

## Town of Plaistow ◆ Board of Selectmen

145 Main Street, Plaistow, NH 03865

#### PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

**DATE:** Monday, April 9, 2012

#### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN MICHELLE CURRAN AT 6:31 P.M.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

#### **SELECTMEN:**

Chairman, Michelle Curran Vice Chairman, John Sherman Selectman, Daniel Poliquin (Arrived 6:48 p.m.) Excused: Selectman, Charles "Buzzy" Blinn Selectman, Robert Gray Selectman, Charles Blinn

Town Manager, Sean Fitzgerald

#### Others Present:

Stephen Savage, Police Chief John McArdle, Fire Chief Leigh Komornick, Town Planner Timothy Moore, Planning Board Chairman

#### **NEXT ITEM - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Chairman Curran led everybody in the pledge of allegiance.

#### **NEXT ITEM - PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Roy Jeffrey** - Mr. Jeffrey presented the BOS members with Easter eggs and wished all members a "Happy Easter."

Next, Mr. Jeffrey presented a poster board filled with pictures of the Medieval Banquet held by the Middle School at the Town Hall last week, as well as a poster board of pictures of the Easter Egg Hunts held at Town Hall on Friday and Saturday of the prior week.

Next, Mr. Jeffrey called to the BOS members' attention the need to replace the wrought iron railings that are along the gazebo stairs at the Town Hall. The BOS and Town Manager noted that they would look into this.

Next, Mr. Jeffrey informed the BOS that he had recently cleaned the Town Hall sign out front as it had some sort of mark on it that turned out to be pitch or sap. He also noted that the on the western part of the sign some of the gold is cracking. Chairman Curran noted that it may have been a decal at one point and that they would look into it.

Next, Mr. Jeffrey asked the BOS for permission to pursue the installation of 6-inch diameter decals, one for each branch of the military to be installed on the flags outside the Town Hall. The consensus of the BOS was to allow Mr. Jeffrey to pursue this. Selectman Poliquin just asked that the decals not be screwed or drilled into the poles, rather they be applied with some sort of adhesive.

Next, Mr. Jeffrey brought the BOS up to date on various activities that had occurred the prior week including the meeting the Seniors group had with Leigh Malone, Director of CART, on Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> regarding the provision of bus service to Plaistow. There is currently limited service to Plaistow right now and Mr. Jeffrey suggested that additional service should be looked at. Also, Joshua Judge, the Channel 9 Weatherman had come to speak to the Senior last week and they all found him to be extremely interesting and Mr. Jeffrey referenced a book that Joshua Judge had authored. Mr. Jeffrey again noted the Medieval Banquet held by the Middle School and the Easter Egg hunts. Lastly, Mr. Jeffrey mentioned that the Seniors had gone on a trip with Recreation to Troy, NH to an old farm house where they enjoyed a wonderful dinner.

Next, Mr. Jeffrey noted that this week starts national library week. They are raffling off a pink and a blue bike on May 1<sup>st</sup> and tickets are currently available at the library and other places.

Next, Mr. Jeffrey expressed his great satisfaction with the installation of the table and benches out beside the Town Hall. Chairman Curran thanked Mr. Jeffrey for his generous donation and for all of his informative updates that he had provided to the BOS. She is very pleased that the Town Hall is being used to such a full extent.

### **NEXT ITEM – APPOINTMENTS:**

Chairman Curran announced that the BOS would be appointing a number of new members to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Board.

She began with Joyce Ingerson, a change in status from alternate to regular for a 3-year term to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and change in status from elected member of the Planning Board to an appointed Alternate for a 1-year term.

Vice-Chairman Sherman made a motion, Selectman Gray seconded to a 3-year term to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. *So Voted.* (4-0-0)

Selectman Poliquin made a motion, Vice-Chairman Sherman seconded, to appoint Joyce Ingerson, as an Alternate to the Planning Board for a 1-year term. *So Voted*. (4-0-0)

Vice-Chairman Sherman made a motion, Selectman Poliquin seconded to appoint Geoffrey Adams as an Alternate to the Planning Board for a 1-year term. *So Voted.* (4-0-0)

Selectman Gray made a motion, Vice-Chairman Sherman seconded, to appoint Timothy Fisher as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a 1-year term. *So Voted.* (4-0-0)

All Selectmen congratulated all of the newly appointed members and thanked them for volunteering to represent the Town.

