

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of October 24, 2011
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm in the Main Meeting Room of the Kingston Town Hall. In attendance were Chairman Peter Broderick and Selectmen Charles Hart and Mark Heitz.

Parade Permit Issued

Selectmen approved and signed a Parade Permit requested by Christine Andrews and Alex Shreenan. The permit covers dates from November 7, 2011 through December 7, 2011 between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and involves the area in and around 44 Route 125. Chairman Broderick advised that Chief Briggs is aware of the situation and will instruct the participants as to where they may safely congregate.

Tax Rate Discussion

Budget Committee Vice-Chair Ed Conant was present to discuss with the Board setting of the 2012 Tax Rate. Chairman Broderick explained that the process has been changed by the Department of Revenue Administration. Rather than sending its auditors out to each town, the DRA now provides a spreadsheet of the information supplied by the town, into which the Selectmen add information about the amount of Unreserved Fund Balance to be used as an off-set, and the amount of Overlay necessary to cover estimated discounts, abatements and refunds.

Selectman Heitz explained that the 2011 Town Meeting approved \$115,000.00 more in Special Warrant Articles than had been approved in 2010. Additionally, there were substantial decreases both in State revenues and in vehicle registration fees. The Selectmen propose to apply \$500,000.00 of the approximately \$1.4 Million Unreserved Fund Balance against the tax amount to be raised. The result will be a 2011 Tax Rate of \$20.72 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Mr. Heitz noted that if none of the Unreserved Fund Balance is used, the tax rate will increase 1.04 over the 2010 rate.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Heitz and second of Selectman Hart, it was unanimously voted to apply \$500,000.00 of the approximate \$1.4 Million Unreserved Fund Balance against the 2011 Tax Rate.

The rate will need to be certified by the Department of Revenue Administration before it becomes official.

Announcements

Chairman Broderick announced that a Bone Marrow Drive will be held on October 29th from 9:00 am till noon in the meeting room of the Town Hall. The drive is to benefit Joe Prestipino of Little River Road. The testing comprises a cheek swab and generally is covered by insurance. If donors have no insurance, a benefit fund will cover the cost.

A Department of Energy Weatherization Program will be held on October 28th at the State House in Concord. Details of the program are posted on the website and on the public access channel.

Ambulance Billing Company Changes Discussed

Selectman Heitz advised that the Fire Department has investigated a change in the collection company for ambulance billings and has received a proposal from a company that would charge only 4.5% of total collections. The company would, however, require that each transport sign off. The town's existing collection company countered the offer with a 5% of collections rate (rather than the 8% that it has been charging). Additionally, new legislation allows for direct payment to patients who submit ambulance bills, with the Town named as co-payee. The Fire Wards recommend that insurance companies be requested to institute that direct payment provision for payments involving the Kingston ambulance service. The Fire Wards and Chief will be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss that issue.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Heitz and second of Selectman Hart it was unanimously voted to retain the current collection service for ambulance billings for the present.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

It was agreed that review of the October 17, 2011 Minutes will be postponed until the next meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm and the Board retired to address administrative issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Grant
Administrative Assistant