

Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of October 22, 2018
FINAL MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM in the Selectmen's Office at the Kingston Town Hall.

PRESENT: Mark Heitz, Chairman; Phillip Coombs, Kevin St. James and Donald Briggs, Jr., Selectmen.

ABSENT: George Korn, Selectman

Non-Public Session

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman St. James, **SECOND** of Selectman Coombs, it was voted by roll call to adjourn to Non-Public session under the provisions of NH RSA 91-A:3,II (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or negotiation.

In Favor: Heitz, Briggs, Coombs, St. James; Motion passed.

The Board adjourned at 6:42 PM.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Briggs, **SECOND** of Selectman St. James, it was voted by roll call to return to public session at 7:00 PM: **In Favor: Heitz, Briggs, Coombs, St. James; Motion passed.**

Regular session meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM in the Meeting Room at the Kingston Town Hall.

APPOINTMENTS:

Lynn Gainty, Kingston Days Committee

Ms. Gainty was not present so this topic was postponed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Highway - Snow Removal and Ice Control Procedures

Road Agent Rich St. Hilaire said that these procedures are not new, but are now a written policy to adopt, which reduces liability for the Town.

MOTION: by Selectman St. James, to adopt the Winter Operations- Snow Removal and Ice Control Procedures as presented by the Road Agent.

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs.

Selectman Coombs questioned the mailbox regulation under Article 1003 mandating a 5-foot setback from the edge of the pavement, saying that this is not possible in all cases. Mr. St. Hilaire said that in most areas it is not a problem, but he will work with those people who can't go back 5 feet. Chairman Heitz asked if this conformed with postal regulations, and Mr. St. Hilaire said it did when the article was written and the regulations were included in the policy.

There was a discussion of problems of mailboxes being knocked down, and there was agreement that people need to be aware of the ordinance and also that even the weight

of pushed snow can knock down a mailbox. The Road Agent said that if he has the choice of hitting an oncoming car or a mailbox, he will hit the mailbox.

Highway - Contracted Services- Plow Trucks

Mr. St. Hilaire brought this letter to the Selectmen for signature. It is needed to clarify how the Town contracts with plow operators, in order to receive reimbursement from FEMA for last year's snow storm costs. The Chairman read the letter and corrected the dates to October 15 - April 30.

MOTION: by Selectman St. James, to authorize the Chairman to sign as read.

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs

In favor: St. James, Heitz, Briggs; Absain: Coombs; passed.

Fire Station Site Cleanup Work Plan Proposal

Mr. St. Hilaire said that he had received a proposal from Stantec Consulting Services for development of a plan to address the lead and arsenic impacts to soil and groundwater at the Fire Station and conduct a groundwater quality monitoring program. This action has been requested by the NH Department of Environmental Services. The cost for Stantec to prepare the work plan is \$3,500.

After some discussion of the cost and why this step is necessary, the Selectmen decided to take the matter under advisement until they have the proposal in hand to review. It was noted that time is short, as the testing needs to begin in November.

Mr. St. Hilaire also informed the Selectmen that he is waiting to hear from Andrea Kenter of GeoInsight regarding a grant for help with the costs of the Fire Station site cleanup work. He said the Town was rejected for the original grant, but that an application is in for the second round. He said it can always be turned down if the Town's portion of the cost is too high (the State would pay 75% of the cleanup cost with the grant).

"Unknown Owner" Right-of-Way: U5-30

The Board revisited the question of what to do with a parcel that has no known owner and therefore has not had the taxes paid on it. One such right-of-way off Wadleigh Point Road was recently resolved after research by the assessor found it was part of a neighboring parcel. The Assessor could not, however, see any evidence that Parcel U5-30 belonged with another parcel, and instead concluded that whoever owns the road owns the Right-of-Way. The Selectmen considered the recommendation of the Assessor that the parcel should be deleted.

Assessment Contract 2019-2023

The Selectmen reviewed a spreadsheet of information about the five companies that submitted bids for the Assessing contract.

