

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of November 25, 2013
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in the Selectmen's Office of the Kingston Town Hall. In attendance were Chairman Mark Heitz and Selectmen Peter Broderick and George Korn

Police Department Discussion

Police Chief Don Briggs was present to introduce proposed new officer Jerrald Heywood to the Board. Mr. Heywood will fill a position left vacant by the resignation of Chris Labrecque. He has most recently been employed by the Rockingham County House of Corrections and lives on Main Street in Kingston. He has passed all background checks as well as the department's interview / testing process. The Board approved a conditional offer of employment for a 3-year contract and welcomed Mr. Heywood to the department.

Discussion of Road Name Situation for 9-1-1 Addressing

The Board opened discussion with the Emergency Management Directors - Police Chief Don Briggs, Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire and Fire Chief Bill Seaman - concerning the proposed renaming and/or renumbering of the Wilders Grove (Kingston)-Country Pond (Newton)-Wilders Grove (Newton)-Concannon (Kingston) roadway. Because the road runs through both Newton and Kingston and the road name changes three times along its route, the State Emergency Communications Office has been working with the Boards of Selectmen of the two towns to try to make the situation less potentially confusing for emergency services personnel. At a public hearing held in October, to which all residents subject to being affected were invited, the state proposed two recommendations for action. The first would have changed the road name from beginning to end to a single name and renumbered each house consecutively without attention to the town lines. The second would have renamed the road to Country Pond Road from its intersection with Newton Junction Road in Kingston to the bridge in Newton, where it would change to Wilders Grove Road and continue as Wilders Grove Road to its end. The second option would have entailed renaming of the present Country Pond Road in Kingston.

The Newton Board of Selectmen, on November 19, 2013, voted to uphold a prior vote to take no action relative to the road's names or numbering, so the state's first option cannot be implemented. Richard St. Hilaire advised that he believes the Kingston Board should adopt the second option as presented, renaming Kingston's Wilder's Grove Road to Country Pond Road and changing the numbering on the homes located along that road section to as closely correspond to the numbering in Newton as possible. Kingston's Concannon Road then would become Wilder's Grove Road, continuing that name from the bridge in Newton to the end of the roadway.

Chief Briggs advised that, since Newton doesn't intend to make any change, and since renaming of the Concannon section of the roadway will affect so many residences with relatively little benefit, he believes that Kingston's Wilders Grove Road should be renamed to Country Pond Road, but that the roadway from the Newton Town Line out should remain Concannon Road. Kingston should be able to erect signage that clearly indicates both the fact that travelers are leaving Newton and entering Kingston, and that Concannon Road is beginning. He further suggested that reflective house numbers be posted on each house - both on Country Pond Road and on Concannon. The reflectors could be red (Newton uses a different color) and the numbering for each house could be preceded by a K to indicate its location in Kingston. He believes that this solution - while not precisely following the recommendations of the state - will virtually end any confusion in emergency response to Kingston residences and demonstrate a good faith response to an identified problem.

Chief Seaman advised that he will be able to accept Chief Briggs's suggestion, noting that the present Country Pond Road in Kingston will need to be renamed. One of the property owners on that road already is proposing alternative names.

Selectman Korn agreed that, while he thinks renaming of Kingston's Wilders Grove Road to Country Pond Road will be effective in reducing confusion and therefore worthwhile, he sees little benefit to renaming Concannon Road as long as the town line and road name is made clearly apparent.

Selectman Broderick stated that he wants assurance that any action taken by the town is sufficient both to alleviate the confusion and to demonstrate a high level of good faith in dealing with the issue. It was agreed that the better solution would have been the first option proposed by the state - renaming of the entire roadway - however without Newton's participation, the most important thing is to make sure that each road name change is clearly delineated and each house is clearly numbered.

The Board requested that Chief Briggs and Mr. St. Hilaire work together to determine what numbers on the present Wilders Grove Road in Kingston need to be changed to correspond to the numbering on the continuing road in Newton. Mr. St. Hilaire will work on the signage required, and Chief Briggs will look into obtaining the reflective numbering for houses along both the new Country Pond Road in Kingston and the existing Concannon Road.

Police Department Floor Maintenance Discussion

Chief Briggs presented for Board review proposals for re-sealing of the epoxy floors at the Police Station. Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire advised that it may have been an error to install that type of floor but it would be excessively costly to replace it now; he will try harder to keep up with the routine cleaning and maintenance necessary to keep it in good repair once it's been redone. The Board asked that Chief Briggs prepare a purchase order for the work.

Conservation Commission Discussion

Evelyn Nathan, Chair of the Conservation Commission, was present to discuss a tire dump adjacent to the Frye Road Town Forest. Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire advised that the dump had been created by a previous owner of the property and, following a fire in the 1990's, the State Department of Environmental Services ordered removal of approximately 80% of the million tires that had been there, allowing burial of the remaining tires. Unfortunately, tires don't remain buried and a lot have popped back out of the ground. They don't degrade and aren't considered an environmental hazard, although aesthetically they do deter from the area.

Chairman Heitz suggested that the Conservation Commission might introduce an annual Warrant Article to request funding for removal of some of the tires each year to an approved recycling facility. It's estimated that removal is a minimum of \$2.00 per tire and that there are at least 200,000 tires remaining on the site. Ms. Nathan noted that the property isn't actually designated as a Conservation site so doesn't fall under the authority of that commission.

Nichols Building Compliance Inspection Contract Reviewed

Lesley Hume presented for Board review a proposed contract with SFC Engineers for performance of code compliance inspections on the Nichols Buildings. She noted that, as previously discussed, the building's continuing designation as a business venue (rather than as a place of assembly that would require structural changes in order to meet Fire Code and ADA standards) is dependent upon installation of permanent, fixed furniture that reduces the square footage available for patrons. The review and resulting report will address the first floor as well as the basement area, for which a floor plan has been developed to designate workspaces and storage areas.

Ms. Hume also noted that carpeting has been removed from the basement area and that some type of flooring now is required, at an estimated cost of \$10,000 to \$12,000. Chief Seaman

suggested that the compliance report be completed prior to committing to any interior repairs of the building, particularly of the basement. Chairman Heitz agreed and stated his concern with costly renovations to an area that the Historical/Library Task Force initially had said would be for storage of overflow items only. He stated that the \$10-\$12,000 estimate for flooring in the basement seems excessive even if it is decided that the work should be done, particularly in light of the fact that the space has extensive problems with moisture. He reminded Ms. Hume that the premise in allowing the Nichols Building to be used for display of the some of the town's historic artifacts was that it would provide an improved space over the Fire House Museum that was unheated and unattended all year. Selectman Broderick asked if any estimates have been developed for the entirety of building improvements necessary. Mr. St. Hilaire advised that roof and foundation work is estimated at \$48,000.00 (a matching grant for which has been applied for); a total of approximately \$20,000.00 will be necessary for both floors to have flooring installed; the septic and well both may need replacement at any time; and the building is in need of a new HVAC system. Chief Seaman noted that the School District also is considering changes at the old high school campus that eventually may affect the fire suppression systems for both the Nichols Building and the Town Hall.

It was agreed that the compliance inspections will be done to determine what spaces in the building are useable for what purposes and that a discussion about improvements and actual uses can be held at that time, based on that report. Chairman Heitz signed the proposal for the inspections.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Chairman Heitz it was voted to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2013 meeting as printed. Selectman Korn abstained from the vote due to his not having been present at the meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm and the Selectmen retired to address administrative issues.

**Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Grant
Administrative Assistant**