in Danville. He noted that at the last Regional Selectmen's meeting in Danville, Dan Poliquin had committed that Plaistow would have the next meeting here and suggests to schedule a night for the Regional Selectmen's meeting. He notes that at this meeting they can bring this item up and have a formal draft letter that the selectmen from other towns could use to just plug their information in and send it out themselves.

L. Gil suggests providing them with as much information as possible. Give them something that they can just plug numbers into. He notes this would strengthen their position and suggests engaging the other area State Reps and Senators with the same information.

S. Fitzgerald discusses on March 16th they will have a number of representatives from Unitil at the BOS meeting and also discusses today's meeting he had with Unitil regarding their response to the December ice storm.

J. Sherman inquires as to what the presentation will be for the March 16th meeting.

S. Fitzgerald notes they will be here to listen to the folks in Town and notes they have been to other surrounding communities already. They will discuss communication issues and clarity.

J. Sherman suggests having a copy of their presentation before the meeting, noting even if they are not having a presentation then he would like to know that information as well. He would like the mechanics of the meeting to be ironed out beforehand and if there is a format or an open discussion he would like to know that too.

S. Fitzgerald discusses that they will be here to report on what their deficiencies and failures were during the storm; lessons learned and what their efforts are and then open it up for comments and communication.

J. Sherman suggests having an opening statement by Unitil then opening the meeting up to the public for statements.

S. Fitzgerald discusses his attachment of the EPA's MS4 Storm Water Management letter that he has given to the Board for review.

Board holds a discussion regarding the MS4 Storm Water Management.

S. Fitzgerald and Board discuss spring cleaning and brush clean up noting they will hold a discussion on this at next week's meeting. He discusses the Beede site and the EPA and their testing that found an emerging contaminant. He also discusses that the EPA is working on this issue and has asked the Town to pass on any concerns to the EPA and DEP. He notes efforts are ramped up, discusses remediation of that site, public hearings with BOS and the consent decree regarding remediation.

J. Sherman discusses getting information out to the public, noting that there are no secrets regarding Beede. The Town is working with DES and EPA. He notes people will be at the site and they will be giving information out to the public and the Board of Selectmen will keep the public updated also.

S. Fitzgerald discusses that the Health Officer, Dennise Horrocks, is working diligently with the public regarding this site. He discusses the follow up meeting with Tim Moore and Marilyn Senter to review the list of projects currently being reviewed by Conservation and Planning Board. He discusses the aquifer protection district ordinance; GPS identification for all drainage; water and river stream sampling; Old Home Day being a good day to get PR out; and temporary or permanent Town Forrest regulations. He notes he just wanted to bring this information to the BOS to further engage in conversations regarding the list. He discusses master plan updates; population and housing underway; build out analysis; more frequent communication with BOS; April/May/June time frame to check to see if any new direction/regulation would require zoning change; Wal-Mart; Main Street traffic; village center development and a paperless Planning Board. He discusses Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter's meeting on Saturday, March 7 that was held at Town Hall noting there were 65 attendees between staff and folks and the discussions held: realities of the economy and the American Recovery Act. He notes he has attached a copy for the Board to review. He discusses the Town Hall Generator, noting he is still awaiting the report that Scott Nickerson was working on and as soon as he receives it he will bring it to the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. Sherman notes tomorrow is voting day: Tuesday, March 10 from 7am-8pm at Pollard School on Main Street and hopes all come out to vote. He discusses two flyers from Wal-Mart's Community Relations Department noting he is not advocating for the people to vote yes on Article 30. He notes this is a sensitive subject here in Town. However, if people are opposed then of course they would want to come out and vote no on Article P-09-30. Wal-Mart is tying their development into the Warrant Article and pushing very hard for it. He has received letters from people to come out against this article and notes that his position as a Selectman is that they should really remain neutral on this issue because if it comes before the Board and it went to court then it could not be argued that they were neutral.

C. Blinn discusses the wording of the Article noting it is only listed as property being changed and no where does it list Wal-Mart.

