

**Town of Kingston
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
October 2, 2017**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Board members present: Mark Heitz, Chairman; Peter Broderick. Absent: George Korn

- The Board met with Police Chief Briggs, Fire Chief Seaman; Road Agent Rich St. Hilaire joined the meeting initially by phone prior to arriving at the meeting. Chief Briggs provided the Board with a letter from the High Sheriff of Rockingham County and from Motorola Radio; he explained that effective shortly, the Town's radios won't work correctly on the current county system. He continued that the County's new upgraded system was supposed to increase communications between Police and Fire in the field; when the system was being vetted, the Town's were told that their current radios would work in conjunction with the new system but apparently the technicians were incorrect. This inability has caused the new system to remain off until this can be addressed. Chief Briggs described a meeting held with all the police chiefs, the sheriff and Motorola; since they caused the problem, Motorola will provide the equipment at a 50% reduction. Mr. Broderick asked what the costs would be for this. Mr. Heitz asked how many municipalities and agencies were affected. Chief Briggs stated that approximately 20% of the towns in the county. Chief Seaman reviewed radio purchases and replacements. Chief Briggs provided the Board with a proposal for the replacements required: Police: 12 mobile and 1 base station; Fire: 7 mobiles and 2 base stations; Highway: 12 mobiles and 1 base station. Chief Seaman provided the anticipated costs: Police: \$32,960.50; Fire: \$22,184.50 plus cable costs of \$1675; Highway: \$29,346. Mr. Heitz asked for a more detailed explanation of the need for the amount requested. Chief Briggs suggested the funding come out of the Public Safety Detail Account. Mr. St. Hilaire (who had arrived at the meeting at this time) explained the need for the proposed number of radios for the Highway department; often the Highway Department is needed for emergency situations for access issues. Chief Briggs noted that the radios usually go for \$5000 each. Mr. Broderick stated that they should provide the radios at cost or the Town should go to court as Motorola caused the issue. Chief Briggs added that the reduced rate is good until July, 2018. Chief Briggs reviewed the savings the Town has seen in the past when replacing radios. Mr. St. Hilaire said that because the Town has been conservative in spending for radio replacement over the years, the Town is now at a point for a needed upgrade. Mr. Broderick stated that it is possible that the new system wouldn't have been installed if it had been known that municipalities would have to spend \$100,000 to upgrade; he re-iterated his belief that Motorola should provide them at cost, at a minimum. Chief Briggs said they had already gone down that road; he added that having the same radios would help each department. Mr. Broderick said that he was against paying for them and would like to check into taking Motorola to court. The differences between the old and new equipment was reviewed. Chief Briggs asked for the Board to allow him to research whether another agency or state would need the old ones for parts for some possible offsetting revenue. Mr. Heitz asked the department heads for the compelling argument as why a radio was needed for every single vehicle the Town has; he questioned whether it was necessary to buy a radio for equipment/vehicles that are not used frequently; he said he wasn't questioning the need for front line but questioned the need for "detail" or not first-response type of vehicles. Chief Briggs compared the need for consistency with the radios with an example of providing similar

guns for consistency. Mr. Heitz noted that as new things come out, there will always be changes so equipment won't be standardized after the initial purchase. Mr. Heitz reviewed the proposed number again. Chief Briggs explained that 2 of the number requested for the PD were spares; he reminded the Board that radios costing \$2500 now would cost \$5000 next year. Chief Seaman reviewed Fire Department procedures as they pertained to the number of radios needed. Mr. St. Hilaire reviewed the radios on current Highway Department equipment. Mr. Heitz asked that necessities were identified. Mr. St. Hilaire reviewed Highway equipment to come to the number of 12 radios. Mr. Heitz suggested that in the case of an emergency, the person on the "trackless" could be contacted by cell phone. Mr. St. Hilaire explained the often during emergencies, the backhoe is the most used vehicle; as an example, he noted that during a microburst, the backhoe and loader are used during those emergencies. Chief Briggs reviewed alternatives that would have higher costs. Mr. Broderick stated that this is an issue that Motorola caused that the Town is now expected to pay for. Chief Seaman said that these replacements could be good for at least 10 years. The length of time these could last was discussed. Mr. St. Hilaire said that they should last the life of the truck and move into any new vehicle. Chief Seaman said that they should last as long as they are supported. Mr. Broderick asked how many is actually needed; it appeared that one could be reduced from the proposal from Police and one from Highway saving \$5000 off the proposal. Chief Briggs said the warranty is three years. Chief Briggs agreed that Motorola is to blame for the issue. Mr. Broderick added that the Town is being faced with \$86,000 worth of cost due to Motorola's mistake. He said that he would agree to the proposal with buying two less and it would be up to the Selectboard regarding any additional court action; it can come out of the "Detail" money so it won't impact the taxpayer. Mr. Heitz stated that they need to get just what is needed with one spare; the radios should be trouble-free for three years due to the warranty and if there is some trouble, there is one spare. Chief Briggs confirmed that Motorola will strip out the old radio and re-install and provide the antenna; Motorola pays for the installation through another company. Mr. Heitz reviewed the amended proposal: Highway: 11 plus 1 base; Fire: 7 plus 2 base; Police: 11 plus 1 base; Mr. Broderick reviewed the total requested: 29 radios, 4 bases. Chief Briggs began reviewing the costs per item. After briefly reviewing the costs per item, Mr. Heitz noted that taking the reduction of the 2 radios at \$2500 each did not work out; he suggested the department heads sit down to find out the actual number and the Board could go from there. Chief Briggs will get the actual prices; Mr. Heitz suggested they send them in with a purchase order. Mr. Broderick expressed his concern that Motorola told the Town that it would work and then after the change, they find they made a mistake and expects the Town to pay for it. Mr. Heitz added that it was unlikely that Rockingham dispatch would have made the change if they had known the financial impact on municipalities; he thought it more likely that the Towns would have had notice of a change that would be implemented giving them two to three years notice for the Town to budget for the update. Everyone agreed that Motorola caused the problem.

