

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of November 18, 2019
FINAL MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room at the Town Hall.

PRESENT: Mark Heitz, Chairman; Kevin St. James, Vice-Chair; Phillip Coombs (arr. 6:45), Donald Briggs, Jr., Richard Wilson, Selectmen.

MOTION: by Selectman Briggs, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(b):
Hiring of any person as a public employee

SECOND: by Selectman Wilson

In favor: Heitz, St. James, Briggs, Wilson

The Board adjourned to Non-public session at 6:31 PM

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Coombs, **SECOND** of Selectman Wilson, it was voted by roll call to return to public session at 7:15 PM.

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

Discussed in non-public:

Appointment of new hire Police officer; discussion of Fire Chief contract

APPOINTMENTS

Fire Chief Appointment- postponed until next meeting

Historical Museum Committee: Computer issues; new Committee member(s)

Christine Hume and Walt Roy were interviewed about their interest in joining this committee; Mr. Roy has already been appointed and sworn in but was present to talk with the Selectmen.

Selectman St. James expressed concern about family members serving on the same board. Leslie Hume said she is not on the Museum Committee but rather on the Friends of the Museum committee that raises money for the museum.

MOTION: By Selectman St. James, to appoint Christine Hume to the Historical Museum Committee

SECOND: By Selectman Briggs

All in favor

Committee member Bob Bean then led a discussion about recent computer issues at the museum. He distributed a copy of a screen shot of a hacking message received, which affected every file on all but one machine (there are three in the building) and one backup. He said that a backup stored in the Selectmen's office in January was very helpful, and some members had documents stored at home, but still some recent work was lost.

Mr. Bean and Ms. Hume discussed the Museum's budget, saying that of the \$5,762 total budget for 2019, about \$3,000 has already been spent. They said they would like to talk to the Finance Officer about moving funds from other lines in their budget to cover the

cost of replacing hard drives and backup units. They also said the 2020 budget may need to be increased. They also mentioned the need for new wiring outlets in the building, which they feel may also be causing problems. Selectman St. James said that it may be cheaper to buy a new computer than a new hard drive. Chairman Heitz said this will be revisited after the committee has worked out details of their budget.

Computer support was discussed, and that there is some confusion caused by changes in the technology staff that the school district shares with the Town. The Selectmen approved a purchase order for work done by Botnay Bay Computers to deal with the virus and recovery of files.

Selectman St. James asked about the Kingston history book and fundraising related to it. Mr. Bean explained the planned revenue sources for the book's publication, including sponsorships. The application form for anyone interested in becoming a sponsor is available on the Town's website, on the Heritage and Historical Museum pages.

Resident at 2 Dorre Road re: Property damage

Wayne Young of 2 Dorre Road addressed the Selectmen about the issue of destruction done to his property in July of 2019 that has yet to be repaired. He said the damage was done by Torromeo Construction, by their trucks that travel on Dorre Road. He shared a copy of a settlement stipulation agreed to by residents of Dorre Road as plaintiffs, and Torromeo Trucking and the Town as defendants, in 1995.

Selectman Briggs said that Town Engineer Dennis Quintal was looking at the survey of the road and that last he knew the Board was waiting for the plan to come back; Mr. Young said that he needs to know how wide the road is. Chairman Heitz said that the short answer is that none of the Board have seen the official report of the survey, but can reach out to Mr. Quintal to see if it has been completed.

Mr. Young said he does not want this to be a problem for the Town, and Selectman Coombs said that at the end of the day, the Town has nothing to do with this problem. Mr. Young said that someone should be fixing the damage, and it may not be the Town, but he needs to know where the road is.

It was agreed that the survey is needed; Selectman Coombs will follow up.

Resident at 157 Main Street re: Water issues

Chris Gove of 157 Main Street came to the Selectmen to say that his well had tested above the acceptable drinking water standards for PFAS, and he was recently supplied with drinking water by the Town. He said he had turned down the water, and rather than put his family at risk, treated the well (with a filtration system). He produced the bill for the filtration system, which he said he would like to be refunded by the Town, and advised the Board that he will also expect the Town to pay for maintenance on the system, which will cost between \$800 and \$1,000 per year. Mr. Gove said that this is nothing more or less than what the Town supplied to others.

Chairman Heitz said that most of the filtration systems in town were supplied by the state, and that Mr. Gove had taken it upon himself to install this system at his home. He said that there is pending litigation about the drinking water standards put in place by the state, that have caused formerly compliant wells to now be considered at unsafe levels. In addition, Mr. Heitz said that the Town has not accepted liability for the PFAS contamination. He said that it has turned up all over the country, and not always near fire houses.