#### *NEXT ITEM – MAIN STREET TRAFFIC CALMING:*

Town Manager Fitzgerald introduced Police Chief Savage and Fire Chief McArdle and explained that he had asked them to update the BOS on the latest traffic calming implementation strategies. Chief Savage informed the BOS that the Town was purchasing two new radar units that would be semi-permanent and would be located on Main Street, one at the area of Maplewood Florist, the other up by the American Legion. The radar units will allow for the storage of data including speeds by hour so that they can identify when to have patrols more heavily present to monitor traffic. The whole intent is to reduce the speed of vehicles along Main Street. Chief Savage feels the presence of the radar units will have a positive effect on traffic calming. There will be a sign with the posted speed limit and the radar will tell the motorist their speed and will flash if they are exceeding the speed limit. They will be on galvanized poles and will be approximately 10-feet high.

Vice-Chairman Sherman noted that locating one near the Maplewood Florist may not be the most ideal location, however, Chief Savage noted the need to have a power source and therefore it may be the only place to locate it where there will be a pole available.

Selectman Gray stated that he felt there needs to be something that will trigger the driver's to the fact they are entering the Village District. Discussion about the signs being looked into which announce the Village District ensued.

Selectman Gray also inquired if the purchase of these radar units would be sole sourced? Chief Savage responded that due to their qualifications, it is likely they will not be put to bid.

Next, Selectman Gray said that the south end of Main Street needed to be shut off to truck traffic. Selectman Poliquin noted that the Highway Safety Committee had already made this recommendation.

Town Manager Fitzgerald noted that he had recently spoken to the Haverhill City Engineer and that a meeting was being pursued in the coming week or so to discuss this and the proposed Walgreen's coming into the Old Shaw's Plaza. This will require a regional dialogue. Discussion ensued regarding the overall traffic flow on Main Street in Plaistow and the associated impacts to east-west roads.

Chief Savage stated that perhaps Pine and Chandler Streets should be posted "No Thru Trucking."

Following all discussion, Vice-Chairman Sherman motioned, Selectman Poliquin seconded, to instruct the Town Manager and Police Chief to install two traffic calming radar devices on Main Street. *So Voted.* (4-0-0)

### **NEXT ITEM – PROCLAMATION TO THE DISPATCH DEPARTMENT:**

Chairman Curran announced that April 8<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> is "Plaistow Communications Week." Therefore, in recognition of the extremely hard work done by all of the Dispatchers, she was presenting a Citation to them. It was noted that many of the Dispatchers have been in their respective positions for many years. The Police and Fire Chiefs both expressed their gratitude and admiration. Vice-Chairman Sherman emphasized that they are not just "messengers," they are also the reception and voice for many people for the Town of Plaistow (and Atkinson).

#### NEXT ITEM - UPDATE ON PERSONELL BY POLICE CHIEF SAVAGE:

Chief Savage announced that the Police Department was about to have two new officers graduate from the Police Academy. In addition, they are very close to hiring two additional officers and a new Animal Control Officer (ACO).

# NEXT ITEM – UPDATE ON THE PURCHASE OF THE NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT TRUCK:

Town Manager Fitzgerald noted that he had asked Fire Chief McArdle to attend this evening to update the BOS on the new fire truck that the Town will be purchasing. Chief McArdle explained that the Fire Truck Committee has made a recommendation. They have reviewed all criteria (as presented in a memorandum) and have done an excellent job according to Town Manager Fitzgerald.

Chairman Curran thanked Chief McArdle for all the hard work and enthusiasm of the Selection Committee, that they volunteered a lot of their time and energy. Chief McArdle noted that the new truck was expected to last 20-25 years and will cost \$350,000 to \$450,000. It will be a combined rescue pumper and engine and will have the "Jaws of Life" tools permanently mounted inside. Overall, they are very proud of the work they have done to select the new fire truck.