- Memorial Bench: The Board met with Amy Ricca, Manda Emerson, Stephanie Faxon and Lucy Faxon about a possibility of a memorial bench on the Plains for their cousin who recently passed away. The Board introduced them to Mr. St. Hilaire who suggested a memorial tree with a plaque as an alternative. Mr. Heitz agreed with Mr. St. Hilaire about not adding more benches to the Plains for safety issues in the winter. The family thought this would be a good idea; they will coordinate with Mr. St. Hilaire regarding placement and type of tree.

MM&S (Motion made and seconded) to go into non-public session per RSA 91:A. (Motion by Mr. Broderick, second by Mr. Heitz) Mr. Broderick: yes; Mr. Heitz: yes. Motion carries.

The Board voted to come out of non-public session at 7:00 PM and seal the minutes indefinitely.

- Pow Wow Pond Council Update: The Board met with Russ Chute and Paul Dearborn who provided then with an update on their progress. The update provided included: Aug. 23rd milfoil survey by Amy Smagula: "looking real good"; they won't need a 2018 warrant for any additional funds and they are hoping that they won't need a warrant for 2019; they are the 1st in NH for "netted rake" milfoil removal with volunteers; they are targeting 100% milfoil elimination. Management of other plants were reviewed; they are looking for a permit to maintain the channels for pond lilies. Divers and "suction harvesting" was reviewed. The Board thanked them for the update and look forward to meeting with them next year.
- Tammy Bakie, Town Clerk/Tax Collector reviewed registration renewal reminders and using email for this purpose; she and her staff have been collecting emails for this purpose; they send the reminders out a month ahead of time. Ms. Bakie explained that the State is closing for updates so her office would also be closed Oct. 6 – Oct. 10. Mr. Heitz asked about registration requirements; Ms. Bakie confirmed that the actual registration is no longer required unless transferring ownership of the vehicle. Ms. Bakie explained that registrations are working well for on-line payment and she would like to implement paying taxes on-line. The process that would be used and associated fees were explained by Ms. Bakie; she added that people can pay their taxes by credit card at the Town Hall so there is no reason not to allow the convenience to the community by allowing them to pay on-line; she noted that the fee was paid by the user not the Town. Mr. Broderick asked how the resident gets their registration; Ms. Bakie stated that they are mailed to them. Mr. Heitz said he had not issue with taxes being paid on-line as there were no additional costs to the Town adding that it was important to make sure the taxpayer knew there is a fee to use the service company (ACH). Mr. Heitz questioned how the 1 ½% tax deduction would work; Ms. Bakie stated that she is looking into that. Mr. Heitz noted that there is a notation in the warrant that if the full amount is paid, a refund is not provided, it is the taxpayer's responsibility to take the deduction. Mr. Broderick added that if the 1 ½% deduction couldn't be taken then the taxpayer could decide not take the on-line payment option. Ms. Bakie will proceed on working on this option.

MM&S to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A. Motion by Mr. Broderick, second by Mr. Heitz. Mr. Broderick, yes; Mr. Heitz, yes. Motion carries.

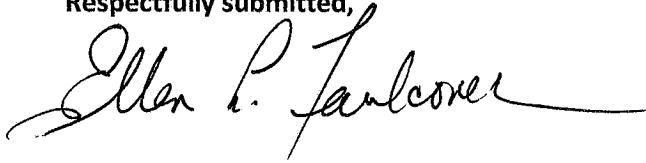
The Board voted to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes indefinitely.

- Mr. Heitz noted that the Fire Department building plans were received.
- Reviewed email from C. Grant re: attorney access
- Letter from DES re: Landscaper's Depot not in compliance with their rules/regulations
- Minutes reviewed:
 - **MM&S to accept the minutes of 9/18/17 as written.** (Motion by Mr. Heitz, second by Mr. Broderick) Motion carries unanimously.
 - **MM&S to accept the non-public minutes of 9/18/17 as written.** (Motion by Mr. Heitz, second by Mr. Broderick) Motion carries unanimously.
- Mr. Broderick asked about looking into the possibility of solar panels at the landfill site based on newer technology; he will look into contacting "Revisions"; Mr. Heitz questioned the current laws regarding this and getting credit for energy produced.
- Duct work update: Mr. Heitz mentioned it to Mr. St. Hilaire; he asked him to look into it and follow-up with the Board; double check on this with Mr. St. Hilaire.

- ECSI law suit was briefly discussed; the Court upheld the Planning Board's revocation of the site plan; Ms. Faulconer will contact Attorney Kalman, on the Board's behalf, to find out what the Town needs to do now to make the owner comply.
- The Board would like an update from the Building Inspector on the Lancaster property; Ms. Faulconer will follow-up.
- Correspondence, contract, purchase orders were reviewed and signed.

MM&S to adjourn at 9:02. (Motion by Mr. Broderick, second by Mr. Heitz) **PUNA**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ellen P. Faulconer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Respectfully submitted," text.