

Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of October 31, 2018
Draft MINUTES

A special meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM in the Selectmen's Office at the Kingston Town Hall, for the purpose of setting the 2018 tax rate.

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

ABSENT: George Korn, Selectman

2018 TAX RATE

The Selectmen reviewed a spreadsheet prepared by Finance Director Cindy Kenerson, showing the breakdown of the 2017 tax rate and outlining several options for the 2018 tax rate depending on how much fund balance was added.

The Selectmen and Ms. Kenerson discussed available fund balance as well as current income and expenditure projections for the year. Selectman Briggs said that after the steep rise in assessments due to the recent revaluation, it was even more important to keep the rate as low as possible.

After some discussion, it was determined that the rate should be 21.04%, using \$710,000 from fund balances and leaving \$897,000 retained in fund balance. This figure was thought to be conservative as unused funds are anticipated to be added at the end of the year. This amount falls in the recommended level for fund balance retained.

OLD BUSINESS:

Assessing/Permitting Clerk

Following up on a discussion that took place at the October 29 meeting, the Selectmen formalized a decision regarding increasing hours for the Assessing and Permitting Clerk.

MOTION: by Selectman St. James, to allow the Assessing and Permitting Clerk up to 34 hours per week for the balance of 2018 due to the needs of the position, budget for 34 hours per week through the beginning of 2019, and to place an Article on the 2019 Warrant proposing to change the position to full-time.

SECOND: by Selectman Coombs

All in favor

(Selectman St. James left the meeting at 9:45 AM)

Friends of Kingston Open Space - Grant Proposal, 57 Exeter Road

Ernie Landry of FOKOS came in to discuss details of a grant proposal he had discussed with the Selectmen on October 29. He wanted to know if the parcel would be open for recreation if the Town were to purchase it, as it currently is open to hiking and hunting. There was some discussion of allowing recreation on most of the parcel, but a well protective radius would need to be placed around the water source area.

Mr. Landry will contact the Selectmen's office when the grant proposal is ready for signatures, by the end of the week.

Adjournment

MOTION: by Selectman Coombs, to adjourn at 10:05 AM

SECOND: by Selectman St. James

All in favor.

A workshop will be planned to work on Warrant Articles.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ayer
Administrative Assistant