

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of December 28 2012
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM in the Selectmen's Office of the Kingston Town Hall. In attendance were Chairman Mark Heitz and Selectmen Peter Broderick and George Korn.

Fire Department Proposed Warrant Articles Reviewed

Fire Chief Bill Seaman, Deputy Chiefs Rick Fowler and Marty Conlon and Captain Richard St. Hilaire were present to review with the Board their suggested Warrant Articles for the 2013 Town Meeting. Chief Seaman explained that the department is hoping that the Selectmen will sponsor the articles in the future, since the Fire Ward system ends in March and they will no longer be presenting petition articles for Town Meeting action.

The first article is for an \$80,000.00 appropriation to the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. The amount represents a \$5,000.00 increase over the 2012 appropriation. It's expected that the amount will remain stable for 2013 and 2014, and increase to \$85,000.00 for 2015 and 2016. Chief Seaman noted that Engine 3 - housed at South Station - is the next major vehicle replacement and it's hoped the replacement will occur in 2015. The Board agreed to include the Warrant Article as presented.

A second article will request \$33,000.00 to replace the 22-year old utility truck (a former forestry truck) with a new Ford 250, 4WD, gas powered 450 liter pick up truck. It was noted that the vehicle will be critical for response during storms, travel to training events, transport of hose and equipment, and various off-road purposes such as forest fire response. Some discussion was held concerning the wisdom of purchasing a brand new vehicle for use as a utility vehicle and the Board questioned whether there might be existing fleet vehicles - such as the old highway pickup - that would serve the purpose. Chief Seaman advised that the proposed vehicle will be used for emergency response and that the highway truck - with 190,000 miles - doesn't offer the level of reliability necessary. Another option - to use the present Police Department pick up - was discussed, but it was noted that the Police Department uses that vehicle during snow emergencies and would likely want to replace it if it were taken over by the fire Department. Selectman Korn suggested that an all-purpose vehicle such as the one proposed could be shared among departments rather than each department having its own. The Board agreed to include a Warrant Article requesting that the necessary amount be raised rather than withdrawn from the Capital Reserve Fund.

A third article will request withdrawal of \$195,000.00 for replacement of the older of the two ambulances from the Ambulance Replacement Fund, which has a balance of slightly more than \$300,000.00. Chief Seaman explained that ambulances are purchased on a 12-year cycle with one being replaced each six years. The one now proposed to be replaced is a 2001 model with 68,000 miles and 12,000 hours of service. The replacement will be a V10 gas powered Ford with a power cot and mechanical CPR device (LUCAS) included. Each of those items of equipment is valued at \$15,000.00. It was noted that the Fire Association may be requested to raise funds to provide for a second LUCAS for the other ambulance as they're so effective and they allow ambulance attendants to be safely buckled in during transports rather than to be unsecured while administering CPR. It was noted that the quote provides for a \$5,000.00 trade-in allowance on the old vehicle, which will be stripped of all equipment in order to outfit the new vehicle. Richard St. Hilaire advised that he may be able to use the vehicle as replacement for the Buildings Maintenance van if the trade-in isn't a necessary component of the quoted price. The Board agreed to include the Warrant Article as presented.

Discussion was held regarding billing for fire response services to those homeowners whose insurance includes provision for remittance to responding departments. Chairman Heitz advised that not to take advantage of coverage that's available is tantamount to the taxpayers subsidizing insurance companies. He suggested that a policy whereby response costs less the amount of any

applicable deductible be billed to homeowners could provide some off-setting revenue to the department. Chief Seaman agreed to look into the statute that allows for such billings.

Chairman Heitz also suggested that strict use of replacement schedules needs to be reviewed. If a piece of equipment continues to be reliable and isn't racking up repair costs beyond its scheduled replacement time, it may make more sense to retain it than to replace it simply because the estimated life term has been met. Selectman Korn agreed, suggesting that a range of years during which replacement should be considered might be coupled with an assessment program to ascertain the most cost effective time to replace items. Chief Seaman agreed, noting that use of different materials in constructing some items of equipment has prolonged their life expectancy and reduced the need for repairs, maintenance and replacement.

Chief Seaman also reported a minor accident involving the forestry trailer and advised that he'll be seeking to repair the damage after the start of the new year.

Encumbrances of 2012 Budget Amounts Decided

The Board then reviewed suggested encumbrances of 2012 budget amounts for payment in 2013.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick, it was unanimously voted to encumber \$2,000.00 to pay for tax map changes completed by John E. O'Donnell Associates, to be paid from the 2012 Tax Map Update line.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick, it was unanimously voted to encumber \$11,000.00 to pay for the audit of 2011 financial records by Plodzick & Sanderson, to be paid from the 2012 Audit line.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick, it was unanimously voted to encumber \$10,315.00 to pay for computers being supplied by Botnay Bay Technology, to be paid from the Selectmen's 2012 computer upgrade line.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick, it was unanimously voted to encumber \$1,625.00 to pay for a computer being supplied by Botnay Bay Technology, to be paid from the Planning Board's 2012 office equipment line.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick, it was unanimously voted to encumber \$8,054.00 to pay for an Impact Fees Ordinance contract with BCM Planning, LLC, to be paid from the Planning Board's 2012 Impact Fee Contract line.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick, it was unanimously voted to encumber \$3,078.00 to pay for ammunition purchased from Jerry's Sport Center, to be paid from the Police Department's 2012 ammunition line.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick, it was unanimously voted to encumber \$13,732.00 to pay the amount of retainage due to North Hampton Excavating for the culvert replacement projects finished during 2012, to be paid from 2012 Highway Block Grant funds.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick, it was unanimously voted to encumber \$20,000.00 to pay for engineering of the North Road culvert replacement project, to be paid to CMA Engineers from the 2012 Highway Block Grant.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick, it was unanimously voted to encumber \$50,000.00 to pay for a portion of the cost to replace the highway department backhoe, to be paid from the 2012 Highway Block Grant.

Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire reported that he had spoken with a Selectman from Danville who subsequently obtained from the Danville Board of Selectmen agreement to provide for the North Road Culvert Replacement project that portion of project costs necessary to complete that portion of road reconstruction that extends beyond the Kingston town line. Total cost of the 200' of road work extending into Danville, less that portion being reimbursed by Hazard Mitigation grant funds, is expected to be approximately \$10,000.00.

Acceptance of Anonymous Donation to Human Services for Fuel Assistance

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn, second of Selectman Broderick and a unanimous vote, the Board gratefully accepted on behalf of the Human Services office a cash donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from an anonymous donor, for the purpose of providing fuel assistance to area residents.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick it was voted to accept the minutes of the December 17, 2012 meeting as printed. Chairman Heitz abstained from the vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Grant
Administrative Assistant