

**Kingston, New Hampshire  
Board of Selectmen  
Meeting of January 3, 2022  
FINAL MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Chairman.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Phillip Coombs; Richard Wilson, Vice Chair; Electra Alessio, Donald W. Briggs, Select Board Members.

**ABSENT:** Kevin St. James, Select Board Member

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Police Recognition**

Members of the Kingston Police Department and State Police Lieutenant John Sonia, Major Crime Unit Commander, were in attendance to recognize State Police Lieutenant James O'Leary for his work on a hit and run case that took place in Kingston. Chairman Coombs explained for the public that a bicyclist was fatally struck by a vehicle along Route 125, and that Lieutenant O'Leary was integral to the discovery of who committed the crime. He said the matter was solved quite quickly due to the efforts of Lieutenant O'Leary as well as of the Kingston Police Department.

Chairman Coombs presented Lieutenant O'Leary with a plaque. Lt. O'Leary said that it was the first time he had worked in Kingston, and that it was great to work with such professional people. He said he worked hours and days side by side with the Kingston PD. Lt. Sonia commended Lt. O'Leary, saying that his background in Vehicles and various nuances of expertise were a major component to his success. He said that at the outset, they had no idea what had happened, only a victim by the side of the road, so the speed with which they were able to identify the driver was remarkable. He said this is a tribute to Lt. O'Leary and also to the Kingston Police; he said the Town should be very proud.

**13 Wadleigh Point Seasonal Residence**

This appointment has been postponed until January 10 at 7:30 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT 1**

Highway Agent Rich St. Hilaire said he was contacted today by the New Hampshire Dam Bureau, who are concerned about the level of Kingston Lake due to beaver dams in Folly Brook. He said this is not the only problem area, and described similar beaver population problems in Kelly Brook and the Little River. With regard to the Folly Brook beaver dam, he said he can't get to the area with equipment, and in any case, it is not the job of the Highway Department or the Dam Bureau to remove beavers. Chairman Coombs commented that the liability is on the landowner if neighboring wells are affected. Mr. St. Hilaire said that quick snow melt could cause overflow of septic systems in the area and affect wells.

Mr. St. Hilaire said that restrictions on trapping have worsened the problem, and that the “beaver deceiver” pipe systems would not work in these areas as the dams are too large and they could not keep the water level down. He said he wanted to make the Board aware of the problem, though he does not have a solution. He said he will look into it further. He and Chairman Coombs will meet to visit the sites.

Mr. St. Hilaire then said that one of the Town trucks is down and that while he is hoping the problem is a head gasket, if it needs a new power plant the repair could cost \$40,000. He said he had submitted a purchase order to cover the repair. The purchase order was not located, so the Board voted on the matter:

**MOTION:** by Selectman Wilson, to allow up to \$15,000 for repair of a Town truck.

**SECOND:** by Selectman Briggs

**All in favor**

Mr. St. Hilaire said that one more matter he would like to share is that he has had a request to reduce salt usage on Sunshine Drive. He said this is a cul de sac near the pond with two houses on it. He said he has no problem reducing the salt, but if it gets very icy he will be using salt to keep the area open for emergency services. Chairman Coombs said that Fire and Police should be notified that there will be reduced salt usage in the area.

## **COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS**

There was nothing of note to report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Solar and Recycling Committee updates**

Selectwoman Alessio said she had contacted the people who had signed up to serve on the new Solar Committee, and they will hold their first meeting on January 12 at 7:00 PM. Chairman Coombs asked the Administrative Assistant to contact all those interested in the Recycling Committee, and set the first meeting for January 20 at 7:00 PM. He said there are a lot of people on the list but he thinks an initial meeting is needed to answer questions on what this committee is all about. (*NOTE: The Recycling Committee initial meeting was changed to January 19 due to a conflict with another meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>.*)

There was a brief discussion on whether these meetings should be televised (no) and if meeting minutes need to be taken (yes).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Unanticipated Funds**

**MOTION:** by Selectwoman Alessio, to accept a check for \$8,621.95 from Primex, as the second payment for damage to a Kingston Police cruiser.

**SECOND:** by Selectman Wilson

**In favor: Alessio, Coombs, Wilson; Abstain: Briggs; Passes**

## BOARD BUSINESS

### 2022 Warrant Articles

The Board reviewed a draft Warrant showing articles placed to date. It was commented that an article is needed for work on the Grace Daley Barn; a cost estimate for which is to be received from the Heritage Commission. For the article to be placed for purchase of land for a water source, it was noted that this will not read “to raise and appropriate” but rather to use funding from the ARPA grant, with the Select Board as agents to expend. Mr. St. Hilaire affirmed that the Buildings Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund article should be raised to \$100,000, saying that this will include running water lines for the sprinkler system at the new Fire Station.

### BOS Meeting Schedule 2022

Meeting dates for the year were reviewed and will be posted online.

## PUBLIC COMMENT 2

None heard

## CORRESPONDENCE, APPLICATIONS, PURCHASE ORDERS:

- An application by Mark Viens to have a State Inspection Station at his place of business is still pending; Selectman Wilson has talked with Mr. Viens who told him the inspection station is only for his own vehicles. It was agreed that the Planning Board needs to sign off on this first; on a **Motion** by Selectman Wilson, **Second** by Selectwoman Alessio, it was voted to authorize the Chair to sign this form if it is approved by the Planning Board (**In favor: Alessio, Briggs, Wilson; Abstain: Coombs; passed**).
- A request to unmerge lots at Map R39, Lot 13 has been received. The owner believes the lots were merged involuntarily by the Town. Selectman Wilson said he had talked to the owner and told them this will result in 4 useless lots as they are in wetland and also landlocked. He said he will bring some questions to the Planning Board this week, in particular if a landlocked parcel can be created.
- A letter of complaint has been received about maintenance of the Pine Grove Cemetery. Chairman Coombs said that as cemetery sexton, he has not been contacted; he will investigate on behalf of the Board and bring the matter back to the next meeting.
- A letter to the owner of 3 New Boston Road received signatures and will be sent via certified mail.
- The Finance Director has prepared paperwork for the Chairman to sign, authorizing her to work with Sam.gov regarding the DUNS number for the Fire Station (needed to receive grant money). There was a **Motion** by Selectman Wilson, **Second** by Selectwoman Alessio; **In favor: Alessio, Briggs, Wilson; Abstain: Coombs; passed**.

Chairman Coombs informed the Board members that he has been trying to reach the legal advisor at New Hampshire Municipal Association, to be sure he is following the proper legal procedure to address the double power poles in Town. He said he will keep the Board up to date on this.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** By Selectwoman Alessio, to approve the meeting minutes of December 27 and December 30, 2021, as written.

**SECOND:** By Selectman Briggs  
**All in favor**

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:**

**MOTION:** by Chairman Coombs, to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) Personnel (2 items), and (l) legal advice (1 item)

**SECOND:** by Selectwoman Alessio  
**All in favor**

**Meeting adjourned to non-public session at 7:55 PM.**

**MOTION:** by Selectman Wilson, to return to public session at 8:20 PM

**SECOND:** by Selectwoman Alessio  
**All in favor**

**Motion made to seal these minutes:** Motion made by Selectwoman Alessio, seconded by Selectman Wilson, because it is determined that divulgence of this information likely would...

\_XX\_ Affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board.

**Roll Call Vote to Seal Minutes:**

Phillip Coombs	Y	Richard Wilson	Y
Kevin St. James	Absent	Electra Alessio	Y
Donald Briggs	Y		

**Motion: PASSED**

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

**Adjournment:**

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ayer, Administrative Assistant