Vice-Chairman Sherman asked if the Fire Department would be taking the other engine (Rescue 6) out of service. Chief McArdle noted that while it could possibly be utilized by another Town, they may wish to hold onto it. For the little amount they might receive for it (\$2,000-\$3,000) in a sealed bid offer, he is thinking that perhaps they could convert it to a general utility vehicle. Vice-Chairman Sherman wanted it to be clear that the warrant article passed by the voter's did not include any offset of funds for the sale of Rescue 6.

Vice-Chairman Sherman asked if Chief McArdle had any reservations about their decision on the proposed new truck and Chief McArdle responded, "no" that he fully supports the Committee's selection choice.

Selectman Gray asked when it would be delivered. Chief McArdle noted that once ordered, it would take approximately 250 days for it to be ready. So, probably October or November of 2012.

Vice-Chairman Sherman motioned, Selectman Gray seconded, to direct the Town Manager to proceed with the purchase of the new fire truck as outlined in the memorandum number PFD-2012-028 as presented by the Fire Truck Selection Committee. *So Voted.* (4-0-0)

#### NEXT ITEM – REVIEW OF PROPOSED NEW ROUTE 125 SERVICE ROAD:

Town Manager Fitzgerald presented a brief power point that depicted the location of the proposed Service Road. A lengthy discussion of the various issues ensued, including:

- 1) Police Chief Savage and Fire Chief McArdle both stated that they would not support public safety vehicle access only on the service road.
- 2) Police Chief Savage, in response to the comments raised at the March 5<sup>th</sup> presentation at the Board of Selectmen meeting regarding increased use of Old Road and speeds on Old Road, noted that that he was looking into short and long-term fixes including a new radar trailer and radar panels to mount to the poles to help slow traffic down. He also expects to increase service patrols in this area.
- 3) Highway Supervisor Dan Garlington noted that he had looked into this and it appears a Town cannot create a road just for public safety vehicles only.
- 4) Information on accidents on Route 125 and how the median is reducing accidents. Research reveals that for the stretch of Route 125 where a median has been installed, accidents are down by 50%.
- 5) The Highway Safety Committee voted to recommend that the Town explore the possibility of sidewalks along both sides of the service road with connection to the existing sidewalks on Route 125.
- 6) The Highway Safety Committee recommended that the Planning Board address the need for street lights.
- 7) Costs to maintain and plow the road, along with storm water management concerns regarding infrastructure, longevity and replacement. It has been determined that the length of the road will be 2,296 feet with a width of 30 feet. Highway Supervisor Dan Garlington noted that it was difficult to factor all of the maintenance costs including the costs to pave, sweep, line striping, stop bars and drainage but estimates that an overlay of 1" would cost \$30,268 and a shim/overlay of 2" would be \$60,537.
- 8) The Town would be responsible for the stormwater management infrastructure along the new Service Road, except the actual detention basin that will be owned and maintained by the NHDOT.
- 9) The BOS is still wondering about the number of businesses that would actually be accessing the service road. Chairman Curran would like to have more input from the abutting businesses.
- 10) The Planning Board further deliberated the merits of the proposed Service Road at their April 4, 2012 meeting, and, following all discussion, the Planning Board passed the following motion:

"To support the connector road as proposed with a raised sidewalk on the west side of the road, to obtain baseline traffic counts on Old Road just prior to its exit onto Route 125 and just beyond the intersection of Old Road and Jessie George Road (before and after the construction of the median and new Service Road) to determine use and use patterns, to install full cut off street lights

(underground) along the road every 500 feet, and to reserve the right to put a "No Through Trucking" sign on the Service Road should it become necessary in the future"

Discussion also included a question from Selectman Poliquin regarding if the Fire Chief was at all interested in running the waterline along the Service Road. Fire Chief McArdle responded that this had been discussed, and, at a minimum, he would like to have a waterline across Route 125 to a hydrant off the Service Road.

Vice-Chairman Sherman stated that he was opposed to the Service Road connecting to Old Road due to increased traffic on Old Road and the associated increased traffic on Main Street. He feels the Service Road should stop before Old Road and is also concerned with wetland impacts.

The BOS determined that they would hold off on any vote until they have a full Board.

