

**Kingston, New Hampshire  
Board of Selectmen  
Meeting of February 6, 2023  
FINAL MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by the Chairman.

**PRESENT:** Chair Richard Wilson; Vice Chair Kevin St. James; Electra Alessio, Chris Bashaw, Charles Hart, Select Board Members

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Dan Doyle, 156 Main Street**

Chairman Wilson started the conversation by saying the Board would not be prepared to make any decisions this evening, as testing is still underway.

Mr. Doyle then presented a list of questions and concerns he has, since receiving a letter informing him that his well had tested above acceptable levels for PFAS contamination. He said he is receiving bottled water from Monadnock Water, paid for by the Town, because of this.

Mr. Doyle's concerns included:

- His own children and their friends in the house drinking water that is not safe.
- The safety of the water for livestock: he has 70 chickens and plans to add cattle this spring; he was trying to be certified organic, and this may now not be possible.
- The large amount of gallon jugs of water, delivered once per month: he said he will get 19 cases of bottles and 19 cases of gallon jugs, and does not know where he will store them. If left outside they will freeze. The company will not bring them in, so someone has to lug it all inside. In addition, this causes a large amount of recycling, for which he will need another recycling container.
- With the number of people in the house, he could run out of drinking water.

There was a discussion of these concerns. Selectwoman Alessio said that the water company knows the needs of the household, and supplies accordingly. Chairman Wilson said that if Mr. Doyle runs out of water, he can call the Town and more will be supplied to him. As to the extra plastic, Mr. Doyle was directed to contact the DPW to order an extra bin.

Mr. Doyle asked if the air or soil had been tested in the area of the Plains. Chairman Wilson said the chemical is not airborne, and that the Town's consultants, Sanborn Head, would say if testing needed to be done. Mr. Doyle asked if there had been any studies on cancer clusters in the area; Mr. Wilson said none had been reported, and the Town would be notified if so.

Mr. Doyle suggested that a committee should be formed.

The Chairman said that the Town is being mandated to spend money to mitigate the problem, and the end result may be a municipal water supply. He said the Town was

originally told to use the fire fighting foam by the federal government and now that the water is contaminated, the Town is being forced to mitigate. Selectman St. James said that the State has reduced the acceptable limits from 70 parts per trillion to 11 ppt; it is now among the lowest thresholds in the world. Selectman Bashaw said that if he were in Mr. Doyle's shoes, he would want a filtration system. However, there are still many unknowns and the Town is still hoping to hold the state and federal governments accountable.

Mr. Doyle also said this will affect home values. He said he would like to have a list of affected properties so he can reach out to the other residents and possibly form a committee. Selectman Bashaw said he would like to see the homeowners come to a meeting to discuss the results.

Chairman Wilson said that the Town is awaiting the report from Sanborn Head on this latest round of testing.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT 1:**

A representative from Housing Support, Inc., was present in case there were questions on their application before the Planning Board. She said she had seen it on the agenda. Selectman St. James said that the Planning Board has jurisdiction; the Administrative Assistant clarified that the matter was on the agenda under correspondence because the Board is routinely asked to comment on plans submitted to Planning. Glenn Coppelman, of the Planning Board, was present and affirmed that all departments get a copy of plans and are invited to comment. Selectman Bashaw said that the Board typically does not comment as they are the enforcement arm for Planning matters.

#### **COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

Selectwoman Alessio reported on the **Kingston Days** committee meeting. She said that the carnival company that participated in the past is not available on the weekend chosen for the event. She said she doubts the date will be changed; an alternate organization will be sought. She also said there may be no cow patty contest this year.

Selectman Hart reported that the **Deliberative Session** went well although attendance was light. He said the budget was explained well and passed unanimously. He invited anyone with questions to contact him. He also said that there will be 3 or 4 openings on the **Budget Committee**, to which interested parties can be written in on the ballot, or later appointed by the committee.

Selectman Hart also reported that there is a problem with standing water at the **fire station**, and they know where the problem came from but there remains the issue of which insurance company to bill, as the plumbing company that installed the showers was sold. It was agreed that Bauen, as the general contractor, warranties the building. The concern is mold, so clean up will be taking place right away.

Chairman Wilson reported on the Heritage/Stained Glass Committee, saying that the windows have been removed from the museum building for restoration. He said fundraising efforts will be ongoing.

**OLD BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Recreation building**

Chairman Wilson said that there was an issue at the Recreation Center when the pickle ball league arrived for their usual time and the building was locked. He said it was supposed to be unlocked, and Paul Butler would normally have been on call to come and let them in, but he was unavailable. He said that with the Board's agreement, he would pass along that the keys should not be given to pickle ball players or anyone else because that would be a liability. He said he would offer to be backup in future if this happened again, but that this was very unusual.

**BOARD BUSINESS:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT 2: None**

Mr. Coombs said he would like to schedule a Public Hearing about what should be done to improve the dirt roads Circuit Drive, Simes Road and Bass Lane. He said the Town has five unpaved roads and these are three. He said they take an inordinate amount of resources to maintain; they are narrow camp roads that were never meant for year-round use and fast travel. He said the problems have been ongoing for a long time and there are no easy answers, so he would like to have a hearing and have the residents in to discuss the options.

Mr. Coombs also said he would like to do a Power Point presentation on all the buildings the Town owns. It was decided that a good time for that would be at the Department Heads meeting with the Board, on April 24.

Mr. Coombs then corrected Selectwoman Alessio, saying that the cow patty contest is not going away. He said the DPW will be putting this on with proceeds to go to the Richard St. Hilaire scholarship fund, and they are looking for sponsors to defray the costs and increase the proceeds for the fund.

**CORRESPONDENCE, APPLICATIONS, PURCHASE ORDERS:**

- Email asking about placement of a lifejacket loaner station at the Town boat launch was received, and will be passed along to Muriel Ingalls of the Lakes Association
- A Special Event permit application for outdoor music at the Draft House was briefly discussed. As the request is for multiple dates, it was agreed this is not a special event. Selectman Bashaw will bring the application to the Planning Board meeting for a determination if it requires site plan review.
- A letter has been received from Comcast, informing the Town that the license will be up for renewal. As no date is given, the company will be called for more information.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** By Selectman St. James, to approve the meeting minutes of January 30, 2023 as submitted.

**SECOND:** by Selectman Hart

**All in favor**

**MOTION:** by Selectman St. James, to adjourn public session and enter non-public session at 7:30 pm, to discuss legal matters.

**SECOND:** by Selectman Bashaw

**All in favor**

**MOTION:** by Selectman St. James, to adjourn non-public session and return to public session at 7:40 pm.

**SECOND:** by Selectman Bashaw

**All in favor**

**Discussed in non-public session: Legal advice**

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:40 pm**

Respectfully submitted:

Susan H. Ayer, Administrative Assistant to the Select Board