

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of July 11, 2016
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 Peter Broderick and George Korn.

State Senatorial Candidate Nancy Steenson

Nancy Steenson of Danville was present to introduce herself as a Republican candidate for the vacant State Senate Seat for this District. Senator Russell Prescott is giving up his Senate seat to run for Executive Council. Ms. Steenson reviewed her history, her platform of concerns, and her belief in her ability to serve. The Board thanked her for coming in and wished her success in the September Primary election.

Public Hearing to Determine Source of Engineering Funding

At 7:00 pm, Chairman Heitz called to order a Public Hearing for the purpose of determining the source of funding for a \$32,000.00 engineering contract for the North Road culvert replacement project. It was noted that the Hearing had been posted at the Town Hall and Post Office as well as on the town's website.

Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire advised that the Board had signed the contract with CMA Engineers in December of 2015 but hadn't at that time specified from where the funding would come. The FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant for the project is insufficient to cover both construction and engineering costs. The purpose of the Public Hearing is that, should the Board decide to fund the engineering from the Infrastructure Improvements Fund, withdrawals from that fund require a Public Hearing.

The Board discussed what paving and reconstruction projects Mr. St. Hilaire is planning to complete this year. Although no work schedule is firmly in place, there are tentative plans to begin paving sections of Rockrimmon and Ball Roads that were not improved at the time of the culvert replacements on those roads. There also is a tentative plan to begin work on Scotland Road. Selectman Broderick asked if reconstruction of Church Street is scheduled. Mr. St. Hilaire advised that he will present a Warrant Article to the 2017 Town Meeting to appropriate funds for that purpose. Chairman Heitz asked if Mr. St. Hilaire had requested bids for any of the 2016 proposed projects. Mr. St. Hilaire advised that he has not requested proposals yet.

Chairman Heitz asked if there was any input from the public. None was forthcoming.

Chairman Heitz suggested that, since there is no firm road reconstruction schedule in place, and since withdrawal from the Infrastructure Fund can occur at a later date when and if it becomes necessary, it would be prudent to plan to fund the engineering for the North Road project from the current budget and Highway Block Grant funds. It can be determined later whether additional funds are needed for the rest of the road work to be done.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Selectman Korn it was unanimously voted to fund the \$32,000.00 North Road engineering contract from the current Highway budget and Highway Block Grant.

There being no further discussion of the matter, Chairman Heitz closed the hearing at 7:16 pm.

Discussion of Frye Road Area Trespass Incidents and Fire Violations

Fire Chief Bill Seaman, Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire and Police Chief Don Briggs were present to discuss with the Board an on-going problem with trespass and property damage on wooded areas adjacent to Frye Road. Chief Seaman advised that his department has been called out seven times during May and June of this year to extinguish fires, and reported that the access points have been so damaged by ORV's operated by the trespassers that the ability to respond is becoming an issue for emergency equipment. He and Road Agent Rich St. Hilaire noted that the State Forester and Fish & Game personnel have surveilled the area over the past few weeks and have installed cameras to record illicit activity. They have gathered enough evidence to begin enforcement action and will keep the town apprised. Chief Briggs noted that he now has acquired four OHRV's that he can use to respond and that he intends to begin towing vehicles and levying fines to make the areas less attractive to trespassers. He also would like - with the permission and cooperation of the property owners - to place boulders at some of the active access points to discourage entry with vehicles.

Chairman Heitz asked Mr. St. Hilaire if a gate has been installed at the entrance to the Town Forest located near the end of Frye Road, near the Hampstead town line. Mr. St. Hilaire advised that the Conservation Commission just recently determined the type of gate they prefer and he can now order and install it. He noted that trespassers into that area tend to come from Hampstead, whereas the trespassers who've been creating problems on the privately owned properties seem to be mainly from out of state.

Chief Briggs will obtain letters from the property owners granting permission to place boulders at the various access points so that the only access will be over Frye Road itself, making enforcement activity much easier. He believes that once his department and the state are able to begin confronting the violators, having their vehicles towed and imposing fines and penalties, the problem should begin to disappear.

Discussion of Highway Department Issues

Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire reported that he had received an application for a driveway permit for a Rockrimmon Road property and had noted while inspecting the proposed project that the driveway actually exits onto Colcord Road. The discrepancy offers an issue to the Emergency 911 system. The property also appears to have multiple dwelling units, none of which other than the main house are noted in the town's assessment or building records. It was agreed that the property owner will be asked to attend a Selectmen's meeting to advise of the status of the property.

Selectman Broderick asked Mr. St. Hilaire if signs can be posted on the Plains advising dog owners of the provisions of Article 411.2 of the town's Ordinances. He intends to write a letter to the local newspaper as well to make it known that not properly cleaning up after dogs is a violation subject to fine. He further advised that continuing problems may result in animals being barred from public property.

Mr. St. Hilaire advised that he will be advertising during the coming week for the position of part-time Administrative Assistant for his department.

The Selectmen agreed that, since the court has determined that responsibility for the Nichols Building will hereafter fall to the Board, work on the necessary roof repairs can be undertaken.

No decision was made concerning action toward compliance with new MS-4 permitting requirements being enacted by the EPA. The actual changes to the requirements have not yet been made available to towns, but it's anticipated that professional assistance in developing and implementing a program may be necessary.

Discussion of Fire Department Issues

Chief Seaman advised that the new fire truck is nearly complete and that he hopes to have it available for display at Kingston Days.

The new, enlarged bay doors at South Station have been installed. Finish work was done by the town's own Buildings and Grounds staff.

Oral Boards for the vacant firefighter position were held, the top three candidates are now undergoing background checks, and it's expected that offers of employment will be made shortly. One of the three candidates is from Kingston.

Non-Public Session

MOTION: At the request of Chief Briggs, and 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-b and f. The Board adjourned at 8:22 pm.

The Board returned to public session at 8:40 pm.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Selectman Korn it was unanimously voted to seal the minutes of the non-public session for an indefinite period.

Administrative Items Addressed

Junk Yard Renewal Licenses for three properties were reviewed and approved.

Permits were approved for the Kingston Volunteer Firefighters' annual Lobster Feed and Road Races to be held during Kingston Days.

Tax deeded properties available to be auctioned were reviewed. Town Counsel will be consulted as to whether a three-year period following deeding needs to pass before particular properties of offered for sale.

A letter from the Heritage Commission concerning a tree that should be removed was reviewed and referred to Mr. St. Hilaire.

Motions filed with the courts concerning a pending legal matter were reviewed.

An extension granted by the LCHIP offices for the bandstand project was noted.

A request for abatement due to financial hardship - submitted on behalf of a resident taxpayer by a reverse mortgage company - was reviewed and denied.

It was determined that Selectman Heitz will represent the Board on the Capital Improvements Plan Committee and that Selectman Korn will serve on the 325th Anniversary Committee.

An inquiry from a resident concerning "Welcome to Kingston" signs at points of entry was discussed. Selectman Broderick noted that previous signs had been vandalized, destroyed, and/or stolen.

Suggestions for changes to the Recreation Summer Camp registration forms were reviewed. The Camp Director will be reminded to restrict discounts to residents only and to ensure that the higher rates for non-resident campers will apply both to weekly and to daily rates. Any reference to financial assistance for camping rates will be removed from the application information.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick, minutes for the meetings of May 23rd, June 6th, and June 20th were approved as written. Chairman Heitz abstained from the vote.

Orders to Pay were reviewed and approved.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Catherine Grant
Administrative Assistant**

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