

Town Government Study Committee
May 5, 2011
7:00 pm
Room 203
Kingston Town House

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:00 pm.

Members present: Robert ward, Keith Elder, Richard Dennehy, Wendell Chamberlain, Mary O'Donnell, Paul Tura, Ken Stevens, Jean Landis Naumann, and Frances Botelho-Hoeg (until 7:40 pm)

On a motion by Robert Ward, seconded by Mary O'Donnell, the minutes of April 7, 2011 were accepted as written. Vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention

On a motion by Jean Landis Naumann, seconded by Ken Stevens, the minutes of April 21, 2011 were approved with corrections. Vote: 6 yes, 0 no, 3 abstentions

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Police Chief and Board of Health are scheduled for the meeting on the 19th. He is trying to get the Fire Chief to attend as well.

The selectmen have reorganized and Richard Arruda is the new chairman.

He is trying to get Ralph Calderaro to attend a meeting to give insight on the previous master Plan Committee.

The engineering cost report is available and we can review it at a later date once it has been printed.

UNFUNDED PENSION LIABILITIES:

Pensions are promised through the Plymouth County system.

- Kingston owes \$13.6 million on pensions.
- Town is on track to fully fund pensions by the year 2029 by paying \$1.3 million annually
- If there is no change in the current payment schedule, the Town can stay on track
- Pension fund is fully funded for present obligations. It is not funded for future obligations
- Liability for Post Employment benefits has not been paid since 2008 (\$21.5 million)

(The following minutes were recorded by Robert Ward)

Jean Landis Naumann spoke about Medicare Part B for the employees who are eligible for Medicare. There was a discussion on establishing criteria and qualifications to be on the Committee on insurance. There was also discussion on item 6 of the DOR Report-benefits for part time and temporary employees.

There was a discussion on the liability of accrued sick time. Ken Stevens would like to know more about that liability. The Committee would like to know how it is accrued, calculated and paid out when a person retires.

There was a discussion on the Master Plan. The Committee would like to revisit the plan on a periodic basis.

Mary O'Donnell brought up the concept of presenting some articles concurrently (or before) the Committee presents its final report. She feels that the Committee has come to consensus on some items and could draft articles for presentation at Town Meeting. Robert Ward endorsed the idea of submitting some articles at ATM along with the Committee's report, but is not prepared to compile a list at this time. He also stated that he would only support an article if there was strong consensus on the article. He suggested that committee members review their notes and come up with 3 items that they believe could be submitted as independent articles at Town Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jean Landis Naumann stated that there was an article in the Patriot Ledger regarding appointed Town

Clerks. She brought it up to highlight the level of changes that some communities are considering. She was not suggesting a change of action.

On a Motion by Robert ward, seconded by Mary O'Donnell, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. The vote was unanimous.