

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of December 1, 2014
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in the Selectmen's Office of the Kingston Town Hall. In attendance were Chairman Mark Heitz and Selectmen George Korn and Peter Broderick.

New Community Library Director Introduction

Mike Sullivan, the newly hired Director for the Community Library, was present to introduce himself to the Board. Mr. Sullivan is returning to New Hampshire, where he's worked in libraries in Rye, Stratham and Greenland, from Oklahoma. He holds a Masters in Library Sciences and is looking forward to working in Kingston. The Board welcomed him and wished him well in his new position.

Fire Department Warrant Article Proposals Discussed

Fire Chief Bill Seaman and John Merrill were present to discuss with the Board the Fire Department's intent to submit a Warrant Article for consideration of the 2015 Town Meeting. The article will request voter approval for purchase a new fire engine to replace the 1993 engine that has been taken out of service several times in recent weeks. The Board had requested that Chief Seaman get estimates for what the cost would be to repair the truck - particularly the pump hose system that has been failing. To repair that as well as the brakes and exhaust, would cost approximately \$49,000.00. The Capital Reserve Fund balance is \$153,000.00 short of the \$500,000.00 needed for the new truck's purchase, so discussion was held as to how that remaining balance might be paid. The Chief suggested giving voters the option of raising the funds directly or going out for a 7-year Lease/Purchase Agreement at a cost of \$24,000.00 per year.

Chairman Heitz asked what major piece of equipment is scheduled for replacement next. Chief Seaman advised that Tanker 1 is due to be replaced in 2019 at a cost of approximately \$500,000.00. Engine 1 is a 1996 stainless steel truck that may or may not be replaced. The Department is considering repurposing the vehicle for other uses. One item that may throw the whole schedule into disarray is the replacement of air paks. The department has submitted a grant application that the Chief is relatively optimistic will be successful, but if the application is unsuccessful and the town needs to replace the air paks on its own, the cost will be \$225,000.00.

Board consensus is that incurring interest costs and having to raise a lease payment every year as part of the department budget while still trying to replenish the Capital Reserve for the next equipment purchase is unwise. It was agreed that the department will undertake to raise awareness among voters of the necessity for the new engine and request their support of a direct appropriation to supplement the Capital Reserve balance. It also was agreed that no request will be made in 2015 to fund the Capital Reserve Fund.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Selectman Korn it was voted to accept the minutes of the November 24, 2014 meeting as printed. Chairman Heitz abstained due to his not having been present at the meeting.

Non-Public Session

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick Chairman Heitz polled the Board for a unanimous vote to adjourn to non-public session under the provisions of NH RSA 91-A:3, II-a. The Board retired at 7:52 pm.

The Board returned to public session at 8:15 pm.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Selectman Korn Chairman Heitz polled the Board for a unanimous vote to seal the minutes of the non-public session for an indefinite period.

Police Department Discussion

Police Chief Don Briggs advised the Board that he will be seeking an increase from \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 in the town's Social Service Agency award to the SPCA. He has arranged for the SPCA to Board animals picked up by the town's Animal Control Officer for the months during the winter when electric service to the town's pound building is discontinued because of the new highway garage construction project.

The Board agreed to have Chief Briggs arrange with a solar energy provider to present a proposal to lease 5 acres of town property on which solar panels will be installed and electric power will be generated. Chief Briggs noted that, in addition to proceeds from the lease, it's expected that electrical service at reduced rates may be provided to town buildings as part of a lease agreement.

Appointments / Applications

The Board signed appointment papers for George Korn, Mary Fidler, Tom Roughan, Kurt Baitz and Laurie Farmer to serve on a newly re-constituted Grievance Committee.

An application for a Veterans Credit was approved for the 2015 tax year.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm and the Board retired to review orders to pay and to attend to administrative matters. The next meeting will be held on December 8, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

**Catherine Grant
Administrative Assistant**