



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: Monday, February 1, 2010

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:31 pm

SELECTMEN:

Chairman, Daniel Poliquin
Selectman, Charles Blinn – arrived 6:32
Selectman, John Sherman

Vice Chairman, Robert Gray
Selectman, Michelle Curran
Town Manager, Sean Fitzgerald

MINUTES:

Minutes of January 25 postponed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one from the public for public comment.

AGENDA:

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

S. Fitzgerald discussed looking at ways to find cost savings, examining electrical bills and having the ability to buy electricity through other companies. He introduced Charles Farrel from Glacial Energy who was there to discuss ways to take advantage of price points in the market.

C. Farrel from Glacial Energy handed out information to the Selectmen pertaining to electricity and the company he worked for. He noted energy markets are deregulated and residents can choose their supplier. Glacial is licensed in the 12 deregulated states: MA; CT; RI; ME; Washington, DC; TX; NJ; NY; MD; DE; IL; NH. NH has been deregulated for about 10 years. Electricity is composed of 3 parts: generation, distribution and supply. Generation is performed by generation plants. Distribution and transmission is handled by various utilities such as Unitil PS&H and Granite State and are in charge of the distribution of the power. Supply is what you are able to choose from a competitive supplier. He discussed history of deregulation suppliers; competitive market and noted his company doesn't require a contract just enrollment.

J. Sherman inquired if Plaistow was considered a small user category.

C. Farrell noted Plaistow was under 10,000 people so they would use somewhere between 1-3 million kilowatts which was considered a small user.

J. Sherman inquired what Glacial's best selling point was.

C. Farrell noted the Index product was the variable product because it was the cheapest price. He discussed 10-15% savings on the supply side of the bill; no contact with Glacial; you are not locked in; there is no penalty to leave; and there is no usage requirement with Glacial.

J. Sherman inquired if all Glacial's customers realize the savings.

C. Farrell noted yes, they do, because if they didn't they would leave. Glacial has a 95% retention rate and the missing 5% is assumed to have gone out of business.

S. Fitzgerald discussed stability in very unstable times and looking for predictability; being competitive; and dealing with a number of other Town Managers to make a stronger energy market. He inquired as to how Glacial established their rates and what their cut would be. He extended an example: if Until was offering 9.5% then what would Glacial be.

C. Farrell discussed fluctuation not being dramatic. In today's economy he thought the Index product was best. He discussed low demand and high supply; complicated industry; pooling being a great idea; varying prices because of rate class and proximity; and capacity charges are assessed by the ISO through utilities onto suppliers and not expressed in kilowatt hours.

R. Gray inquired how the company came up with future rate comparison in their spreadsheet.

S. Fitzgerald discussed investigation regarding Until's prices for the next 6 months and held a discussion regarding future rate comparison in Charles' handout.

C. Farrell discussed a fixed rate product and being reassessed after 6 months.

S. Fitzgerald discussed no change to Until's fixed rate option however their variable rate option was going to go up because it was attached to the market.

R. Gray inquired how many municipalities in NH were enrolled.

C. Farrell noted he was not sure.

R. Gray inquired if Charles could get that information and get back to them.

C. Farrell noted he would and informed the Board that Atkinson enrolled back in October/November.

D. Poliquin noted what peaked his interest was the ability to opt out for 30 days.

***Motion by R. Gray for the Town Manager to work with Charles Farrell from Glacial Energy to come up with a recommendation for the Board within the next 30 90 days regarding what is the best solution for the Town regarding the dealings with energy.
2nd by M. Curran.***

R. Gray inquired if 30 days would be enough time for Sean.

S. Fitzgerald noted he would like a little more time and asked for 90 days.

R. Gray amended his motion to read 90 days.

M. Curran agreed to the change.

M. Curran inquired how long had Glacial been established.

C. Farrell noted they started in 2004/2005.

Vote 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

S. Fitzgerald noted a copy of the updated Warrant was in the Board's folders for their review. The changes made at Saturday's Deliberative Session was \$30,000 added to the bottom line of the Town Budget to offset the snow cost due to snow storms and sanding which have impacted the budget. The additional dollars increased the budget to \$7,328,045. A revised budget summary from the Deliberative Session was attached to Sean's report for the Board's review. He noted additional changes were itemized and account balances were updated. He discussed Citizen's Petition for Tax Credit and noted it was amended to reduce the tax credit to \$350.

