

**Kingston, New Hampshire  
Board of Selectmen  
Meeting of May 15, 2017  
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in the Selectmen's Office of Kingston Town Hall. The meeting was not broadcast. In attendance were Chairman Mark Heitz and Selectmen Peter Broderick and George Korn.

**Discussion of Assessments in New Development**

David and Jane Mezey of Monarch Way in the Kings Court development were present to discuss assessing errors in the valuation of their property. They advised that, once they became aware of the fact that they were being charged for finished living area on a second story that doesn't exist, they examined their tax card more closely and found that living space created in their basement was not being assessed, that the measurement of their foundation was incorrect, and that the picture attached to their record was actually that of another home altogether. They then discussed the errors with neighbors within the development and found that many of their properties' assessments also had multiple errors - many to the detriment of the town. They discovered that the town's assessor apparently was not actually entering and individually assessing each property, although many of the properties are customized and so would be valued differently. Upon reporting the circumstances to the town, the assessor did re-visit their property and make corrections so a new assessed value will be available for the 2017 tax year, however the assessor declined to re-visit any of the other properties on which errors had been identified.

Because the error in the Mezeys assessment resulted in an overpayment by them of approximately \$1,600.00 for the 2016 tax year, the Mezeys were hoping to obtain a refund of the overpayment amount.

The Board advised that applications for abatement must be filed by March 1<sup>st</sup> of the year following issuance of the bill. Because the Mezeys didn't file until May 11<sup>th</sup>, they missed the deadline. However, they will have the option to appeal the Selectmen's denial to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals in Concord. At the Mezeys' request, Chairman Heitz agreed to contact Town Counsel to see if any other options are available.

Mr. Mezey also questioned why, with the decrease in square footage resulting from the correction, the cost per square foot increased by several dollars. It was agreed that the Mezeys will need to sit down with the assessor during his regular monthly office hours so that he can explain the reason for the change in the per square foot cost.

Chairman Heitz noted that both the original and corrected assessments are substantially lower than what the Mezeys paid for their property and that, even when the equalization factor is applied to sales prices, the units throughout the development are somewhat under assessed. He suggested that, with the 2018 revaluation of properties, there will be more sales data from which the assessors will be able to develop values that will closer reflect actual market values.

### **Administrative Items**

The Board appointed Geoff Harris to serve as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission.

A thank you letter to the Kingston Lions Club for their generous donation of four benches to be placed around the newly renovated bandstand was signed.

A letter advising the DMV of the Board's approval for Tammy Bakie to serve as a municipal agent on behalf of the town was signed.

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

**MOTION:** Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Selectman Korn it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the May 8, 2017 meeting as printed.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine Grant  
Administrative Assistant**