#### *NEXT ITEM – PLAISTOW FIRST RECOMMENDATIONS:*

Vice-Chairman Sherman reviewed several of the recommendations included in the Phase I Plaistow First Committee Recommendations including:

1) Recommendation #82 – Regarding a parcel of property located in Plaistow but owned by the Town of Kingston. Town Manager Fitzgerald suggested that they complete title work first and then send letters to the Town asking if they are interested in the properties.

BOS consensus was to direct the Town Manager to send a letter to the Town of Kingston and conduct title research concurrently.

2) Recommendation #83 – Regarding a parcel of property located in Plaistow but owned by the Town of Atkinson. Town Manager Fitzgerald noted that in addition to their owning a piece of property in our Town, we own property in Atkinson. Therefore, perhaps there will be interest in the two Towns doing a land "swap."

BOS consensus was to direct the Town Manager to send a letter to the Town of Atkinson regarding any interest in a land swap and conduct title research concurrently.

3) Recommendation # 84 – Regarding a parcel of land located in Hampstead (Lot 8-25-01 totaling 6 acres) owned by the Town of Hampstead and the possibility of acquiring it to and adding it to the Plaistow Town Forest as it abuts 8-24, 8-25-02, 8-26, 8-27, parcels already considered for the Town Forest.

BOS consensus was to direct the Town Manager to send a letter to the Town of Hampstead regarding any interest in selling this parcel.

4) Recommendation #88 – Regarding four different parcels owned by the State of New Hampshire but located in Plaistow and the evaluation and possible acquisition of these parcels. The BOS agreed that the priority would be on the large parcel adjacent to the Town Forest.

BOS consensus was to direct the Town Manager to work with staff on verifying ownership and the origin of the how they came to be owned by the State of New Hampshire. Then pursue the acquisition or ownership of these properties to become owned by the Town of Plaistow.

#### **NEXT ITEM – TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Town Manager Fitzgerald reviewed all topics in his written Town Manager's report as submitted to the BOS.

Selectman Poliquin asked Town Manager Fitzgerald to send Jim Thornton a letter thanking him for his donation of the concrete footings.

#### **NEXT ITEM - SIGNATURE FOLDER AND MANIFEST:**

Chairman Curran noted that the Signature Folder was going around.

#### **NEXT ITEM – OTHER BUSINESS:**

Selectman Gray asked if the summer schedule for BOS meetings had been developed. Chairman Curran noted she was currently working with Town Manager Fitzgerald on the development of the summer schedule.

Selectman Gray said that the review of the Town Manager goals should be scheduled soon. Chairman Curran noted this would be happening soon.

#### **NEXT ITEM - SELECTMEN'S REPORTS:**

Selectman Gray reported on Planning Board and that the main item on their last week's agenda was the Service Road which was discussed earlier this evening.

Vice-Chairman Sherman noted that the Town Report Committee meeting had been postponed until May 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. He also reported that the Plaistow First Committee would be meeting next Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. and hoped to wrap up all work associated with their Charter. Regarding the Budget Committee, Vice-Chairman Sherman reported that they had held their first meeting and that Martha Sumner was elected as Chairman, Kristin Lewis Savage as Vice-Chairman. He noted that there were many new members (5) and that they had reviewed various introductory issues with them. The Budget Committee will be arranging for a training session with the Local Government Center (LGC) and are hoping to coordinate it as a regional training session. The Budget Committee will resume official meetings on October 2, 2012. Vice-Chairman Sherman reported that he had attended the Easter Egg Hunt and loved it!

Selectman Poliquin reported that he had no meetings last week but that there is a Recreation Commission meeting coming up. He also attended the Easter Egg Hunt and loved it!

Chairman Curran reported that she had been unable to attend the REDC meeting in place of Selectman Poliquin last Wednesday. She will be attending a Family Mediation Committee meeting next week. She concluded by expressing her great appreciation for all of the assistance that the Seniors provided for the various Easter activities.

# NEXT ITEM - NON PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (A,C&E) PERSONNEL, REPUTATION, AND LEGAL:

Selectman Gray made a motion, Vice-Chairman Sherman seconded, to go into a Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (A) Matters of Personnel, (C) Matters of Reputation & (E) Legal.

#### Roll Call:

A roll call poll resulted in all members voting yes to go into a Non-Public session at 9:15 p.m. *So Voted.* (4-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Leigh G. Komornick, for Audrey DeProspero