



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: Monday, March 1, 2010

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:39 pm

SELECTMEN:

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

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

AGENDA:

MINUTES:

Motion by J. Sherman to approve the Minutes of February 22, 2010 as written.

2nd by R. Gray.

Vote 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one from the public for public comment.

Dedication of Town Report

R. Gray discussed the Annual Town Report was now available and residents would be able to pick them up starting tomorrow at the Town Hall, Library and Vic Geary Center. He noted the Annual Report was given to the person it was dedicated to and invited Tim Moore to approach the Board of Selectmen.

T. Moore approached the Board of Selectmen and all applauded and congratulated Tim.

R. Gray read dedication inside the Annual Town Report.

R. Gray noted Tim has been his colleague for about 20 years and he didn't know of a finer person to dedicate the Annual Town Report to.

T. Moore thanked all and noted it was deeply appreciated. He also noted that he was just one part of those that have contributed their time.

Board of Selectmen applauded and congratulated Tim.

Public Hearing – Cable TV Franchise

D. Poliquin opened the Public Hearing regarding the Cable Franchise at 6:54 pm.

S. Fitzgerald noted Attorney Kate Miller was here to review changes in the renewal contract.

K. Miller approached the Board and noted the franchise agreement had been wrapped up. She gave the Board members handouts pertaining to the cable negotiations and discussed the Town of Plaistow having a solid contract; moving the cable studio to Town Hall and making local access more proficient; negotiating with Comcast; public and governmental programming; working in conjunction with Selectmen to come up with a short term agreement; monopoly of no other provider out there; shorter agreement being a good idea in case another provider comes along; 5% franchise fee; use of right of way taxation; side agreements regarding discounts to low income senior citizens and relocation of head end and the new location.

J. Sherman inquired if there was anything out there that was going to potentially improve their situation.

K. Miller noted no, it was Federal law and most limitations come from federal. She discussed items being offered over the internet and the protection for communities to have strong local access channels to get information out to their citizens.

J. Sherman discussed the clause regarding taxing for right of way and inquired what Comcast's reaction was.

K. Miller noted they hate it but it is the law. She discussed example from Rochester and the public right away along with being able to collect fees.

K. Miller and J. Sherman discussed communities; pole licenses and taxation.

K. Miller discussed draft letter presented to the Board of Selectmen which had to do with construction of the studio.

M. Curran inquired if they were able to do anything with the Library.

K. Miller discussed live programming.

S. Fitzgerald discussed infrastructure; complete audit on equipment; the need for a special modulator which could be purchased; and the focus on relocating the head end after the completion of the negotiation of this contract.

K. Miller discussed expanding to a third channel if needed and the language already being in the contract along with notifying Jay Somers to get the ball rolling.

S. Fitzgerald noted he was going to be notifying Jay next week. He discussed bringing in local origination to the Town; augmenting the cable lineup; helping people better appreciate programs and the discussion with the Cable Committee.

D. Poliquin opened the Public Hearing meeting up for discussion to attendees in the audience.

N. Bouchard noted he was happy that the Library was going live and hoped that it would be done in a timely fashion.

K. Miller noted it should be, just as soon as the needed equipment is purchased.

D. Poliquin closed the Public Hearing at 7:16 pm.

D. Poliquin discussed Letter of Intent received from Jeffrey Nenart for a position on the Conservation Commission. He read the letter Jeff wrote to the Board of Selectmen and asked Jeff to say a few words.

J. Nenart approached the Board of Selectmen and spoke about his background and family.

D. Poliquin thanked Jeff for taking an interest in the Conservation Commission. He noted he received a letter from the Conservation Commission which was from the Chairman, Jill Senter, regarding the recommendation for appointment of Jeff Nenart to the Conservation Commission.

***Motion by M. Curran to appoint Jeff Nenart to the Conservation Commission.
2nd by J. Sherman.***

J. Sherman inquired about the number of committee members for the Conservation Commission.

J. Senter noted it was a five member board.

J. Sherman inquired what the current number of the board was.

J. Senter noted four.

***Vote 5-0-0.
Motion carries.***

EPA Storm Water Management Discussion/Planning Board Members

S. Fitzgerald noted he originally put on the agenda EPA Storm Water Management Discussion and MBTA meeting to get Tim Moore to the meeting under false pretenses. He noted this was an opportunity to announce the dedication of the Town Report to Tim Moore this evening. He suggested to put these items off until next week if the Board agreed. He noted he does in fact have a meeting this Friday with the MBTA and Tim would also be attending.

J. Sherman asked if the Conservation Commission had anything to add.

T. Moore noted it could wait.

L. Komornick congratulated Tim and noted he worked on the document with Leigh and could not believe that he did not know the Town Report was dedicated to him.

MBTA meeting March 5th in Boston

Board decided to postpone discussion until next week.

