

**Kingston, New Hampshire  
Board of Selectmen  
Meeting of March 2, 2015  
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.

**Fire Department Inspection Update**

Fire Chief Bill Seaman and Deputy Chief Marty Conlon were present to update the Board on a life safety Inspection that remains unresolved. The situation involves rental property to which the ambulance was called because there was no source of heat. The town's inspectors were invited to inspect two of the four units on the property and identified several health and life safety issues needing attention. The Chief had presented to the property owner a comprehensive listing of the issues, along with a time-line in which to address each issue. The property owner has been non-compliant to date. Chief Seaman has spoken with the state Fire Marshal, who will co-sign with the town's inspectors if it becomes necessary to issue an order to vacate. Town Counsel has assured Chief Seaman that he is within his authority to issue such an order.

Chief Seaman asked if a 14-year veteran of the department, formerly employed as part-time call personnel, will be eligible for vacation in the first year of full-time employment. Chairman Heitz advised that the former part-time status has no bearing; vacation time will be earned as for any other new full-time hire.

**Historical Museum Discussion**

Ruth Albert of the Historical Museum Committee and Jane Christie, Library Trustee, were present to clarify several issues relating to the Museum.

The Board affirmed that there is a line included in the Selectmen's budget to cover up to \$4,000.00 in charges for the archivist who is supervising the volunteers in cataloging the materials at the museum. Ms. Christie advised that the work is in the third year of a three-year plan. The committee members and volunteers all are become familiar with the software into which the artifacts are being entered and future years' archiving expenses, if any, should be minimal. It's the Committee's intent to pay from their fund-raising proceeds any expenses over the \$4,000.00 to which the Selectmen have committed.

Ms. Albert then addressed the committee's hope that the Selectmen will support them in applying for a Moose Plate grant to assist with some of the approximately \$40,000.00 in work identified by an historical preservationist as being necessary on the Nichols Museum Building. Ms. Albert advised that they would like the first phase of the project to be repairs on the roof. The estimate in 2013 to complete that portion of the work ranged from \$8,500.00 to \$11,000.00. The concern is that construction prices may have risen and that the maximum grant award of \$10,000.00 may not cover the expense. Ms. Albert asked if the Selectmen will be willing to contribute \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 toward the project if the committee is successful in obtaining the grant but the grant amount proves to be insufficient. The Board agreed that they will commit to make up the difference.

Ms. Albert then advised that the Historical Committee has lost its former 501.C.3 status with the IRS and state due to oversights in filing of annual reports. Since the change in its status, the Committee has been in discussion with the State's Trust Division and has learned that they may not legally serve as a municipal committee while enjoying 501.C.3 status. For that reason, it is the Committee's intent to refile with the IRS for 501.C.3 status as the Friends of the Museum, which will be a wholly separate entity from the Museum Committee. The distinction will allow them to continue fundraising efforts, the proceeds of which will remain under Committee control rather than being pooled with town general fund money.

Selectman Korn expressed concern that the status of the Nichols Building remains in question. He suggested that the Museum Committee, along with the Heritage Committee, discuss with the Library Trustees whether an agreement can be reached whereby there remains a programmatic relationship between the Library and the Museum, but under agreement that the Nichols Building is a town building overseen and managed by the town, with expenses being paid from the municipal buildings budget line as directed by the Selectmen. That arrangement will relieve the Library budget of having to consider the expenses and upkeep of two separate buildings. Chairman Heitz agreed that he believes it was never intended that the town will support two library facilities, and that provisions of the Nichols Trust have been upheld by creation of a Museum and Research facility at the Nichols Building; it's not necessary or prudent for the building to remain under control of the library trustees when its main purpose will be to serve as a museum. Selectman Broderick agreed, noting that the Museum Committee eventually may need to have its own budget line to cover various expenses and purchases, although actual building expenses likely will stay within the municipal buildings line.

### **Administrative Matters**

The Board discussed several tax deeded properties the disposition of which remains unsettled. It was agreed that the matter will be revisited in the spring and that the properties likely will be offered for sale at public auction.

The Board discussed expenses incurred in clearing snow from the roofs of town buildings. It was agreed that \$1,500.00 to clear the roof of the Community Library will be paid now from the municipal buildings line and that the library's transfer line payment will be reduced by that amount.

Discussion was held regarding a request for enforcement of the sign ordinance for a property on the corner of Meeks Road and Route 125. The matter will be taken under advisement as there's a question as to whether the sign is grandfathered from the ordinance.

The Board reviewed and signed orders to pay.

### **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Chairman Heitz it was voted to accept the minutes of the February 23, 2015 meeting as printed. Selectmen Broderick abstained from the vote due to his not having been present at the meeting.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on March 9, 2015 beginning at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Grant  
Administrative Assistant