R. Gray acknowledges that he has been receiving emails and phones calls regarding Wal-Mart.

S. Fitzgerald notes that Counsel has shaped the wording and that five attorneys have reviewed it.

Board holds discussion regarding Wal-Mart.

J. Sherman and D. Poliquin discuss the Regional Selectmen meeting being held in Plaistow.

D. Poliquin notes he did mention it to Sean and that it should be posted for them to list their concerns.

Board holds discussion regarding date for Regional Selectmen meeting.

J. Sherman notes Thursday night is the typical night, however some people prefer Wednesday. He suggests Thursday, April 2 at 7pm.

S. Fitzgerald suggests waiting until next week and then draft an agenda.

J. Sherman notes towns are in the midst of voting so selectmen names may change. He also suggests having refreshments such as cookies and punch. He notes he will get a preliminary out for Sean to review. He discusses a letter found in the FYI folder noting it has information regarding the 2010 National Census and reads the letter.

SIGNATURE FOLDER:

J. Sherman notes there are items requiring signatures of Selectmen.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS:

L. Gil discusses that the Conservation Commission met last week and discussed the purchase of elm trees, from a location in Keene, NH called Liberty Elm. He notes that they are looking to work with Carli and Rec Commission to see how many trees they can do right now because the pricing has come down substantially due to economy. He discusses Fairway Oaks noting folks are looking to do development off of Hilldale and he gave a heads up to Jill prior to the meeting. He discusses that they don't have a recollection of a discussion regarding the filling of wet lands however they may have possibly discussed culverts.

S. Fitzgerald suggests putting it on next week's agenda for discussion (Snow's Brook).

C. Blinn discusses that he was with Larry.

J. Sherman notes there is a Rec Commission meeting this Wednesday at Town Hall. He discusses the budget presentation with Sean and showing it on the cable channel, noting this is just a point view, he is not advocating but presenting and hopes this helps people when they are voting. He notes the Budget Committee Organizational meeting is Tuesday, March 17.

D. Poliquin discusses the court house meeting with Sean, Deputy Chief Kathy Jones and Representative Norm Major noting they have contacted a couple of local business groups and are waiting to hear back from them. He notes he has contacted Family Mediation and has been to the court house. He discusses sending letters to Budget Director and Administrator for Courts and whoever else will hear us out. He notes that this matter is time sensitive. He discusses that there are a couple of meetings that are coming up and he plans to attend them: Public Safety Complex Committee meeting and the Highway Safety Committee meeting.

R. Gray discusses Planning Board meeting was canceled; public duties include being at the polls tomorrow night and Thursday there is a meeting here with Sean and the EPA regarding Beede and discusses the letter.

J. Sherman and R. Gray hold a discussion on liens, meeting, negotiations, fact finding and information being presented to the Board, noting it is not a negotiation

J. Sherman notes he would like to remind members to be at the polls by 8 to make sure ballots are sealed properly. He discusses letter he received from the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce which is an invitation to attend the grand reopening of Primo Pasta on Tuesday, March 24 and the ribbon cutting which is at 5 pm. He thanks Larry Gil for being a Selectman noting he really appreciates him serving the Town. He notes Larry has attributes that are essential in a Selectman. Larry's only care is what is best for the Town and getting to a solution that is best for the Town. He extends his sincere thanks to Larry from both the Board of Selectmen and the citizens of Plaistow.

L. Gil notes he will miss this however it is time for him to step away from the Board and get involved with other things if he can. He notes this Town has meant a great deal to him, it has been a pleasure serving the Town and he has enjoyed being on the Board.

J. Sherman wishes Larry the best.

C. Blinn reminds all that 18 years ago Larry and he got together and decided to make changes in Plaistow, ended up sparing and elected the same year. He notes he is very happy about winning and seeing what happened. He notes Larry has been instrumental as a Selectman, that he is one of his better friends, a great servant to the Town, committed to being a Selectman and will be sadly missed by Buzzy.

S. Fitzgerald notes that he only worked briefly with Larry but has found him to be the best definition as of gentlemen. He notes that he is honored to have Larry's grandson on the cover of the recently published Town Report and that Larry has a passion for the community and he thanks him for all that he has done.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Audrey Michaud