



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

**PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:**

**DATE:** Monday, November 16, 2009

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 6:36 pm

**SELECTMEN:**

Chairman, Daniel Poliquin  
Selectman, Charles Blinn  
Selectman, John Sherman

Vice Chairman, Robert Gray - arrived 6:38 pm  
Selectman, Michelle Curran - excused  
Town Manager, Sean Fitzgerald

**MINUTES:**

***Motion by J. Sherman to approve the Minutes of November 9, 2009 with correction to page 9 – change “Unitil” to “PUC” on 2nd line from bottom of page.***

***2nd by C. Blinn.***

***Vote 3-0-0.***

***Motion carries.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No one from the public wishing to speak.

**AGENDA:**

**Debbie Clayton – LGC – Health Care discussion (increase & options)**

Debbie Clayton from LGC gave handouts to Board members to review. She noted last year about this same time she met with Selectmen. She discussed on October 14 her Board of Directors met to set rates. Claims came in higher each and every month and the increase was attributed to the economy. Poor economics bring stress and stress brings people to more doctor's appointments. People being laid off are now doing their medical care before they get laid off. Mothers and Fathers are worried about the H1N1 and are going to physicians more often.

R. Gray arrived 6:38 pm.

J. Sherman inquired if the allowance in rate increase was put in because of the H1N1.

D. Clayton noted it was a trend factor that the board puts in their rates. Last year they put in 7.5, this year they used 11.5 trend as a just in case. They found 7.5 was too low last year.

J. Sherman inquired about the anticipated cost and how much was due to increase in cost of items.

D. Clayton noted they factored in the 11.5 trend. Increase trend and increase cost mandates how they use pharmacy benefits. She discussed Specialty Drug Programs such as MS drugs and Hepatitis C medication which are high cost injectable medications and are very expensive. The change for these is to now due through mail order with Caremark. She discussed Generic

Equivalent and receiving the generic version instead of the specialty named drug; the Maintenance Mail Program and ordering prescriptions through the mail along with the Mandatory Maintenance mail order which was being encouraged of employees to use the mail order forms for 90 day supply of medication.

S. Fitzgerald asked Debbie to outline what the under 100 pool was like and inquired if they should be concerned with the costs associated with health care and the trend of the increase.

D. Clayton noted they were calling it the “perfect storm”. Claims are high-high and items are rising. It is too hard to predict. This year there was a 16.4 increase however last year there was a decrease and the year prior was an increase. People are going in to have their physicals, medications, evaluations and doctor visits now because they know what their coverage is at the present day and since they do not now what it will be at a later date they are getting their medical coverage taken care of now when in fact previously they may have put it off to a later date.

S. Fitzgerald discussed benefits to employees, welfare of Town employees, quality health care products, features of health care plans, what we currently have, and providing something equitable and something affordable.

D. Clayton discussed benefit options: HMO and Point of Choice, the current options to employees. She suggested offering an HMO in addition to any plan in the Bluechoice plan. She discussed the differences between Matthew Thornton and Bluechoice. With Matthew Thornton you cannot go anywhere you want however with Bluechoice you stay with primary and can go anywhere. Same network of physicians. She discussed variety of options, mixing and matching Matthew Thornton plan and the Bluechoice plan and compared the 2009 plan with the upcoming 2010 plan. She went over a variety of variables and choices available to employees.

S. Fitzgerald inquired if she met with other communities and made changes to other communities.

D. Clayton noted fewer towns have Matthew Thornton option. Most towns have HMO option.

R. Gray reiterated that the Mathew Thornton plan provides a cheaper option and the Town has never inquired about it or never had wanted it but many other towns have used it. He inquired about the number of surrounding towns that are using the Matthew Thornton option.

D. Clayton noted she would send Sean the information regarding the Matthew Thornton plan and the percentage of towns using or selecting it. She also noted the Town of Plaistow never chose the Matthew Thornton plan when offered in the past.

J. Sherman noted there are options if they were interested in saving money, such as increasing the deductibles, and/or going to an HMO.

R. Gray noted that most private industries are mainly under HMOs and you have to have a referral to go see a specialist. He inquired if LGC was saying that over 80 towns in the state do offer HMOs as primary.

D. Clayton noted the report she had would have who has what and would send to Sean.

S. Fitzgerald noted he would like to meet with employees and talk with them regarding health care. He inquired if there was any good news from health care.

D. Clayton discussed completing questionnaire on line and receiving \$75 back toward a gym membership, helping people by throwing money their way to help them stay healthy by using a treadmill at home, or jogging in their neighborhoods, however people just don't want to change their behaviors.

### **2010 Warrant Articles**

S. Fitzgerald gave the Board a copy of the CIP and outlined recommendations from the CIP committee. He discussed number of projects listed and noted they total approximately 1.2 million which was recommended by the CIP Committee. He discussed the \$85,000 for the Westville Road Bridge and noted it was in need of repair. He discussed the Garden Road Bridge and noted currently there was a meeting scheduled for tomorrow night to accept the American Recovery Act Funds for the repair of that bridge.