MOTION: by Selectman Coombs to accept the bid of KRT Appraisal for the 2019- 2023 assessing contract, to include general assessing and cyclical data collection, and a statistical update in 2023, at a total cost of \$171,750.

SECOND: by Selectman St. James.

An agreement for signatures will be obtained from the contractor.

All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lefevre Drive

The Selectmen asked the Road Agent about a letter copied to the Town regarding a dispute about plowing responsibility for the new subdivision at Lefevre Drive. Mr. St. Hilaire was asked if the street had been turned over to the Town, and he said it has not, as it is not complete.

Town Employee Health Insurance

The Selectmen reviewed information provided by Finance Officer Cindy Kenerson, showing renewal figures for Health Trust employee insurance plans. Cost increases are up 10.5% for medical and 2.3% for dental plans,

Options for ways to keep costs down were discussed; it was acknowledged that it is too late in the year to research other companies or other types of plans for 2019.

MOTION: by Selectman Coombs, to accept the increased rates as provided by the insurance carrier for 2019, but to plan research for options for 2020.

SECOND: by Selectman St. James.

In favor: Heitz, Coombs, St. James. Abstention: Briggs; Passed

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

October 15, 2018, Public and Non-public:

MOTION: by Selectman St. James, to approve the minutes of October 5, 2018 as written.

SECOND: by Selectman Coombs

In favor: Briggs, Coombs, St. James. Abstain: Heitz; Passed

Kingston Days/325th Celebration Committee

In the absence of Committee Chair Lynn Gainty, the Selectmen reviewed an email from her which outlined her request. She is asking for approval to take credit cards and PayPal in order to increase sales of raffle tickets, merchandise, front plates for vehicles and commemorative plates that will help fund the 325th celebration.

The Selectmen briefly discussed the matter, and asked that Ms. Gainty be invited to a future meeting in order to answer some questions they have about credit card usage, and also about the recent Sweepstakes dinner.

Ordinance Revision: Article 601: Solar Property Tax Exemption

The Building Inspector has brought to the attention of the Planning Board that Article 601 should be amended to be in line with RSA 72:62. It is suggested by the Planning Board to change the language slightly by removing "solar energy heating or cooling system" and replace it with "solar energy system as defined in RSA 72:61".

MOTION: by Selectman Briggs, to place an article on the 2019 Warrant to amend Article 601: Solar Property Tax Exemption, to read "solar energy system as defined in RSA 72:61".

SECOND: by Selectman Coombs

In favor: Heitz, Briggs, Coombs. Abstain: St. James; Passed

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Applications, Correspondence, Executive, Other

- A request from the Conservation Commission Chair was received, asking the Selectmen to consider sending a letter regarding incursion on Town easement land on the Town letterhead. The Selectmen read the letter and discussed the issues, which include removal of stone walls, creation of trails, use of motorized vehicles on the property, and dumping of trash. Selectman Coombs expressed that he felt the letter suggested by the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) and the Conservation Commission was an undue acceleration of the issue. He also said that this speaks to the broader issue of trails being used by ATVs and land being conserved for all, which numerous residents have spoken to him about. Chairman Heitz said he thought that the letter should come from the Town as it regards Town land. Selectman Briggs said that when the Town signed the easement it became obligated to enforce the agreed-upon usage. It was decided to invite the abutting property owner to a meeting to discuss the issue, along with Conservation Chair Evy Nathan.
- Another complaint has been received about the quality of the sound of the Town meeting broadcasts. The Selectmen discussed funding of new equipment.
- Two veteran's credit applications were approved and signed.
- A letter was received from the Department of Revenue Administration with a brief report of assessment monitoring they have performed.
- There was a brief discussion of reported overnight guests staying at Camp Lincoln. This is being addressed by the Planning Board; Selectman Coombs will follow up.

Adjournment

MOTION: by Selectman Coombs, to adjourn at 8:55 PM

SECOND: by Selectman St. James

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ayer
Administrative Assistant