Goals

D. Poliquin noted the Board discussed postponing the Goals and all agreed.

J. Sherman thanked Sean for preparing the information pertaining to the Goals for the Selectmen to review and noted their discussion and review would be postponed until next week.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

S. Fitzgerald discussed:

- Windstorm; pleased to report that public safety officials worked round the clock and did a great job coordinating things and assisting the Town. He thanked Fire Chief, John McArdle; Acting Police Chief, Kathy Jones; Acting EOC Director, Mike Dorman; Health Officer, Dennise Horrocks and Highway Supervisor, Dan Garlington for a job well done.
- Changes made by Unitil; Town staff talked directly to Unitil officials to pin point public safety and utility upgrades; crews were doing ground assessment early on; Town staff assisted with removing debris and trees; Davis Park was restored at 5:30 pm this evening; Autumn Circle was currently being worked on; and most areas are up and running except for a few individual homes with downed service. Staff is taking detailed notes and if there is federal reimbursement for the emergency, then the Town will be in a good position to receive funding. Town staff has experience with this and has begun tracking to recover any funds expended.
- Attorney Kate Miller was here and already discussed the Cable Franchise agreement.
- This Friday he will be attending a meeting with Jodie Ray, MBTA Director of Railroad Operations regarding the potential to establish an MBTA commuter rail service to Plaistow.
- Last Monday the Town had a mini H1N1 and inoculated 114 individuals, the clinic was very successful.
- Planning Department being very busy, they have a minor site plan for ProBark to sell mulch; continuation of public hearing on a final site plan for Hillcrest Estates and a continuation of a public hearing for the construction of a new 3,200 square foot building to be used as an auto body shop; a public hearing on a subdivision of Tax Map 30, Lot55 and a public hearing on a site plan review for additional septic on a newly subdivided parcel located at 166 Plaistow Road.
- Economic Development Committee meeting which was held on Wednesday, February 24 regarding several business initiatives.
- Completed interviews for part time maintenance position at the Library. Dave Bowles and Laurie Houlihan joined in the interview process and the Town has made a conditional offer to a candidate who has exceptional skills and abilities.
- Meeting with Roy Jeffrey and Tom Cullen regarding working on programs that will honor WWII veterans in Town.

R. Gray discussed the storm and noted the state activated the emergency management and inquired if the Town would be receiving reimbursement.

S. Fitzgerald noted he did not know because they are still responding to the event however, based on protocols they were keeping itemization of hours and costs.

R. Gray inquired about the MBTA meeting and who would be going with Sean.

S. Fitzgerald noted he was not exactly sure of who would be attending but he was working with Cliff Sinnot and Kit Morgan. He noted this was not just a Town meeting it was a NH DOT meeting that he was invited to attend on behalf of the Town.

R. Gray suggested to Sean to make clear to the MBTA the Town's position and to get the status of the MBTA lay over plans.

S. Fitzgerald discussed lay over station in Haverhill; clarity will be received Friday on what the MBTA is looking to do and if a layover and a station would work for their development team.

R. Gray suggested making sure they were aware what the NH tax structure is when bringing in these facilities here along with property tax issues that would have to be addressed from a Town's standpoint.

S. Fitzgerald noted those concerns have been brought to NH DOT officials and he discussed the possibility of the rail authority purchasing the property.

R. Gray noted in the general scope of things he supported the commuter rail in Plaistow but the devils going to be in the detail of all this stuff. He noted people's opinions may go in different directions.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Board had no Other Business to discuss.

SIGNATURE FOLDER:

Signature Folder and Manifest were going around.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS:

R. Gray discussed:

- Planning Board meets this Wednesday night and the information is listed in the Town Manager's report.
- He lost his power Thursday night. Crane Crossing had a pole down with transformer on it. Friday it was touch and go with the information regarding when power was going to be repaired. He personally dealt with water in his basement and coming in from the roof. He made the decision to abandon the house due to no power and stayed with relatives who lived locally in the area. He was in constant contact with the Town. The Town's response was exemplary. He always knew what was happening in Town however he thought Unitol's communication needed to be made a little better. They were better than previously but still could do better. He noted he would be watching closely to see if he would be reliving the 2008 ice storm over again regarding the billing and amperage usage. He noted he would have more to report at a later date.

John Sherman discussed:

- Spring Ball scheduled for Saturday, March 27 from 7pm – 12 midnight at the Plaistow Fish and Game which is sponsored by Plaistow Recreation. There will be a DJ and sports memorabilia auction. Donations are to benefit Friends of Recreation for enhancements to PARC. He noted the dress was casual and people could contact Wendy at 382-1179 for tickets or email friendsofplaistowrecreation@comcast.net.
- The vacation activities that Rec sponsored went over very well. Zoo Encounters was at the Library on Monday and they had a Kangaroo, Chinchilla, and an Alaskan Fox. There was Drop in Crafts at the Library on Thursday and Youth Painting at Michelle's Creative

Expression on Wednesday where they made frogs on lily pads and the frogs had their own personalities.