J. Sherman suggested to Sean and Audrey to send Leigh the updated information from the Deliberative Session because she was working up a draft of the Town Report which contained this information.

Both Sean and Audrey agreed.

J. Sherman noted previously there was a show for broadcast on the Cable channel with the Town Manager, Selectmen Representative to the Budget Committee and the Budget Committee Chair and asked Sean to get this put together.

S. Fitzgerald agreed.

J. Sherman thanked Sean for putting together the balances of the funds for the Deliberative Session. He thought it was great to have the fund balances that were up to date.

S. Fitzgerald:

- Thanked staff and members of the Budget Committee along with the Board of Selectmen for their time and effort they put forth on the budget. He noted it was a tight lean budget that offered the Town the ability to support the day to day business which customers and citizens look forward to. He discussed looking forward to 2010 to enhance services to residents through efficiencies such as relocating the Cable Studio and the Highway Department assuming landscaping responsibilities.
- He discussed the Town working to finalize efforts to address the Administrative Order from the EPA. The Town has until February 15 to comply. They are working on

implementing several best practices that will help improve the Town's MS4 compliance such as: public education and outreach on storm water impacts; illicit discharge detection and elimination; construction site storm water runoff control; post construction storm water management in new development/redevelopment; and pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations.

- Garden Road Bridge project going through final approvals at NH DOT and the Federal Highway Administration and will be let out to bid over the next few weeks.
- President's day is Monday, February 15 and Town Hall will be closed. In the past the Selectmen have not met and he inquired about their opinion.

J. Sherman noted he was in favor of not meeting on the 15th.

M. Curran noted it was nice to have a break.

Review of Deliberative Session

D. Poliquin noted the Board had covered some of the Deliberative Review already.

M. Curran discussed the help staff did with refreshments and thanked all for their coordination and joint effort. She noted it was a great turn out and a lot of good conversation happened.

J. Sherman thought it was really good that Cheryl Hay was there to speak. He noted he was particularly interested in the condition of the building. The new windows, new roof and barn being in very good shape helped him with better information to make a good decision. Once Selectmen met he was able to change his vote to being in favor of the Warrant Article. He thought going to the Town's people was a good idea to let them vote on this.

J. Sherman thanked Barry for his contributions as Moderator. He recognized his service as Moderator and noted in contrast to Atkinson's Deliberative Session a couple of years ago the Moderator was unable to control their meeting.

D. Poliquin thanked all involved, (Staff, Department Heads, Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee). He discussed the long hours put in, excellent recommendations made and the great budget they came through with. It was one of the smoothest budget seasons and gave thanks to all involved.

Candidates for the 2010 Town Election

Maryellen Pelletier, Town Clerk, and Sean Fitzgerald pulled names for the order of the candidate's names as they would appear on the ballot for March voting:

Selectmen

John Sherman

Charles "Buzzy" Blinn

Joyce Ingerson

Treasurer

Bernadine A. FitzGerald
Martha L. Fowler

Budget Committee

Leona L. Stevens
Neal J. Morin
Normand Bouchard
Patrica "Tricia" Holt

Planning Board

Charlie Lanza
Tyler Simmons
Steven Ranlett

Library Trustee

Kathleen L Vavra
Jennifer Kiarsis

Review of Operating Budget

S. Fitzgerald included an updated spreadsheet of the Operating Budget for the Board's records. He discussed the addition of a line which amended the bottom line and the BOS voting to allocate the funds.

J. Sherman noted the increase was to the plowing line in the Highway Budget due to the storms it was needed to put more money away. The cost is related to how long storms last not how many storms. The Budget was increased by \$30,000. He discussed the previous budget in 2008 whereas the budget was for \$130,000 and the Town spent \$180,000 because of the storms. He discussed the possibility of a Revolving Fund where the Town puts "x" dollars away and suggested to think about it for next year.

