

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of March 9, 2020
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; Donald Briggs, Jr., Phillip Coombs, Richard Wilson, Selectmen

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

MOTION: by Selectman Wilson, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a); The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee, or the disciplining of such employee

SECOND: by Selectman Coombs.

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

The Board adjourned to Non-public session at 6:33 pm

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Wilson, **SECOND** of Selectman Coombs, it was voted by roll call to return to public session at 7:06 PM

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

Discussed in non-public:

Personnel

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEW HIRES:

Fire Chief Graham Pellerin presented two new hires to the Department. Patrick Casey and Stephen Turner were introduced, and sworn in by Town Clerk Tammy Bakie. The Selectmen commended the Fire Department for quick response time to emergencies.

APPOINTMENTS:

Paul Butler - Proposed after-school program

Mr. Butler distributed an informational print-out to the Board, which outlined a program he is proposing aimed at Sanborn students, grades 7 through 12. Students would be bussed to the Recreation Center. He said he has talked to people at Austin 17 in Brentwood and at Camp Lincoln to get expertise and see if they would join in. Other local organizations were listed as community partners as well.

The program would include homework support as well as various recreational and learning experiences. Mr. Butler said that he would need two counselors plus himself. He said he would plan to get the program started but then train someone to take his place.

Pricing was discussed, and Mr. Butler said the program would be self-funding. Grants and donations would be looked into as start-up funds. Rich St. Hilaire was present and said that the Recreation building would be fine in cold weather; Selectman Coombs suggested having an alternate location available for severely cold weather.

The Board expressed their support for this effort, and encouraged Mr. Butler to move forward with plans, and keep them updated.

PUBLIC COMMENT I:

Heather Tobin of 16 Tenth Street addressed the Board to express her concern about the tree cutting that has taken place in Great Pond Park recently. She said that she came home from a month away and the neighborhood looked like a “war zone” with so many trees down and a lot of stumps and debris left behind. She said she had talked to Chief Briggs who told her the logging on the Town-owned lots was unauthorized. She said she did not know what could be done, but wanted to say that this is a “massive concern” that has affected all in the neighborhood.

Selectman Briggs updated the Board and the public on this issue. He said he has been involved with a state forester, and he, the Road Agent and Selectman Coombs have all been out to speak to James Anderson, the logger that has done the cutting. He said that he has a meeting this week with Mr. Anderson to address the mess, as Mr. Anderson had assured he would clean up the site and did not follow through.

Selectman Briggs said that the forest ranger will look at the area and see how to proceed. It has been reported that the logger is gone, but was out there recently burning brush.

Selectman Coombs said that Mr. Anderson had already been logging on other properties when he cut down some Town trees without permission. He was then given permission to take some hazard trees, but was told not to cut any hardwood. He said that obviously it can be seen how much more he took. Selectman Coombs said that this was not a calculated cut, that the town did not intend to have every tree cut, but at the same time, removing some of the hazard trees is part of maintenance of town property. He said that in this case, he and Mr. St. Hilaire’s intent was to remove trees that were a danger to neighboring properties and clean up the mess that was already there, but it got out of control. Chairman Heitz made the point that some of the trees may not have been rotten, but once the other trees were taken down and they were exposed, they would eventually fall.

OLD BUSINESS

Fee Schedule for use of Town Property - revised

The Board reviewed the schedule of fees and discussed some minor changes. It was agreed to add a bullet point advising applicants that if electricity is required for an event they may incur an inspection fee. It was also agreed to add a point that insurance coverage may be needed. Selectman Coombs pointed out that this is a living document that will be revised over time.

MOTION: by Selectman Briggs to adopt the fee schedule for use of Town property as amended.

SECOND: by Selectman Wilson

All in favor.

Deferred Compensation Plan - decision

The Board continued discussion on the question of whether or not to adopt a deferred compensation plan offered by Professional Firefighters, Police Officers and Public Employees (PFPOPE). One new employee has contributed to this while working for a different town, and inquired whether it is available here.

Selectman Coombs said his concern would be if there is an administrative fee to the Town. Selectman St. James, said that there is no cost to the Town, that employees do not have to participate. Opinion of counsel had been sought and was not favorable. The Finance Director also has some concerns about how to set up the plan, and also that a similar plan the Town offers has no interest among employees.

It was decided to have a representative for PFPOPE come to a meeting to explain the finer points of the plan.

Facilities Use Application: Cub Scout Food Drive

This topic was taken out of order as the applicant was present to speak about it. Susan Steinel explained that the food collected by scouts would be brought to the Town hall on the morning of the event, and the scouts would sort and check expiration dates. In the past, the food was then left on tables for Welfare Director Ellen Faulconer to put away and add to the Town's food pantry.

A concern expressed was whether the timing of this event, on the morning of a Saturday when a contradance will be held in the evening, would be a problem. It was agreed that there should be plenty of room to store the food out of the way of the dance attendees. Ms. Steinel will work with Ms. Faulconer to plan.

MOTION: by Selectman Coombs to approve use of the Town Hall meeting room for the Scouts' food drive, and to waive the newly adopted fee.

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs

All in favor

Saddle Up Saloon - Site Plan issues

A letter prepared to send to Berkshire Dominion Holdings regarding site plan violations at the property they own at 92 Route 125 was reviewed by the Board. It was agreed to send the letter and invite the property/business owners to a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Town Clerk has asked to have the election results posted to the Town website on election night, if possible. The Selectmen's administrator has agreed to post them when received via email from the Clerk.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

There was nothing of note to report from the committees at this time. Selectman St. James said that there may still be one or two openings on the Budget Committee after the election. He encouraged residents to consider getting involved for appointment to this or other committees that may have openings.

PUBLIC COMMENT II: none

CORRESPONDENCE, APPLICATIONS, PURCHASE ORDERS:

- **All American Assisted Living performance bond:** Selectman Briggs will be meeting with a representative of the company on Friday. He will also bring up concerns about temporary and feather banner signs that Planning Board Chair Glenn Coppelman has brought to the Board's attention.
- **Retail license for business at 5 Route 125:** This state license application was reviewed by the Planning Board, who checked the boxes for compliance but did not sign the form. Selectman Briggs said he would like to be sure the owner is in compliance with the site plan, after past problems at the site. It was agreed that a signature from Planning is needed; Selectman Wilson will bring it back to them.
- Appointment forms for three poll workers for the Town election were approved and signed.
- A request for the Selectmen to excuse the interest on a Land Use Change Tax bill was approved and signed.
- A letter written to Devon Chouinard about her upcoming plan for a Vintage Bazaar on the Plains, and fees required, was signed by the Selectmen.
- Letters prepared by Dave Allwine of Stantec, notifying residents of the results of December water testing, were reviewed. Mr. Allwine will be mailing the letters this week.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: by Selectman Coombs to approve the public and non-public meeting minutes of March 2, 2020 as written.

SECOND: by Selectman St. James.

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

MOTION: by Selectman Briggs, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (I); legal

SECOND: by Selectman St. James.

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

The Board adjourned to Non-public session at 8:25 pm

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Coombs, **SECOND** of Selectman St. James, it was voted by roll call to return to public session at 8:55 PM

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

Adjournment:

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

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ayer
Administrative Assistant