

TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES
March 29, 2011

Chairman Sandra D. MacFarlane opened the meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on March 29, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 200 at the Town House, 26 Evergreen Street, Kingston. Present were Vice Chairman Dennis N. Randall, Richard J. Arruda, Mark S. Beaton, Joseph F. Casna, Jr. and Town Administrator Jill R. Myers.

The Chairman announced the Open Forum. Sara Altherr came forward as the petitioner for an article to limit the speed on scenic roads to 25 mph unless otherwise posted. She expressed concerns for the safety of residents living in those areas, particularly Landing Road due to excessive speed.

Paul Basler, Supt. of Streets, Trees & Parks came forward to discuss the plans for the reconfiguration of the Transfer Station. Mr. Basler advised that at the conclusion of the SEMASS contract the tipping fees would most likely raise from \$35 per ton currently to between \$70-\$80 per ton and with a more user friendly configuration, recycling efforts could be increased to offset the tonnage. He added that the Town's options at the conclusion of the contract would be to dispose at SEMASS or Bourne but the reconfiguration was needed to just accommodate the number of cars using the facility.

Members of the Board expressed support for the plan presented by Mr. Basler and Mr. Beaton stated they would have to work through the financing.

The Board reviewed the Town Administrator's report. Items discussed were;

New population figures:

2010 census figures; Kingston's population was 11,780 in 2000 rising to 12,629 in 2010 – 7.2% increase.

Drop Box:

The afterhours drop box/slot was installed in the main doors at the rear entrance (off of the parking lot) for residents to pay Town bills – no cash accepted. The box is checked daily by the BOS office staff.

Renewable Energy Electricity Power Purchase and Lease Agreements; Town Landfill Projects:

The Wind Turbine Lease and Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) have been approved by Town Counsel and the Town Administrator and signed by the developer as authorized by the BOS at the meeting of 11/16/10.

Negotiations are in the final stages with the solar PV installation developer, Borrego Solar. It was anticipated that the PPA and Lease agreement would be executed by the April 2 Town Meeting.

FY12 Budget:

Health Insurance -Mayflower Municipal Health Insurance Group: Anticipate seeing a rate stabilization in the proposed FY12 renewal rates due in part to the FY11 health insurance plan design changes (co-pays), and that the larger/expensive claims have stabilized as well. The original forecast for FY12 rates was expected at a 16% increase. Bids received from the providers reflect a 10% increase. The Group membership meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2011, where the Group will vote on the actual rates –

expected at 7% or 8% increase depending on the amount of the Trust Fund subsidy voted to use to reduce/offset the rate increases - \$1m or \$2m.

The Board reviewed the New Business items. Upon motion made by Mr. Randall and seconded by Mr. Casna, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To accept donations to the COA Building Fund as follows: \$150 from Diane Phipps, \$100 from Mr. & Mrs. Rosenthal and \$500 from Jean Wolcott, and further;

VOTED: To accept donation to the COA Gift Fund as follows: \$50 from Anne O'Neil

Members of the Board expressed their gratitude to the individuals for their generosity.

Upon motion made by Mr. Randall and seconded by Mr. Arruda, following a discussion and a 4-1 vote, it was—

VOTED: To appoint the following; James P. Parker to the Conservation, Debra Mueller as Animal Inspector and Animal Control Officer, Joanna Boudreau as Asst. Animal Control Officer, and William Martin as Veterans' Agent, Burial Agent, Graves Officer and Veterans' Services Director.

Mr. Beaton did not support the motion.

Upon motion made by Mr. Beaton and seconded by Mr. Arruda, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To renew the Junk Dealers Licenses for: Former Favorites, Recreations Consignment, and Style Unlimited.

The Board reviewed the annual renewals for bowling lanes and billiard/pool tables. Mr. Beaton recused himself from participation in the discussion and vote because he manages one of the establishments seeking a license renewal.

Upon motion made by Mr. Randall and seconded by Mr. Arruda, following a discussion and a 4-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To renew the licenses as follows: Bowling Alley; Alley Kat Lanes and Kingston Ten Pin; Billiard and Pool Tables; Charlie Horse Restaurant, American Legion, Hillside Social Club and Hilltop Athletic Club.

The Board reviewed the request from a long-term Wage and Personnel Employee for a buy-back of sick leave accrual over two fiscal years, prior to retirement. Mr. Beaton stated he was not in favor of doing so, Mr. Randall stated that the \$23,000 owed would be manageable upon retirement, and Ms. MacFarlane stated she did not want to set a precedent. Mr. Casna stated he wanted to try to accommodate the request and Mr. Randall stated that getting the money upfront was only an advantage to the employee. The Board took no action on the request.

Ken Moalli, Chairman of the Recreation Commission was present and requested that the Board lift the hiring freeze to fill the Jr. Custodian position that would become vacant upon the retirement of Alfred Barcella in April. He stated it was a 20 hour a week position and was vitally important in order to keep the Reed Building open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for programs.

A discussion ensued as to whether the hours should be reduced to 19 in order to eliminate the insurance benefits.

Upon motion made by Mr. Beaton and seconded by Mr. Casna, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To lift the hiring freeze for the purpose only to fill the 20 hour Jr. Custodian position at Grade 2, Step 1.

Ms. MacFarlane advised that Article 21, previously deferred to June would need to be acted on in April because it was funded with FY11 funds.

Upon motion made by Mr. Casna and seconded by Mr. Arruda, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To move Article 21 from the deferred list to the April ATM.

Upon motion made by Mr. Randall and seconded by Mr. Casna, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (KTEU, IBPO, MCOPS and/or IAFF) or litigation and that the Chair declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and/or litigation position of the body (and to not reconvene in Open Session).

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Howlett
Assistant to the Town Administrator/
Board of Selectmen