S. Fitzgerald discussed the Reserve Account and it becoming a Trust Fund.

R. Gray noted it would be a good discussion for the upcoming Regional Selectmen's meeting.

J. Sherman noted it was worth looking into and good to talk over with other Selectmen.

Review of Warrant Articles

D. Poliquin discussed Warrant Articles and noted basically there were no changes just some dates and fund numbers in the Intent were brought current with amounts and date of January 30th. The Articles themselves stayed the same. Overall the Budget was increased by \$30,000 and the Tax Credit Petition decreased by \$150.

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. Sherman inquired about the traffic counting report for Main Street.

S. Fitzgerald noted the report would be delayed. He spoke to David Walker and noted they were establishing a new time line for the delivery of the report however a draft would be given soon.

J. Sherman noted he spoke to Sean briefly on Saturday regarding some of the feedback that he had received regarding 148 Main Street and the need for an overall plan. He noted they need to be a little more proactive looking at those properties that are out there to avoid last minute decisions. He discussed five or six years ago a committee was formed to look into those items but it did not work out very well. He found the Charter for the committee and shared the information with the Board members and suggested to add this information to next week's agenda regarding reactivating this committee. He discussed the Committee on Open Space on Town land and buildings regarding what the Town currently owned and perhaps make recommendations with existing Town owned lands regarding how to use or get rid of.

D. Poliquin discussed at one point title issues were looked into and suggested follow ups to title issues.

R. Gray discussed monies needed to do such.

S. Fitzgerald discussed looking at owner unknown issues and properties and the discussion he had with the Assessor.

SIGNATURE FOLDER:

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

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS:

C. Blinn noted he had nothing to report at this time just a ConCom meeting Thursday night and a Cable meeting on Thursday also.

M. Curran discussed:

- Family Mediation meeting last week and she gave handouts regarding meeting to Selectmen. The next meeting is this Thursday regarding reaching out to communities and getting back in touch with communities to let them know they are available to them.
- Conversation with Mr. Galloway regarding a parcel that is landlocked. She noted she redirected him to the Town Manager to have a discussion with him and then to the Board itself.
- Help by Staff with Budget and Deliberative Session and extended her appreciation and thanks.
- She noted it was sad that Barry was stepping down.

J. Sherman discussed:

- Budget Committee meeting at the end of the Deliberative Session. Their next meeting is after the Town Meeting on March 16 for their Spring Reorganization meeting.
- Rec Commission meeting is one week from Wednesday on the 10th.

R. Gray noted he has a Planning Board meeting this Wednesday and he had a very brief reputation matter to discuss in non public with the Board.

D. Poliquin discussed:

- Meeting on the 20th with Southern NH Economic Development Committee which is part of the Haverhill Chamber of Commerce which both Sean and Michelle attended. The Committee discussed the update of the MBTA with reference to Jim Jagjuga, Tim Moore gave information on the organizational phase, and the Committee also discussed some items that they want to see on Route 125 such as a medical arts building. Cliff Sinnot from Rockingham Planning was there and discussed water and sewer reports. The Committee set some goals and objectives regarding the Town Village, MBTA and marketing for 125's commercial area. They discussed getting DRED (Department of Resources and Economic Development) back. Their next meeting is February 24.
- Deliberative Session went well.
- Tuesday is the Steering Committee meeting and they will be reviewing the current ongoing projects and summary of the projects that applications have been submitted for.
- Public Safety Complex committee which he did not attend.

S. Fitzgerald noted they did not have quorum so they reviewed the power point presentation.

R. Gray discussed getting back up to see the Governor and suggested before this Board is done and goes on to the next Board they should spend some time going over Sean's goals.

D. Poliquin noted he was going to put that on for next week's agenda.

Non-Public Session – RSA 91-A:3,II (c) Matters that would affect someone's reputation
Non-Public Session – RSA 91-A:3,II (e) Legal Matters

Motion by R. Gray to go into Non Public under RSA91-A:3,II (c) Matters of Reputation and RSA91-A:3,II (e) Legal Matters.

2nd by M. Curran.

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

Public Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Audrey DeProspero