

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of August 25, 2014
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm in the Selectmen's Office of the Kingston Town Hall. In attendance were Chairman Mark Heitz and Selectmen George Korn and Peter Broderick.

2015 Proposed Budgets

The Board met with Police Chief Don Briggs to review the proposed 2015 budgets for the Police Department and for Animal Control. The Chief provided line-by-line explanations of any changes from the 2014 approved figures. Exclusive of any salary increases that may be awarded in 2014, a proposed increase of just over 1.5% is included in the Police Department's proposal, and the Animal Control budget proposal includes an increase of 1%, including a 2% projected increase in salaries.

Fire Chief Bill Seaman presented his proposed 2015 budget to the Board, and provided a line-by-line explanation of changes. A 21% increase in the line for call personnel was discussed at length. Chief Seaman provided a comparison chart for surrounding towns, demonstrating that Kingston is by far the lowest paying department in the area. He explained his concern that his Emergency Personnel will go to other departments to work if some adjustment isn't made. He also spoke about the level of training and commitment required for the call personnel jobs, and the fact that their efforts generate substantial revenue for the town. One of the issues that's arisen is a difficulty in getting call personnel to sign on for night shifts between Sunday and Thursday. A higher rate for weekend shifts was instituted several years ago and was very effective in alleviating a problem filling those shifts, however the problem now has shifted to weeknights. Chairman Heitz asked if Chief Seaman's proposed pay matrix can be restructured to incentivize call personnel to sign up for a minimum number of shifts within a set time period. Chief Seaman will look into that aspect of the matrix, which increases the base pay rate and the add-ons for the various levels of certification, longevity and rank. The Board will take the information under advisement at this point and will decide prior to submitting their own budget to the Budget Committee whether they will be supporting the Chief's recommendations.

Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire presented his proposed 2015 highway and municipal buildings budgets to the Board, with no changes from the 2014 approved budgets at this point. He noted that the utility lines (heat and electricity) may need to be increased and suggested that those expenses attributable to the Nichols Building, which continues under control of the Library Trustees, be moved over to the Library's annual budget.

Discussion of Bids for Highway Garage

Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire and Michael Pivero of Eastern Seaboard Concrete Construction Company - the low bidder on the Highway Garage project -- were present to discuss the Board's intent relating to the project. Because initial bids were far higher than the total allotted by voters, the Board reached out to a local contractor to see if there would be a substantial difference in cost by going with a wooden rather than a metal building. The figures, when equalized to provide comparable amenities, do come in approximately \$70,000.00 lower, but as Mr. Pivero pointed out, the metal building is both more durable with less maintenance, and can more easily be expanded if necessary in the future. Mr. Pivero has worked with Rich to scale down the project somewhat and they've come in at a total figure under the \$650,000.00 project amount while still leaving the capability of future improvements that will meet original specs (i.e., for sprinkling, radiant floor heat, etc.). It was agreed that additional savings can be realized by bonding only the building rather than the entire project, and that the engineering firm likely will be able to draw up project plans for their contract amount. The Board agreed that engineering costs will be paid from the Highway Block Grant funds rather than from the project budget. Chairman Heitz polled the Board for unanimous agreement that the project will be contracted with Eastern Seaboard Concrete Construction at a total price of \$648,500, including bonding of the building only and with engineering costs to be paid from Highway Block Grant funding.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick it was voted to accept the minutes of the August 11, 2014 meeting as printed. Chairman Heitz abstained from the vote due to his not having been present at the meeting.

Administrative Issues

The Board signed abatements ordered by the Board of Taxation and Land Appeals.

A letter from the owners of Memories Ice Cream relating to a previously issued Notice of Violation was reviewed; the Notice will be withdrawn at this time.

A raffle permit for the Kingston Veterans Club was signed.

Assunta Ternullo was appointed to serve on the Recreation Commission.

An application for a Veterans Credit was approved.

The 2015 Mosquito Control Contract was signed.

An application for a Special Event Permit for a Depot Road property was reviewed. The permit will be issued with the same conditions as for a similar event held in July.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at 10:35 pm.

**Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Grant
Administrative Assistant**