Mr. Gove said that he imagines the State lowered the standards because the PFAS chemicals have been found to be hazardous. He said he will leave the bill with the Board; Chairman Heitz said that is his option.

PUBLIC COMMENT I: None heard.

OLD BUSINESS

Masonry work at Nichols Building:

Selectman Coombs said that he had spoken to Road Agent Rich St. Hilaire about the masonry project at the Museum building. He said that Mr. St. Hilaire was concerned about the cold weather coming and that at this point it was not feasible that the work could be done to standards. The Board agreed that it is too cold to start now, and that Mr. St. Hilaire should work with Ernie Landry to put the work off until Spring.

Selectman Wilson asked about the status of street signs that Heritage has had made; he said this is also an issue with the cold weather coming, and he wants to meet with Heritage to review the sites. Some locations are in question; Selectman Wilson asked why the ones not in question can't be placed. Selectman Coombs will ask Mr. St. Hilaire about this.

Request from Sleep Institute regarding tree removal:

Selectman Briggs said that he had gone out with a Highway Department employee to look at the problem tree. He said it would take a crane to take the tree down. There was a discussion about how far the Town right-of-way extends, and what has been done in similar situations in the past. Selectman Coombs said the Road Agent needs to be contacted as he is the tree warden. Selectman Briggs said he thinks the Town has taken down trees in the past, but nothing that large.

NEW BUSINESS

Cemetery Mowing Contract

Selectman Heitz said that the Trustees of the Trust Fund, as Cemetery Trustees, have issued a Request for Proposals for cemetery maintenance, to include Spring and Fall cleanup, and mowing. This RFP is available on the Trustees' page on the Town's website.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Inspectors: Selectman Coombs said that he would like to have Assessing/Permitting Clerk Tori Dobrowolski more involved in the Building Inspectors' meetings, as she is the one actually issuing permits. He said she has the background and it would also help her

in knowing what to charge for various work, to have more interaction with the inspectors. Selectman Coombs said he would also like to go back to holding this meeting every week, focusing alternately on permitting and ongoing projects, and fees and structures. The Board was in agreement.

Budget Committee: Selectman St. James said this committee is starting out slowly, as there are several new members. He said that the budgets they have so far reviewed are mainly flat.

PUBLIC COMMENT II: None heard.

CORRESPONDENCE, APPLICATIONS, PURCHASE ORDERS

- A facilities use application has been received for use of the Town Hall on Wednesday, February 5 for a meeting of the Regional Economic Development Center. There was no objection to this event, and it was agreed that there will be no charge as it is a not-for-profit organization.
- A special event, the annual “Fanny Freeze” fundraiser for the Kingston Children’s Center, proposed for December 7 at Greenwood pond, was also approved.
- Conservation Commission Chair Evy Nathan has asked the Board to advise who should sign as “owner” on a Permit by Notification for placement of a bog bridge over a wet trail in the West Kingston Town Forest. On a motion by Selectman St. James, seconded by Selectman Wilson, it was agreed to authorize the Select Board Chair to sign this document.
- Information on LED lighting for street lights was submitted by Affinity LED Lighting for Board review.
- Court information was received on two current lawsuits.
- The NH Office of Strategic Initiatives has sent a reminder that the Town participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and must continue to meet minimum requirements, which were cited.
- Selectman St. James will respond to a request for information about pesticide spraying, that was addressed to “County Engineer”. He said neither the Town nor the County does this.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: by Selectman Briggs to approve the public meeting minutes of November 4, 2019, as written.

SECOND: by Selectman Coombs.

All in favor

Non- public minutes will be reviewed for corrections in non-public session.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Coombs, **SECOND** of Selectman St. James, it was voted by roll call to adjourn to Non-Public session under the provisions of NH RSA 91-A:3, II (c): Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely adversely affect the reputation of any person other than a member of this board.

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

The Board adjourned at 8:42 PM.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Coombs, **SECOND** of Selectman Wilson, it was voted by roll call to return to public session at 9:19 PM.

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

MOTION: by Selectman St. James to seal the non-public meeting minutes for an unspecified length of time, as the divulgence of the information would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this Board.

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs

All in favor via roll call vote.

Topics discussed in non-public session:

Personnel matters.

Adjournment:

MOTION: by Selectman Coombs to adjourn at 09:20 PM

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs.

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ayer
Administrative Assistant