M. Curran noted there were a variety of ages which was nice to see and they were well behaved.

J. Sherman:

- Noted there was a new entertainer who was introduced by the Vic Geary Center, Jim Barnes and he would be coming back in December to do more entertaining.
- Suggested for all to watch the Plaistow web site for upcoming April vacation announcements.
- Thanked the Town Report Committee: Bob Gray, Martha Sumner, Joyce Ingerson and Leigh Komornick for their work on the Town Report. He discussed the cover being PARC before and after and thought it was super. He urged people to get a Town Report because there was a lot of information inside the Town Report which would be available starting tomorrow.
- Noted he was glad to see they were going to do live broadcasting from the Library.

M. Curran:

- Thought the communication and information given during the storm was wonderful. She thanked all employees, volunteers and staff for their work. She noted they were just go, go, go and all had stepped up to the plate. She thanked them personally. She felt this time Unitil had made some strides since the last time and was glad to see their conversations they had, did not fall upon deaf ears. She was pleased with how it was handled.
- Discussed her Family Mediation meeting last Wednesday and noted the next meeting is scheduled for March 17.
- Noted she was lucky to participate in the Rec program with the youth whereas they painted frogs on terra cotta pots. She hoped they could just follow along and noted not only did they follow along they all completed their projects perfectly and each had a different opinion and great creativity. It was great fun. They completed their project and went home with a finished product. The ages were around 8 & 9 and went up to 16, a couple were just below that age. She had a great time.
- Was not able to attend the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce meeting.

C. Blinn noted he had nothing to report for Conservation. Cable has not met since 2 weeks ago. It was a heck of a storm and he couldn't imagine another storm like that whereas trees and signs fell down. He could not believe the extent of the storm. He discussed the Town Manager and Town staff rose to the occasion and he was very proud of them.

S. Fitzgerald noted he just received a call from Chief McArdle and Autumn Circle was now up with power. He noted work still continues; Until had twice as many crews out during the storm; they had secured additional utility crews prior to the storm because they were not sure of the magnitude of the event; there have been some changes; lessons learned; the Town was able to get up with power much more effectively with this storm and Town Staff was very much involved with the operability.

D. Poliquin thanked all participants within the Town and staff. All went exceptionally well and people did not overact. He commended Unitil with their information gathering. Unitil issued

different forms to the Towns which the Towns could email or fax to Unitil as soon as they had information. This was much different from the last storm. They had more updated information in their conference calls and their conference calls were very organized. He gave kudos to Town staff and noted they did a great job. He also noted he understood Bob's concerns.

R. Gray echoed Dan's comments. Town staff did an exemplary job dealing with Unitil one on one. They were repairing problems immediately. He discussed his conversation with crew members and the EOC's conversation with crew members. He noted that individual information may not be as good as what the Town gets and discussed getting better information to the residents.

D. Poliquin noted it was a work in progress and the Town saw some advances this time. He discussed the Economic Development Committee meeting and noted basically the updates were the MBTA infrastructure; the possible purchase of the Smith property; and they were looking at having Ms. Cindy Harrington from DRED come in on March 24 to help with marketing the Route 125 Revitalization Zone. The Chamber Expo is coming up October however there is no specific date as of yet. He discussed the possibility of Rockingham Park spring forum geared toward small businesses in Town with reps from SBCC, SCORE, DRED PTAC, and marketing consultants for a 2.5 hour forum relatively focused mostly on information for small businesses that folks are not aware of.

Sue Edwards approached the Board of Selectmen and noted she would like to know what is going on with the DOT to get some sort of relief.

S. Fitzgerald noted we have not received the report from Rockingham Planning for the traffic study on Route 121. He noted it was delayed several months however they were looking to the Highway Safety Committee regarding traffic calming devices or lights at specific locations that Sue was looking for. He noted they have not stepped away just other items have come forth and taken up their discussions. 2010 should have more information regarding the betterment of traffic calming.

D. Poliquin noted they were waiting for the report from Rockingham Planning.

S. Edwards noted it seemed like all are passing the buck.

D. Poliquin noted they have to wait for the report regarding the study.

S. Fitzgerald noted he would try to advance and discussed commissioning a \$10,000 study to help advance traffic and pedestrian traffic safety.

S. Edwards suggested making the road one way going one way and making the other direction a one way also. She discussed the state not wanting to put traffic a light but wants a one way.

S. Fitzgerald suggested for Sue to meet with him and the Town Planner this week to further discuss.

D. Poliquin noted the information from Rockingham Planning also goes to the Highway Safety Committee, the Planning Board as well as the Board of Selectmen.

D. Poliquin noted:

- Tomorrow night Tuesday, March 2 will be Candidates Night at the Library at 7pm.
- This Saturday is Waste Management white goods pick up
- Baseball/softball tryouts are 8am Saturday, March 6
- March 9 will be Election Day at Pollard School from 7am-8pm however the School District channel has it listed as 8-8 which is incorrect.

Non-Public Session – RSA 91-A:3,II (e) Legal Matters

Board members inquired if a Non Public Session was needed by the Town Manager.

S. Fitzgerald noted a Non Public was not needed.

Motion by J. Sherman to adjourn meeting at 8:13 pm.

Public Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Audrey DeProspero