



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES:

DATE: Monday, February 2, 2009

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:33 pm

SELECTMEN PRESENT:

Chairman, John Sherman
Vice Chairman, Daniel Poliquin – arrived 6:38 pm
Selectman, Charles Blinn
Selectman, Lawrence Gil – arrived 6:36 pm
Selectman, Robert Gray
Sean Fitzgerald – Town Manager

MINUTES:

J. Sherman notes the Minutes will be delayed until later on in the evening.

AGENDA:

J. Sherman notes Maryellen Pelletier, Town Clerk is here to select the names at random as to how they will appear on the upcoming ballot.

S. Fitzgerald pulls names randomly and hands to Maryellen who reads names:

Board of Selectmen: Joyce Ingerson, Dan Poliquin, Michelle Curran, Dan Bush
Budget Committee: Ben Sadewicz, Michelle Conte, Catherine Willis, Gail Hamel
Library Trustees Committee: Elizabeth George, Catherine Willis
Planning Board Committee: Neal Morin, Larry Gil

PUBLIC COMMENT: Abandonment of Property

Tom McCarrick of 233 Oakridge Road, Unit 14, and the President of Strawberry Hill Condo Association is here to discuss an end unit owner has abandoned his property and discusses condo dues not being paid and back taxes owed to the Town for 2.5 years. He discusses the property owner's water pipe which has recently broken and the damage that it caused. He notes he is looking toward the Town to see what can be done here. He questions what is the procedure after deeding of the property has been done, does the Town hold on to the unit or do they auction it off? He notes he is looking for some sort of recourse to see what can be done.

J. Sherman notes it is a case by case basis and discusses taking property for back taxes.

R. Gray discusses previous issues that have occurred with other residents noting laws are governed by RSAs and they have to follow state laws. He discusses paying back year taxes.

L. Gil suggests looking into this, to do more research before stating any certainty as to what they can do. He discusses prior single family home properties that have been abandoned in the past and inquires as to the condo documentation and how it appears.

T. McCarrick notes he has forwarded to an attorney who is looking into the wording.

J. Sherman suggests for the Town Manager to get the appropriate parties to handle and look into this matter.

S. Fitzgerald notes he has an 8:30 meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning with the Building Inspector and Health Inspector and will discuss this issue with them and asks for Tom to call him tomorrow morning.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Train Station

David English of Maryann Drive in West Plaistow is here to discuss the train station and layover station that is in the works for Plaistow. He notes he is here to voice his opinion and concerns of this situation and that it is an eye sore in the Bradford part of Haverhill and that it would be a detriment to the Town of Plaistow noting that the trains run 7 days a week 24 hours a day. He discusses idling time and the problems that will come with the trains.

L. Gil discusses the double track and single track lines, the problems with the environmental issues, the lay over station staying in Bradford, noting that no decision has been made and Plaistow is not interested in taking over Bradford's problems.

AGENDA:

Recreation Department – Carli Malette

Suggestions for 2009 Signage Policy

Carli Malette is here to present the draft policy on Signage and Field Usage to the Board and to solicit the Board's opinion.

C. Malette discusses donations for signs along Old County Road fencing noting that she has contacted the LGC in this matter. She discusses sign commitment of three years, approximate cost for the sign noting two different sizes, money handling and donation account being held by the Trustees of the Trust Fund noting that the money is to be used for items that occur such as broken pipes.

J. Sherman notes the account already exists and the money could only be withdrawn by the approval from the Board of Selectmen.

C. Malette discusses revenue and maintaining the property.

L. Gil inquires if she would proceed to have a cap on the money.

C. Malette notes she is not sure if she would see too much money in there. She discusses \$20,000 and the three year plan noting this is only a draft. She discusses capital reserve account, money rolling over into that and coming to the Board to use the money.

R. Gray discusses safety issue and inquires about the type of material for signs.

C. Malette discusses signs being made by an installer.

D. Poliquin inquires as to how many signs will be put out there.

C. Malette notes they have not gone out there and actually measured.

D. Poliquin notes his concern is this becoming a great big sign out there and being unsightly.

C. Malette discusses location of signs being behind the softball and baseball diamonds.

L. Gil inquires as to who has the ultimate control of who can put a sign there.

J. Sherman notes Rec Director and discusses disclaimers.

C. Malette discusses drug free, alcohol free and tobacco free field.

Field Usage

C. Malette notes the fields are there for everyone to use noting there are numerous youth groups wanting to use the field and with usage comes maintenance and she refers to her handout. She discusses the block system, LGC discussions and the scheduling. She notes the money generated will be put towards the General Fund to help offset the revenue for this.

S. Fitzgerald discusses the General Fund Revenue and the Town's cash flow.

MINUTES:

Motion by R. Gray to approve the minutes of Monday, January 26, 2009 as written.

2nd by L. Gil.

Vote 4-0-1.

Abstain by C. Blinn.

Motion passes.

