

## Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 3, 2023; 6:00 PM Webster Hall 38 School Street

### Attendance

**Municipal Officers:** Morgan Dunham, Walter Kilbreth, Wade Browne, Polly MacMichael and Hunter Lander

**Municipal Staff:** Leanna Targett (Administrative Assistant); Travis Targett (Wastewater Superintendent)

**Public:** Susan Davis, Jeff Maget, Annie Twitchell, Kate Ray, Adrianna Morse, Diane Christen, Jim Boyce, Angela Boyce, Julia Davenport, Pat Meldrum, Wanda Meldrum, Michelle Beedy, Rob MacMichael, Claudia Diller, Karen and Joseph Lavariere, Douglas Vara, Aaron Hansen, Billy Gilmore, Nathaniel (Babe) Smith, Mike Shirley Jr, Danielle Mathieu, Henry Williams, Thomas and Barbara Wiencek, Kathy Houston, Kim Jordan, Joan Meldrum, John (Jed) Nickerson, John Goldfrank, James Meldrum, Brent Surowiec, Cheryl Surowiec, Alan Stewart

**Via Zoom:** Lori Ketchopulous, Savannah Merrill, Penny Hall, Julie Swain, Andrea Fenwick, RaAnne Wahl

### Absent:

Chairman Dunham calls the meeting to order.

Meeting minutes from December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, are reviewed. Motion to accept meeting minutes as written by Selectman Browne. Seconded by Selectman MacMichael. 4 to 1 abstain – motion passes.

Chairman Dunham says the next item of business is to open a Public Hearing for discussing a Town Manager form of government. Motion by Selectman Browne to recess Selectmen's meeting to open a public hearing. Seconded by Selectman MacMichael. All in Favor.

*This is a summary of the discussion it is not verbatim and not all-inclusive:* Claudia Diller says she is concerned where we have never had a town manager before and that we need someone who has a vision plan or direction. She says it is wise not to rush into it and that the town should have someone like David Cota or Mark Green for six months before just rolling the administrative assistant into the Town Manager form of government. A town manager is an entirely different level. Chairman Dunham says we are doing this for efficiency, right now Leanna must wait and bring everything to the board which can often take two weeks. Claudia is concerned that there is someone out there that won't have the opportunity to apply for the position if it is just given to Leanna.

John Gold frank asked how many people look at these notices as there must be better ways to represent the town of Kingfield, he does not feel that the Jan 17<sup>th</sup> date is time enough for it to be approved properly. He asks if the Town Manager will have the authority to make policy changes, talk to different departments as they should have that responsibility. There does need to be some oversight and she will be in charge, if so, she needs more of an open-door policy, her door has been closed lately but he assumes she is in there working. Selectman Browne says her door is always open, you might just need to make an appointment first. John says she should be out in the community a few different times a week, so people are comfortable approaching her. John says he is not arguing if the postings are legal, he feels we are not getting it out to a bigger crowd. Kim Jordan explains that they have the same struggle at the school board level and no matter how much you try to get people to come to meetings that just do not leave their homes.

Jim Meldrum asks if the board plans to keep Leanna without posting. Selectman MacMichael says this is to discuss changing the form of government rather than advocating for Leanna. Selectman Browne says it is up to the selectboard to appoint the town manager.

Claudia Diller is concerned with creating a vision and how there should be a plan for the next ten years. AA, Targett explains that the Comp Plan is the vision for Kingfield, and this is not something a town manager would change but a group of individuals and a planner like AVCOG.

There are other concerns from the public about one person being able to hire and fire. The recommitment of TIF funds for a town manager and if there would be a deputy to deal with Leanna's husband, cost of classes, tax assessing position etc. .

Michelle Beedy states if we vote to change and this is not going out to others then we are voting for Leanna to be the Town Manager. Selectman Browne reiterates that the board received a legal opinion from MMA legal about posting the job and the board has voted 3/2 not to put it out to hire.

Hearing no additional public comments Chairman Dunham asks for a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Motion moved by Selectman Browne. Seconded by Selectman Kilbreth. All in Favor. Chairman Dunham deems the public hearing closed and the Selectmen's meeting is then reopened.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Administrative Assistant Updates/Discussion:** None

**Other:**

Chairman Dunham asks for any other. Selectman Browne asks about the sidewalk machine. AA, Targett explains that we were waiting for a new alternator which we have recently received and she believes it will be installed this week.

Selectman MacMichael makes a motion to suspend the selectmen's meeting to enter into a labor policy Work Session. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in Favor.

Selectman MacMichael makes a motion to reenter the selectmen's meeting. Seconded by Selectman Kilbreth. All in Favor.

No motions are made following work session.

Selectman McMichael makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in Favor.