

Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of December 17, 2018
Draft MINUTES

The Selectmen met in Meeting Room at the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

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

Non-Public Session

MOTION: Upon motion of Chairman Heitz, **SECOND** of Selectman Briggs, it was voted by roll call to adjourn to Non-Public session under the provisions of NH RSA 91-A:3,II (I), Legal correspondence.

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

The Board adjourned at 6:01 PM.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman St. James, **SECOND** of Selectman Coombs, it was voted by roll call to return to public session at 7:40 PM.

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

APPOINTMENTS:

Powwow Pond Council

Paul Dearborn and Russell Chute came before the Board in order to introduce a proposed petition article to be added to the 2019 Warrant. The article would be to request funds to continue to fight milfoil and other invasive plant species in Powwow Pond.

Mr. Dearborn and Mr. Chute gave the Board information on past warrants and what has been accomplished in the past 10 years, including saving the white cedar, fish and mussels and helping to prevent the spread of milfoil to other ponds. They said that milfoil is impossible to completely eradicate, grows at a rapid rate, and that even though divers removed all Kingston milfoil on the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) 2018 survey, new milfoil will probably be found in 2019. They also made the point that by stopping the spread of milfoil, they are also stopping the loss of property taxes on waterfront property, saying that 10% milfoil impact equals a \$48,200 tax loss.

The current balance from past warrants is \$6,464, and the proposed 2019 article would request \$14,000, \$3,500 of which would be received as a grant from NH DES. No funds were requested in the last two years, but they now need to be replenished in order to continue the steady battle using divers and herbicides.

The article has been signed by 43 registered voters and will appear on the ballot.

Fire Station Building Committee

Mark Furlong and Chuck Hart of the Fire Station Building Committee spoke to the Selectmen about their proposed warrant article which would request funding for land acquisition and closing costs for a new fire station. Mr. Furlong said that numbers are

not known yet for the building, but the \$64,000 in Fire Department impact fees should cover the 2019 work of surveys, the Requests for Proposal process and building plans. There is \$565,000 in capital reserve funds which will be put toward the building.

Selectman Korn suggested that the wording in the article should read “up to” the amount proposed, for flexibility. He also suggested that as there was a problem last year with siting of the proposed new building, the Committee should reach out to the Historic District Commission for their support.

The Selectmen looked at a preliminary site layout for the proposed new fire station if it is built at the current site. Chairman Heitz said that attention should be given to the building design, as it will be right in the middle of town.

Mr. Furman said that his committee meets again on Wednesday and after that they plan to gear up public outreach, and had talked about approaching various groups.

Public Comment:

Glenn Coppelman of 108 Exeter Road spoke briefly to inform the Selectmen that he had won \$1,000 in the 325th Celebration fundraising raffle this fall, and had decided to donate the money back to the Town (aside from \$100 to cover his ticket cost). He said he would like approval to donate \$300 each to the 325th Committee, the Heritage Fund, and the food pantry.

MOTION: by Selectman St. James to accept, on behalf of the Town, this generous offer to give \$300 to the 325th Celebration fund, \$300 to the Heritage Fund, and \$300 to the Kingston food pantry.

SECOND: by Selectman Korn.

Discussion: The question was raised whether or not taxes were deducted from the prize money at the time it was awarded. Mr. Coppelman said this had been researched by the Finance Director, and determined that the Town did not have to withhold taxes, that this was for the recipient to do.

All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Conservation Easement incursion

The Selectmen had received an email from Evelyn Nathan of the Conservation Commission, sharing suggestions of Peter Coffin of the trails committee for solutions to the problem of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use on the town's easement property and asking that the Board discuss the matter. Mr. Coffin had suggested that if ATV usage on Town property does not stop, a fence should be erected to block access at the entry point, which is from property owned by the DiPietro family. After some discussion on how to proceed, it was decided to have Selectman Briggs go out to talk with the resident.

Selectman St. James said he thought there should be a place in Town where ATV use is allowed. It was agreed that Conservation Easement land is not an option for such use.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

December 10, 2018

MOTION: by Selectman St. James, to approve the public and non-public session minutes of December 10, 2018 as written.

SECOND: by Selectman Coombs.

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

MOTION: by Selectman St. James, to approve the non-public session minutes of November 26, 2018, as written.

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs.

In favor: Heitz, Briggs, Coombs. Abstain: St. James, Korn; Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Special Event application

A letter and application were received from Nathan Kingsley of Exeter, who would like his company, LIVone LLC, to be allowed to hold a pond hockey tournament in Kingston in February or March. Chairman Heitz read the letter, which explained that LIVone would host the tournament in collaboration with the Zero Left campaign, founded by Jim and Jeanne Moser after the tragic loss of their son to a drug overdose. The pond hockey event would be to raise awareness of the drug issue within New Hampshire, but also to have a fun day and promote the launch of LIVone.

After some discussion, the Selectmen agreed to have Selectman Briggs speak with Mr. Kingsley about details and bring information back to the Board.

Requests for tax refunds

Two requests were received by residents whose mortgage companies neglected to take the early payment discount when paying property taxes in November. A discussion took place about the warrant article placed each year authorizing the Tax Collector to allow a 1-1/2% deduction for payments made before the due date. It was noted that the article reads, "deductions not taken by the taxpayer on or before December 1st will not be refunded."

MOTION: by Selectman St. James, that the Administrative Assistant craft a letter to be sent to anyone who requests the refund going forward, denying the refund based on the warrant article.

SECOND: by Selectman Korn

All in favor.

Grant from NH Charitable Foundation

The Chairman read a letter received from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation informing the Town that a \$1,000 grant had been awarded to Town of Kingston Human Services to support holiday food baskets. Selectman St. James said Ellen Faulconer should be thanked for securing this grant.

MOTION: by Selectman Briggs, to accept the grant for Human Services on behalf of the Town.

SECOND: by Selectman St. James

All in favor.

Review of Building Permit fees and applications

There will be a review of building permit fees and applications during the regular Inspectors meeting on Thursday starting at 8:00 AM. Selectmen involvement was requested; Selectman St. James will plan to attend at 8:30 AM.

January 5, Decision Day

Selectman St. James suggested that Finance Director Cindy Kenerson should attend the Budget Committee's Decision Day #1 on January 5, and/or the second Decision Day, following the Public Hearing on January 12. Chairman Heitz said that Ms. Kenerson has never been required to attend before, and questioned if it was necessary for her to be there. Selectman St. James said that he thought it would be useful for her to be there for questions that come up. Selectman Korn said that he did not want to add to Ms. Kenerson's duties, and suggested offering time off in lieu of her time given to appear at Decision Day.

All were in support of asking the Finance Director to attend Decision Day on January 5th, in return for 4 hours off at another time.

ADMINISTRATIVE: APPLICATIONS, PURCHASE ORDERS, CORRESPONDENCE:

- An application for a solar property tax exemption was approved.
- The Board approved and signed a letter of commitment to participate in the fall Household Hazardous Waste collection day to be held on October 26, 2019 in Danville.

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 (I), Legal correspondence.

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

The Board adjourned at 9:20 PM.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman St. James, **SECOND** of Selectman Coombs, it was voted by roll call to return to public session at 9:40 PM.

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

Adjournment

MOTION: by Selectman St. James, to adjourn at 9:40 PM

SECOND: by Selectman St. Coombs

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ayer
Administrative Assistant