**Minutes of the Town Meeting**

**March 9, 2021**

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM at the Swasey Gymnasium at 178 Main Street, Kingston, by Moderator, Ellen Faulconer for the election of Town Officers, 12 regular Town Articles, as well as the voting for the election of Officers for Sanborn Regional School District, with 8 regular Articles for the School District.

Ellen Faulconer, Moderator swore in Election Officials Tammy Bakie, Donald W. Briggs, Jr., Richard Wilson, William Pellerin, Richard St. Hilaire, Holly Ouellette, Gail Ramsey, Barry Sargent, Lillian Lehman, Donna Shaw, Richard Johnson, Susan Diperri, Lyn Cogswell, Paula Pattison, Victoria Dobrowolski, Caitlin Milhomme and Bart Noyes. The Supervisors of the Checklist, Chairman Ken Isaacs, Claudine Dias, and Chuck Hart were also sworn in by the Moderator for duty.

Total count of cast ballot including 58 absentee ballot was 760 total registered voters on checklist are 5070, which indicates 15% participation.

The following results were obtained:

Selectman for Three Years

Kevin P. St. James…………………………………………………………………………………………447\*

Phillip A. Coombs……………………………………………………………………………………………414\*

Daniel Doyle……………………………………………………………………………………………………289

Michael C. Matayabas ………………………………………………………..…………………………..80

Town Clerk-Tax Collector for Three Years

Tammy L. Bakie…………………………………………………………………………………………………695\*

Supervisor of the Checklist for Five Years

Charles A. Hart ……………………………………………………………………………………………….603\*

Trustee of the Trust Fund for Three Years

R. Bradley Maxwell………..………………………………………………………………………………….609\*

Kirsten Arnold………………………………………………………………………………………………………23\*

Trustee of the Trust Fund for One Year

Shaw Tilton………………………………………………………………………………………………………561\*

Library Trustees for Three Years

Stephanie Hasselbeck…………………………………………………………………………………..535\*

Thomas Roughan……….………………………………………………………………………………….484\*

Nell Fillmore…………………………………………………………………………………………………..463\*

Planning Board for Three Years

Peter D. Coffin...................................................................................538\*

Robin Duguay……………………………………………………………………………...................515\*

Budget Committee Member for Three Years

Stacy Dion…………………………………………………………………………………………………………413\*

Gary T. Finerty………………………………………………………………………………………………….330\*

Linnhardt “Nick” Hilfer……………………………………………………………………………………..319\*

Trisha Tidd…………………………………………………………………………………………………………421\*

Shaw Tilton………………………………………………………………………………………………………..300

Zoning Board of Adjustment for Three Years

Peter D. Coffin…………………………………………………………………………………………………532\*

Lawrence Greenbaum…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..473\*

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session for the purposes set forth therein, totaling $ 6,661,370.00. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be $6,474,403.00 which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in any other warrant article.

Estimated tax impact $4.97/$1,000

 RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN 5-0

RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 6-3

**yes 379 no 343**

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict 100% of the revenues from ambulance billing of non-residents to expenditures for the purpose of replacement of the Kingston Fire Department Ambulance, known as the Ambulance Replacement special revenue fund. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality’s general fund. This article will be contingent upon the passage of article #4. (Majority vote required)

No tax impact

RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN 5-0

RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 9-0

**yes 592 no 124**

ARTICLE 4: To see if the town will vote to establish an Ambulance Services Revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h. All revenues received from non-resident ambulance billing will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town’s general fund balance. And, further to raise and appropriate the sum of $246,100 to be added to the EMS Services Revolving fund, with this amount to come from the Town’s unassigned fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. This article will be contingent upon the passage of article #3. (Majority vote required)

No tax rate impact

RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN 5-0

RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 9-0

**yes 592 no 128**

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town of Kingston will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $75,833 for the purpose of installation of energy saving equipment namely, LED street lights which will result in a significant reduction for street lighting costs of more than $9,000 per year, starting in 2022. Additionally, a rebate incentive from the Town’s energy provider estimated to be $16,946 will help to offset the cost if received. (Majority vote required)

Estimated tax impact is $.09/$1,000

RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN 5-0

RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 9-0

**yes 583 no 150**

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to allow a 1½% deduction from Property Tax when payment is made prior to the due date. It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to take the deduction; deductions not taken by the taxpayer on or before the due date will not be refunded. (Majority vote required)

RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN 5-0

RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 8-1

**yes 694 no 40**

 ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $85,000.00 to be placed in the previously established Fire Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required)

Estimated Tax impact is $.10/$1,000

RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN 5-0

RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 9-0

**yes 509 no 206**

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $80,000 to be placed in the previously established Town Buildings Maintenance and Repairs Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required)

Estimated Tax impact is $.09/$1,000

RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN 5-0

RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 9-0

**yes 513 no 201**

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $100,000.00 to be placed in the previously established Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required)

Estimated Tax impact is $.12/$1,000

RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN 5-0

RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 9-0

**yes 474 no 236**

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to create a full- time Highway Administrative Secretary position and eliminate the current part-time position. Further, to raise and appropriate the sum of $31,354 for salary and benefits, to be added to the $25,000 currently in the proposed Highway budget. This appropriation will be for salary and benefits for nine months; if approved, this position will become part of the operating budget in ensuing years. (Majority vote required)

Estimated Tax impact is $.04/$1,000

RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN 5-0

RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 9-0

**yes 416 no 293**

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to create a full- time Code Enforcement Officer position. Further, to raise and appropriate the sum of $65,690 for salary and benefits. This appropriation will be for salary and benefits for nine months; if approved, this position will become part of the operating budget in ensuing years. (Majority vote required)

Estimated Tax impact is $.08/$1,000

RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN 5-0

RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 8-1

**yes 359 no 352**

ARTICLE 12: On a petition of 25 or more registered voters, shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $6,333 ($1.00 per person) based on town population to support the substance misuse prevention, suicide prevention and community wellness services of the SoRock Coalition for Healthy Youth. SoRock’s work promotes wellness and nurtures resiliency for the children, youth and families of Kingston as well as surrounding communities. SoRock works through coordinating community education, programming & resources and collaborating with federal and state agencies to help direct additional resources to the towns they serve.

Estimated Tax impact is $.01/$1,000

NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN 4-1

RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 8-1

**yes 440 no 282**

ARTICLE 13: On petition of 38 registered voters of the Town of Kingston, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate $29,000 for upgrading of the 20+ year old playground on Folly Brook Terrace, at Comeau Field. This will include the purchase of some new commercial grade playground equipment, and reusing of some current equipment, as well as ground material, to be installed at the playground on Folly Brook Terrace, at Comeau Field.

Estimated Tax impact is $.03/$1,000

RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN 3-2

RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 8-1

**yes 445 no 274**

Respectfully Submitted

Tammy L. Bakie

Town Clerk-Tax Collector