

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of March 29, 2010
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at the offices of the Superintendent of Schools at 6:02 pm. In attendance were Chairman Mark Heitz and Board members Peter Broderick and Charles Hart.

Discussion of Field Availability

The Board joined in discussion with School Superintendent Dr. Brian Blake, Athletic Director Vicki Parady-Guay, Recreation Commission Chairman Roger Clark, and Recreation Director Donna Duddy about the availability of fields for use by youth athletic clubs during the upcoming sports seasons. It was determined that there are no school fields available for use of the two youth football teams who have played in Kingston for the past several years. Because the town has only Comeau Field, located at the site of the old Fairgrounds, available, and because the Selectmen are reluctant to continue to allow use of the Plains as a football field, some decisions need to be made. Ms. Parady-Guay noted that the Kingston Cougars - now known as the Rockingham Cougars - had been restricting their roster to younger players who might have been expected to do less damage to the Plains, but they now are expanding to older age levels and will need a more permanent facility. She stated that the club has approached other towns and begun the process of reserving fields. She had requested a 2009 roster so that the number of children from the Sanborn regional area could be determined, but the information hasn't yet been forthcoming. The other club - the Blue Devils - had provided a breakdown of the number of players from each town and 72% of the roster comes from the three towns in the Sanborn regional area. She suggested that two teams drawing from the same available pool of players may be too much for a small town. She has spoken with both clubs and tried to get them together with an aim toward developing programs that won't overlap and that will best prepare players for future participation in school sports, but that has been unsuccessful. She suggested that the Selectmen could choose one club for the single available field and support that club exclusively, possibly based on the number of local children participating. She noted that the School District has had a productive relationship with the Town and with the Recreation Commission, providing resources whenever possible, so she hopes that the Town will consider the overall best interest of the District sports programs when making their decision. Chairman Heitz expressed the Board's gratitude to the District for their support of town activities, including their assistance in providing shelter space during recent disasters, and agreed with the other Selectmen that there is no vested interest in either one club or the other, so will definitely take Ms. Parady-Guay's opinions into consideration. Donna Duddy offered to just advise the Cougars that they should look elsewhere for field space, but it was agreed that a meeting with the teams' directors will be set for early May, that 2009 rosters will be requested in advance of the meeting, and that a final decision will be made at that time. Dr. Blake agreed that overall coordination between the town and school will provide the maximum benefit to the town and district populations.

The Board ended discussion at 6:15 pm and retired to their offices at Town Hall.

Employee Discussion

The Board discussed with an employee her return to work following a brief medical leave. It was agreed that the employee can resume a 4 hour per day schedule, as per her doctor, as long as she feels able to do so.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Approved

The Board agreed to participate in a May 8th regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection that will be held in Plaistow. Notice will be published in the local papers, on the town's web site and on the public access channel.

Resident Complaint About Blocked Culvert Discussed

A letter from a Ridge Wood Drive resident concerning the blocking of a drainage culvert by another resident was reviewed. Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire had addressed the same situation at the previous Selectmen's meeting. It was agreed that a letter will be prepared and hand delivered to the homeowner advising that they cease the violation of interfering with the drainage of a public right of way.

Highway Department Updates

Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire advised the Board that the town's gas pumps have been drained and now are running properly, without excessive condensation.

Mr. St. Hilaire also advised that representatives of FEMA had been out over the previous weekend to review storm damage. Because only the towns of Salem and Kingston had provided information on individual homeowner damage in Rockingham County, he doesn't think that the reported damage will reach the level necessary for FEMA to institute its program of individual aid.

Mr. St. Hilaire then reported that flooding of the basement of the Grace Daley House had force shut down of the furnace and plumbing so there will be no heat or restrooms until the water level goes down. He will be presenting purchase orders for re-pointing and re-sealing of the Town Hall chimneys and repairing of the flashing around the cupola, where leaking occurred during the rainstorms.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Chairman Heitz, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the March 22, 2010 meeting as printed. Selectman Hart abstained from the vote due to his not having been present at the meeting.

Capital Improvements Plan Discussion

Planning Board Chairman and Capital Improvements Committee member Glenn Coppelman discussed with the Board whether there are any additional entries in the plan that the Board will be investigating. The Board reviewed the entries they already have discussed with department heads and agreed that they have no further comment to make prior to the plan being presented for acceptance by the Planning Board.

Fire Department General Discussion

The Board adjourned to the Fire Station at 8:00 pm at the invitation of the Fire Wards, to hold a general discussion of the Fire Department and its overall plan for future growth and maintenance or expansion of present levels of service. Present were Fire Wards Kent Walker, Kevin Schea and John Merrill, Fire Chief Bill Seaman, Fire Captain Richard St. Hilaire, Firefighter Bill Timmons, and Administrator/EMT Karyn Maxwell.

Fire Ward Kent Walker welcomed the Board and thanked them for coming. He presented an agenda, noting that not all of the subject matter would be covered. It was the Fire Wards' hope that the various issues could be looked at from opposing points of view and that consensus would be reached as to how the department can move forward.

Analysis of department call volume over the previous four years, broken down by type of call and by frequency per 6-hour period and by day of the week, was reviewed by Chief Seaman relative to staffing availability. He noted that his present roster includes several members who, while being very active in

the department at certain times, are not always available to provide coverage due to personal or family situations. A recent recruitment effort had resulted in 12 responses, 7 of which are now undergoing training, but the problem of filling shifts - particularly on weekend nights - is expected to continue. To ensure that there is a level of coverage that will allow the department to maintain the present level of service, the department had hoped to be able to hire a fourth full-time Firefighter/Paramedic, but voters had turned down their request at Town Meeting. Chief Seaman, noting that the average age of the members is increasing, suggested that in 8 to 10 years the department may not be able to meet a standard of 24 hour/7 day-a-week coverage or of an outstanding response time. He advised that the Department, Board of Selectmen and voters need to decide whether the current level of service is desirable and should be maintained over time and whether the resulting cost is worth the benefit.

Discussion then was held about the problems in contracting with a private ambulance company; about the advisability of training police officers as EMT's; about projected needs for additional or updated equipment; and about the need to expand the Department's space.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Grant
Administrative Assistant