

TOWN OF KINGSTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES  
March 18, 2008

Chairman Mark S. Beaton opened the meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on March 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 200 at the Town House, 26 Evergreen Street, Kingston. Present were, Vice Chairman Sandra D. MacFarlane, Paul M. Gallagher, Jean Landis-Naumann and Town Administrator Kevin R. Donovan. Mr. Kelleher joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The Chairman announced the dates to note and the Open Forum. No one present requested to speak.

Matt Hamilton, Finance Committee Chairman was present to discuss the Finance Committee's recommendations on the Articles for Town Meeting. John LaBrache, Town Treasurer and member of the Finance Committee was also present. Mr. Gallagher asked if the new growth figure of \$200,000 was accurate. Mr. LaBrache stated that it was realistic. Mr. Hamilton stated that they would have to use \$400,000 from Stabilization to fund the deficit. Mr. Beaton suggested either Stabilization or Sewer Enterprise Fund.

Mr. Hamilton clarified that what seemed to be a big increase in expenses in some budgets were due to the fuel costs being allocated to each budget and removed from the Care of Municipal Building Budget.

Mr. Hamilton, also Chairman of the Capital Planning Committee was present to discuss the Capital Plan. He stated that the number one item was the catch basin cleaner since it had been put off for ten years. Also recommended were the two patrol cars, refurbishing of the brush truck, and a car for the Fire Department with all funding from borrowing. He further advised that they were recommending \$50,000 from stabilization to fund the Feasibility Study for the Police Station.

Mr. Hamilton advised that the catch basin cleaner would benefit both the Highway and Sewer departments and he and Elaine Fiore had discussed the matter and had not yet determined what the relationship would be.

The discussion turned to the cost for borrowing and how it would impact the tax bill. Mr. LaBrache stated that the borrowing would be for five years and with current rates it is cheap money in today's market. Mr. Beaton suggested that they not bond for vehicles that would only last three years and that they should wait until the Fall. Ms. MacFarlane stated that everyone realized that it cost a lot to run the Town and they should look at alternatives which may include cutting services and people.

John LaBrache in his capacity as Chairman of the Community Preservation Committee outlined the four projects that were being recommended for funding; Preservation of the Adams Library, purchase of Open Space land, preservation of town reports, and Bradford House Archaeological Study. The discussion also included the ability to roll-back the percentage assessed to residents.

Elizabeth White, Chairman of the Wage and Personnel Board was present to review the final recommendations of the Wage and Personnel ByLaw. Ms. White advised that the Board recommended a 3% general increase for employees covered under the plan and based that recommendation on the Consumer Index Price from February 2007-2008 which put the COLA at 4.8%.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To postpone the acceptance of Roads in the Village at Russell Ponds subdivision until the Fall Special Town Meeting.

The Board reviewed the Town Administrator's report which was an update on the State budget. The Board also discussed the letter from the Division of Marine Fisheries regarding proposed Aquaculture Shellfish Program. Mr. Kelleher suggested finding a volunteer that would do the monitoring in order to move on with the program. Mr. Beaton stated that whenever they move forward the leases would be distributed through a lottery basis.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 3-0-2 vote, it was—

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the February 19, 2008 public and executive session meeting.

Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Kelleher abstained from voting because they were not in attendance at the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 4-0-1 vote, it was—

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the March 4, 2008 public and executive session meeting.

Mr. Kelleher abstained from voting because he was not in attendance at the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To approve the action of the hearing officer and accept the report in the matter of Officer Laurie Bradley Harrington which provided for a one day suspension and a written warning.

The Board reviewed the letter from the Department of Public Health regarding Camp Nekon and use of the beach by the public. Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To post a sign stating that there is "No Swimming, Fishing or Camping" at Camp Nekon.

Mr. Beaton suggested that the Town Administrator contact the KOA to ascertain whether they may be interested in leasing the property as a campground.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To waive the ambulance fee due to a financial hardship.

A motion was made to appoint Douglas Buitenhuys to the South Shore Recycling Cooperative and Barbara Costa to the Council on Aging. Mrs. Landis-Naumann stated that she had a concern and wanted to appoint someone who is on the Recycling Committee. Mr. Gallagher suggested splitting the votes. Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To appoint Barbara Costa to the Council on Aging.

Mrs. Landis-Naumann stated that Mr. Buitenhuis had made up his mind on issues facing recycling and felt a representative from the Recycling Committee would be more open minded in gathering new ideas.

Mr. Gallagher stated that when Mr. Buitenhuis came to the Board with the recommendation to continue with the current operation at the Transfer Station, it was the opinion of the Task Force, not his personal opinion.

Ms. MacFarlane stated that they have problems getting volunteers to serve and it was not as important to have someone from the Recycling Committee to serve on the Cooperative.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 4-1 vote, it was—

VOTED: To appoint Douglas Buitenhuis to the South Shore Recycling Cooperative.

Mrs. Landis-Naumann did not support the motion.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To enter into executive session<sup>1</sup> to discuss an application for Financial Assistance.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nancy M. Howlett, Assistant to the  
Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen

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<sup>1</sup> The public session adjourned at 8:40 p.m. and the executive session adjourned at 8:44 p.m.