J. Sherman thought the Westville Bridge was red listed and noted he would like to see a Draft Warrant Article for that bridge and discussed getting it shovel ready for possible assistance. He discussed receiving a budget summary from Sean next week.

S. Fitzgerald discussed the \$60,000 in the budget for the Highway Department's drainage work and spoke about the Public Work's vehicles and noted the Backhoe was in need of repair.

Board held discussion regarding money and construction.

S. Fitzgerald discussed the Fire Department's \$88,000 in Reserve Deposit and the purchase of the ladder truck after the snorkel truck met its life cycle. He noted the Police Department had \$66,000 for 2 cruisers that was a budget item not a Warrant Article and a \$25,000 Warrant Article for upgrades to telecommunications.

J. Sherman noted he would like to see a Warrant Article however it was low on his priority list.

D. Poliquin discussed utilizing state police channels and Haverhill moving to a different channel.

S. Fitzgerald noted there was budgeting in the operating budget for hardware/software so they would not need a Warrant Article. He discussed Town Hall Buildings and noted there was \$70,000 for architectural design of the Public Safety Complex.

J. Sherman inquired where the Public Safety Committee stood.

S. Fitzgerald noted the Committee had met and done a walk through, a space needs assessment, and the draft power point presentation was to be reviewed at their next meeting.

J. Sherman inquired if the Committee was recommending a Warrant Article.

S. Fitzgerald noted it had not been presented to the Committee, but certainly could be.

D. Poliquin discussed needs, direction, separate site, same building, determination, and rough figure for architectural renderings to update the previous report from 2001.

S. Fitzgerald noted he would bring the Warrant suggestion to the Public Safety Committee to seek their recommendation. He discussed the Highway Garage and the \$110,000 recommended for a salt shed and noted it was previously looked at as a Warrant Article. The Highway Department can only buy small amounts of sand and salt currently because they do not have the appropriate storage facility.

J. Sherman inquired if anyone had done any work on it or was the number left over from before.

S. Fitzgerald noted the number was what they used recently. He discussed size, need and number being reasonable but noted they could look at it again.

J. Sherman noted he would like to see a Draft Warrant Article.

D. Poliquin discussed location, and agreed with John regarding a Draft of this Warrant Article.

S. Fitzgerald discussed Town Hall and the \$25,000 for an Emergency Power Generator as a Warrant Article and getting an after-market generator.

J. Sherman suggested seeing a Draft Warrant Article for a generator.

S. Fitzgerald discussed repaving the horseshoe driveway and pathways around Pollard Park and having a Warrant Article along with the EPA stipulations and suggestions.

R. Gray inquired if this was part of the court order.

S. Fitzgerald noted they do not have a court order however they were just going over settlement with the EPA. This is not mandated just a choice. He discussed the featured Stormwater Management Project and the wise decision about repaving.

J. Sherman suggested seeing a Warrant Article for repaving the horseshoe driveway and pathways around Pollard Park.

S. Fitzgerald discussed the \$30,000 for the Clock Tower and the \$20,000 donation offer by Donald Sargent to partner up with the Town to help fix it. He noted they could defer that line item and discussed the \$20,000 that was recommended for Building Systems and noted it was a Reserve Deposit that would help offset building failures of the Town.

R. Gray discussed unforeseen emergencies such as septic issues or roof leaks that the Town did not budget for and thought if we had to use it we were going to ask for monies to replenish it.

J. Sherman noted that the CIP was recommending the \$20,000 be set aside.

R. Gray noted his recommendation was not to ask for a Warrant Article to replenish the \$20,000.

S. Fitzgerald discussed the Water Department and the \$180,000 for the Route 125 System Expansion as consistent with prior years. He discussed the \$523,000 work to be done in conjunction with the Route 125 Water Line Expansion Project; the \$33,000 to replace the Pump; the \$25,000 for the Pump House Replacement and the \$20,000 Cell Tower work which was based on a scope of work that was established on the water tower which is not a water tower but a cell tower and the maintenance work that was for concrete footings and paint. There was no concern with the structure, just something that was needed to be monitored year to year, a facility maintenance obligation.

The Board suggested drafting a Warrant Article.

S. Fitzgerald discussed the \$5,000 for the Conservation Fund as consistent with what had been done in the past. He discussed the \$125,000 for the playground and shelter.

R. Gray inquired if the donation for the kid's playground was the same.

S. Fitzgerald presumed it was and noted work needed to be done to correct the water issues on Old County Road which had hydrology issues. He noted he had a scope of work to conduct as built slopes and drainage for the 8 acre campus, however the playground would need some type of build up and the drainage work would be extensive.