Motion by R. Gray to approve Non Public Minutes of Monday, January 26, 2009 as written.

2nd by D. Poliquin.

Vote 4-0-1.

Abstain by C. Blinn.

Motion passes.

Donation Policy:

Body repeater – Plaistow Police - \$1,884.20

Annual Report from Firemen's Association - \$8,794.76

Review of Town of Plaistow Donation Policy

S. Fitzgerald discusses donations from Plaistow Police and Fire Department noting the January 8th letter from the Police Department and one from the Fire Department. He notes he has reviewed the Donation Policy noting the Town Manager can accept donations under \$5,000 which he has discussed with both Chiefs. He discusses the Police Association's donation for a body wire repeater for special investigations for \$1,884.20 and recommends to the Board to accept this as a donation and notes that it has been properly brought to the Board. He discusses the itemization from the Fire Department in the total of \$8,794.76. He notes these are significant donations from fund raising to help sustain both departments. He notes under the policy it is required to be provided to both the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen and he is recommending both to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

Motion by D. Poliquin to accept from the Plaistow Police Association for purchase of a body wire repeater and the value of the equipment is \$1,884.20.

2nd by R. Gray.

Vote 5-0-0.

Motion passes.

Motion by R. Gray to accept the report from the Fireman's Association for multiple (15) items listed on the memo from Chief McArdle dated January 8, 2009 for the amount of \$8,794.76.

2nd by D. Poliquin.

Vote 5-0-0.

Motion passes.

Review of Deliberative Session

S. Fitzgerald updates the Board regarding the increase to the bottom line of the 2009 Budget by \$30,000 noting it is for an additional \$15,000 for the snowplowing line for the Highway Department and \$15,000 for salt and sand line item. He notes the old bottom line total was \$7,352,500 and the new bottom line total is \$7,382,500.

Motion by L. Gil to accept.

2nd by C. Blinn.

R. Gray inquires as to why they are doing this.

J. Sherman notes that at Deliberative Session we can only add the money to the bottom line, we just want to confirm that we are going to adjust the two lines that we discussed at the Deliberative Session and then adjust the bottom line. He discusses the Hampstead plowing budget in the amount of \$192,000 as compared to ours. He notes that perhaps they have fewer Town owned trucks and personnel and they may contract out more of the plowing.

C. Blinn inquires if there is more mileage or roads.

J. Sherman notes it is about the same size and was surprised at the large difference. He notes the only thing he could come up with was that it was contracted out.

Vote 5-0-0.

Motion passes.

J. Sherman notes the Deliberative Session took 4 hours but we ended up in a good place, it went well and he discusses the large body of people that were in attendance.

Discussion of Weekend Use of Town Hall

S. Fitzgerald presents to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration and to get their thoughts if this is acceptable to use Town Hall on a Saturday for the use of a formal public official looking to talk to constituents. The request is from Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter who wants to host a meet and greet on Saturday, March 7, 2009 from 12 – 2:30 noting she will be in attendance.

R. Gray notes we would have to pay to open Town Hall.

S. Fitzgerald notes he would show up also and there would be nominal costs to open Town Hall such as heating and lights. He discusses use of building for opportunities to connect public with elected officials, that this is within our operating budget and we would not see a major impact.

J. Sherman inquires if this is only open to Plaistow residents.

S. Fitzgerald notes it probably would be listed on their web page and it is open to the public in the surrounding communities.

J. Sherman notes he is in favor for it.

Consensus of the Board is that it is fine and Sean can organize this and report back to the Board. Permission is for this occasion only and if this comes up again they will decide as each case comes up.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Cable Franchise Renewal with Comcast

S. Fitzgerald discusses the memo in the FYI folder from Attorney Katherine Miller. He notes he has tentatively set up a meeting to go over the Comcast contract to move negotiations forward. He notes there are a number of steps to take before going forward such as the review with Bob Carolan regarding the needs for cable operation and the 5-10 year plan to sustain local access.

2009 Water Bill Warrant

S. Fitzgerald discusses the Annual 2009 Water Bill Warrant which is in the Selectmen's Signature folder. He notes he has a copy of the 2008 Warrant and he will send out to the Board by PDF. He notes the 2009 Water Bill is based on 11 cents per square foot of protected property. He discusses space being perfected, noting this is not on the entire property and discusses his conversation with the Tax Collector and the Fire Chief.

Additional meeting on Town Hall generator

S. Fitzgerald discusses level of effort and scope of coordination and the additional assistance looking for an electrical engineer, noting they put it on the Town's web page and

Scott Nickerson of 27 Partridge Lane came forward to help. He discusses the electrical needs, Inspector Dorman and Fire Chief McArdle working with Mr. Nickerson and the proposal coming for review by the Board.

Upgrade of Police Pistol

S. Fitzgerald discusses the memo from Chief Savage regarding the upgrade of the Police Pistols.

J. Sherman inquires if this should be Non Public. He and Sean hold discussion.

S. Fitzgerald discusses standard issued pistols which is standard equipment noting essentially we have an opportunity to trade up the equipment with the firm that supplies the pistol at no cost to the Town which seems like a real advantage to the department and he recommends that the Board authorize this trade up of equipment. He discusses the grey area of the Town purchased equipment.

