



Town of Plaistow ◆ ***Board of Selectmen***
145 Main Street, Plaistow, NH 03865

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: Monday, June 22, 2012

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN CURRAN AT 1:10 P.M. IN TOWN MANAGER FITZGERALD'S OFFICE.

ROLL CALL:

SELECTMEN:

Chairman, Michelle Curran

Selectman, Robert Gray

Selectman, Charles Blinn

Selectman, Daniel Poliquin

Excused: Vice Chairman John Sherman

Town Manager, Sean Fitzgerald

Town Counsel, Sumner Kalman

NEXT ITEM - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

NEXT ITEM - PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was none.

NEXT ITEM – DISCUSSION REGARDING PENNICHUCK WATER WORKS REQUEST FOR FRANCHISE AND RATES:

Chairman Curran noted that this meeting was being called to address the request by Pennichuck Water Works to support their proposed franchise expansion from the Twinridge Condominiums to the Beede properties that have affected by the Beede Superfund Site. She noted that she had been unable to attend the Selectman's meeting on Monday June 18, 2012 when this issue was discussed, nor had she been privy to the letter from Mike Skinner to the Board of Selectmen with an "ultimatum" that they vote to support the expansion at their June 18, 2012 meeting or letters would be sent out the next day to the recipients informing them that "the deal was off." Likewise she did not see some of the follow-up emails and other correspondence of recent about this issue due to the fact she did not have internet accessibility.

Chairman Curran noted that after the meeting yesterday on the Beede Reuse meeting there was discussion regarding the fact that 10 years ago they had not detected 1-4 dioxin in the water which is now causing the point of entry filtration systems utilized by the affected residents to be more complicated and expensive. This makes the alternative water source possible from Pennichuck Water Works that much more valuable.

In addition, it had been noted that the provision of water by Pennichuck Water Works would not affect the Record of Decision (ROD) and a letter has been issued by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) this morning stating this as well.

Town Counsel Kalman inquired as to whether the Board of Selectmen were willing to support the expansion of the water franchise for Beede given that the letter of support to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) would simply need to state that Plaistow does not have an issue with this specific request (the limited franchise expansion).

Town Manager Fitzgerald stated that he felt it was important to send a letter to the PUC that included the letters from the NHDES and the EPA they had just received. The Town should make note as well that any further expansion than what is shown on the map must go back to the PUC for approval.

Chairman Curran asked the other Board members to review the letters and then consider providing a letter of support to the PUC for Pennichuck Water Work's proposed expansion.

Town Manager Fitzgerald informed the Board that several Beede residents had been contacting him within the last 24 hours asking the Town to support it.

Discussion amongst the Board included the fact that the EPA had even agreed that Mike Skinner's letter to the Town of Plaistow BOS was NOT appropriate.

Selectman Poliquin pointed out that the existing point of entry systems are doing the job even with the 1-4 dioxin, although he is aware they cost a great deal more due to the need for carbon filters that have to be replaced much more frequently than anticipated. He feels that this proposal is more about money than it is about how much the Beede Group cares about the residents and have been very difficult for the Town to work with over the years. Despite these reasons, he cannot not support the proposed expansion.

Chairman Curran noted that she had a discussion with Dick Pease of the NHDES yesterday and how it seems as though the Beede group was not as concerned about how fast things moved before but now they seem to be pushing everything, perhaps not allowing the Town proper time to consider this proposal. However, it is important that the BOS do the right thing for the citizens.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board regarding the pros and cons, but all agreed that no matter what, any future connections beyond what are shown on the map must come back for approval. They also spoke of the fact that the residents were not being forced by the Beede Group or Pennichuck Water Works to hook-up. It is also possible that in 3 years, testing may change the number of residents affected. Having Howard Manor Condominiums off line could also help minimize the plume quicker.

Following all discussion, Selectman Poliquin motioned, Selectman Gray seconded, to support the proposed waterline expansion. He does not want to send any letter out today however, he would like to wait until next Tuesday so that they may craft the letter carefully.

So Voted. 4-0-0.

NEXT ITEM – NON PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II(a):

There was no non-public session held.

NEXT ITEM - ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Curran at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leigh G. Komornick, for Audrey DeProspero