R. Gray asked if the donation from Friends of Rec would be encompassed in the Warrant Article.

S. Fitzgerald noted yes it would.

R. Gray noted that he would like to see a draft of the Warrant Article.

J. Sherman noted the this list showed that the CIP Committee did a pretty good job with the capital items needed to be recommended. He noted it was up to the BOS and Budget Committee with what was decided to be recommended and that it was hard for the Board to recommend anything until they have a Total Budget comparison.

#### **TOWN MANAGER REPORT:**

S. Fitzgerald discussed:

- Earlier meeting with Deb Clayton from LGC regarding health care increase.
- LGC conference this week – 68th Annual Conference, there are a number of events and conferences to attend.
- Town has gone out to bid for solid waste services – RFP has been established to help define a better job with recycling.

D. Poliquin inquired if they could include in the possibilities to once again include the pick up of used tires.

J. Sherman suggested starting a Recycling Committee and get volunteers on the committee.

S. Fitzgerald discussed:

- Vacancies: Part-Time Crossing Guard at the High School, may have candidate for that position; Part-Time position for Custodial candidate at the Safety Complex and vacancy in the Human Services position. He noted he had a Part-Time interim person, however at the current time Town staff had been helping out to cover this position to help get the Town through the vacancy. He noted he would need to fill this position and would be looking to meet with the Board to discuss this position at a later date.
- Rockingham Economic Development Corporation was actively updating the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region. Their plan outlines the region's economic development needs and goals.
- Rockingham Planning Commission's Annual Legislator's forum is this coming Wednesday, November 18 and will be held at Unitil's Headquarters in Hampton.
- Highway Department is gearing up for winter, they are going to a training event to learn how to calibrate and operate the automated ground control systems for the newer systems that have been installed on the new trucks which will help ensure the optimum sand and salt distribution per lane mile and will help minimize the environmental impacts.
- Cable Studio is being cleared out and the transition to Town Hall has begun – a preconstruction meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.
- The Planning Board will be meeting on Wednesday to review several issues with the EPA's Administrative Order. Rich Masters from Normandeau will be discussing the draft of the updated Stormwater Ordinance.
- Meeting at Plaistow Library tomorrow evening regarding accepting the Garden Road Bridge funds from the American Recovery Aid Grant.
- He was a guest of the Plaistow Lions and had dinner at the Hawaiian Isle and spoke to them regarding the challenges and opportunities facing Plaistow.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

No Other Business to report.

#### **SIGNATURE FOLDER:**

D. Poliquin noted Signature Folder and Manifest were going around.

#### **SELECTMEN'S REPORTS:**

R. Gray:

- Was not here at the beginning of the meeting however wanted to change page 9 of the Minutes from December 9th – correction to top of page 9 - "R. Bob Gray" to read "R. Gray".

*Motion by J. Sherman to approve Bob's change.*

*2nd C. Blinn.*

*Vote 4-0-0.*

*Motion carries.*

- Town meeting tomorrow night at the Library.
- Wednesday night, Planning Board will be discussing draft changes to the ordinances.
- Thursday he will be at the LGC conference in Manchester.

J. Sherman:

- Signups for baseball/softball went well.
- Recreation Commission meeting on Saturday. At the meeting they talked about the drainage on Old County Road and discussed the posting on the Town web site that the Town was looking for volunteer help with the engineering. They spoke of the donation of the playscape and decided to hold off on the donation until the drainage was resolved because if they ordered it, they would not have a convenient place to store it and the warranty would start. They discussed Fertilization and to make sure that it was in the budget. Fertilization was an issue for the fields and it was not in the Recreation Budget. They talked about starting work on the Concession Stand Usage Policy. They spoke about the Timberberwolves Soccer use of the fields and to get that situation worked out. Timberwolves asked for free use of the field but they were denied because they did not meet the requirements.
- Event on Sunday, November 29 - tree lighting on the Town Hall Green – details to follow. Santa will be there to help light the tree, there will be caroling and minor refreshments such as cookies.
- Budget Committee met last week and they are in sync with approvals of the Selectmen, so far there are no differences.

C. Blinn: nothing to report.

D. Poliquin discussed the Special Town meeting scheduled for tomorrow at the Library at 6pm in regards to the Garden Road Bridge funds to receive the grant money from the federal government.

J. Sherman hoped that Michelle was feeling better and noted that they looked forward to seeing her at the next meeting.

R. Gray inquired if Sean would need both Non Public sessions this evening.

S. Fitzgerald indicated no, he just needed the Non Public for Matters of Reputation.

**Non-Public Session – RSA 91-A:3,II (c) Matters of Reputation**

***Motion by R. Gray to go into Non Public under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Matters of Reputation.  
2nd by J. Sherman.***

***Board members polled: D. Poliquin = yes; R. Gray = yes; C. Blinn = yes; J. Sherman = yes.***

Public Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Audrey DeProspero