

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of February 4, 2013
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM in the Selectmen's Office of the Kingston Town Hall. In attendance were Chairman Mark Heitz and Selectmen Peter Broderick and George Korn.

Town Clerk Discussion

Town Clerk-Tax Collector Melissa Fowler provided to the Board a brief update of her research into establishing a system for acceptance of credit and debit card payments. Some initial costs will be incurred, as well as a possible monthly fee to cover bank charges. She will continue to investigate how best to offer the additional service.

State Representative Regina Birdsell with Legislative Updates

State District 13 Representative Regina Birdsell was present to introduce herself and to review with the Board pending legislation that local governments may be interested in. As a member of the Election Law Committee she particularly wanted to point out that there is pending legislation relative to straight ticket voting, changes to the Electoral College system in favor of popular vote, and changes to voter identification statutes. She also noted that there is legislation pending to limit the authority of Deliberative Session to amend amounts included in collective bargaining agreements. Ms. Birdsell intends to be present periodically at Board meetings in Kingston and Hampstead to update local officials on legislative issues and to see if she can be of service. Chairman Heitz thanked her for attending and for the information.

Fire Department Discussion

Fire Chief Bill Seaman and Fire Ward Kent Walker were present to discuss Ambulance rates. Kingston's rates have been set at 45% over the Medicare rate, but the Ambulance's billing services provider - Comstar - has advised that the rest of the towns they serve all fall within the 50 - 75% over Medicare range. After discussion, it was agreed that Kingston's rates, which are only charged to non-residents or to residents whose insurance provides coverage, will be raised to 65% over the Medicare rate. Chief Seaman also advised that, with the Affordable Care Act about to go into effect, the Ambulance will begin billing at bundled rates rather than continuing with the per-service rating method previously used.

Chief Seaman then discussed a property issue involving operation of a vehicle repair facility without proper ventilation. A residential apartment in the same building has been testing high for carbon monoxide and the building owner has been advised of the unsafe activity. Chief Seaman is requesting that a Cease and Desist Order be issued by the Selectmen. Chairman Heitz advised Chief Seaman to contact the Planning Board to issue a request for enforcement to the Selectmen, whereupon a Cease and Desist order can be issued.

Mr. Walker then presented copies of a proposed matrix of call pay rates. He noted that the rate increases encompassed in the matrix are meant to incentivize training levels rather than longevity of service. He and Chief Seaman advised that the increases are only an incremental step to begin to bring Kingston's rates to a comparable level with area towns, and noted that the rates fall far short of compensating members for the many hours of training they undergo and service they provide. Chairman Heitz, upon reviewing the matrix, suggested that a further adjustment could reduce the increase to be given to officers in favor of greater increases to those with advanced levels of training. He noted that most of the officers will benefit from that increase in any case and that the configuration more closely meets the goal of incentivizing all of the members who have reached advanced training levels. A revised matrix will be submitted for review at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Non-Public Session

MOTION: 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 N. H. RSA 91-A:3, II-c. The Board adjourned to non-public session at 8:05 pm.

The Board returned to public session at 8:45 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.

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 January 28, 2013 meeting as printed.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm and the Selectmen retired to address administrative issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Grant
Administrative Assistant