R. Gray notes the trade up is a good value to the Town but inquires about training for the new equipment.

S. Fitzgerald notes you probably need training and the department has standard training operating procedures. He discusses reliability and life cycle of the model/

J. Sherman inquires if there is a warranty.

S. Fitzgerald notes he is not sure but can investigate and get back to the Board.

J. Sherman inquires about time restriction.

S. Fitzgerald notes the Chief has mentioned soon.

Consensus of the Board is to have the Town Manager work with the Chief in this matter.

Motion by R. Gray to authorize the town Manager to work with the Police Chief to surplus the older weapon, Smith and Wesson .40 caliber semi-automatic to the newer weapon, MP-40.

2nd by D. Poliquin.

Vote 5-0-0.

Motion passes.

OTHER BUSINESS:

D. Poliquin discusses the open positions of Town positions and discusses having a certificate of appreciation sent to Jan Penta, Chairperson of the Budget Committee, due to her resigning.

J. Sherman suggests for Sean to write up a document for the Board to sign.

R. Gray discusses the Planning Board authorized \$16,000 from the Route 125 Impact Fees and inquires if there is something to sign or vote on tonight.

S. Fitzgerald notes he has not received any information back on that but will follow up and bring back to Board.

J. Sherman discusses Baseball and Softball sign ups noting there is still room noting the season begins at the end of April and runs through June. He discusses leagues and ages for children noting the try-out date is February 14 from 7:30am – 3:00pm at the Middle School. He notes applications can be found on the Town's web site or they can be picked up at the Selectmen's office. He discusses and reads a letter from the Department of Environmental Services noting as of October 30, 2008 they have received photos of property on Old County Road and the purpose was to document compliance to RSA. He notes the deficiencies of the property based on review and past inspection determined that deficiencies have been corrected and DES will close the file. He thanks Larry for his help and dedication to get this done.

L. Gil thanks Dave Hoyt, Carli and the Rec Commission noting it was a labor of love.

J. Sherman notes the water supply has been approved out there and things are moving forward.

D. Poliquin discusses Route 121A/Main Street noting part of what is already in the works for planning which is that they are looking to widen 121A mainly by hot topping shoulders "in the pool".

S. Fitzgerald notes he will be following up with Leigh and folks at the Transportation Committee doing a much broader assessment.

SIGNATURE FOLDER:

J. Sherman notes signature folder is in process.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS:

L. Gil discusses mail he received from the Rockingham Planning Commission and reads letter. He discusses form to fill out which lists all the projects and there is a February 24 deadline to get the information in to them.

J. Sherman notes to put it on a later agenda.

L. Gil discusses the FYI folder which contained Rockingham Economic Development and discusses the letter noting possibility of funds to look at some of this stuff.

C. Blinn notes he has nothing.

J. Sherman notes there was a Rec Commission Meeting last Thursday, not regular night and nothing to add. No Budget Committee updates.

D. Poliquin notes that it was nice to see usual faces at Deliberative Session, old friends, new people, some he had seen previously but it was nice to see them. He discusses his meeting with Sean, Chief McArdle and Building Inspector regarding Town Hall generator noting they have a

meeting scheduled for this Friday. He discusses progress and notes hopefully in a week they will come to the Board with a presentation to take some action.

R. Gray discusses Planning Board meeting this Wednesday night which is just a work session. Meeting on Thursday with Sean and Sumner to discuss tax deed with the Beede property and suggests putting it on next Monday's agenda which may need to be Non Public.

S. Fitzgerald notes he will most likely schedule as a Non Public.

J. Sherman notes just as a reminder there will not be a meeting in 2 weeks on the 16th because this is a holiday. He notes this week is a recycling week.

L. Gil discusses serious environmental finding regarding illegal dumping and wants to discuss with Sean. He notes this came to his attention and the person is comfortable with saying it is occurring and we want to have DES accompany the Building Inspector out to this location and look around.

S. Fitzgerald suggests getting right on this.

D. Poliquin discusses situation that involved Fire Chief, Building Inspector and property owner in Town. He notes he asked the Chief about scheduling fines or ordinance being utilized however none are known of. He discusses that the Town is getting big enough that if there is an ongoing occurrence of the same violation to schedule fines or fees as a deterrent. He gives an example of a fire alarm being faulty; give the person up to 3 calls and on the 2nd instance tell them they will receive a citation for the cost of the call to the Town and it usually gets them to get someone in to look at alarm.

L. Gil notes that even if it was half as described by the Chief, you would not want to be the landlord in that situation if the tenant could not get out.

S. Fitzgerald notes that he is meeting with Sumner, Building Inspector and Health Inspector tomorrow morning and all are working constructively to resolve these issues.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Audrey Michaud