

Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 11th, 2024; 6:00 PM Webster Hall 38 School Street

Attendance

Municipal Officers: Wade Browne, Morgan Dunham, Kim Jordan and Hunter Lander

Municipal Staff: Leanna Targett (Town Manager), Travis Targett (Wastewater Superintendent)

Public: Sue Davis, Terry Coffin, Jeff Maget, Henry Williams, Steve Yates, Jim Boyce, Angela Boyce, Fred Nichols, Alan Stewart, Barbara Wiencek and Tom Wiencek and Polly MacMichael

Via Zoom: Dee Menear, Karyn Varney, David Davol

Absent:

Chairman Browne calls the meeting to order.

Board reviews meeting minutes from February 20, 2024. Selectman Jordan makes a motion to accept minutes as written. Seconded by Selectman Dunham. All in Favor.

Old Business:

The board reviews the final draft of a new public participation policy and brochure. Selectman Dunham moves to accept as presented. Seconded by Selectmen Jordan. All in favor. The new policy will take effect March 18th, 2024.

New Business:

Chairman Browne recognizes Fire Chief, Fred Nichols to give update on planning for Solar Eclipse. Fred says that since the December storm the fire department staff has been getting together once a month with Franklin County Emergency Management and the recent discussions were about the upcoming Solar Eclipse. Going by past events we could potentially see 1000 or more people in town. Fred says we have stepped our game as well as others for this possibility. The Kingfield Fire Department will be staffed that day, the Sheriff's department is planning to have their deputies covering Route 16 and Route 27 and DOT will also have staff in the area if needed for flagging. Our concern is about the area downtown near Longfellow's becoming a bottleneck with traffic issues. We may have issues with Route 16. Every emergency agency will be busy and active that day. Fred says we are planning for the worst just in case. The timing is April 8th at 3:30pm.

Chairman Browne recognizes SnowWanderers Trail Master, Jim Boyce to provide updates. Jim says the season is over – not just for us but for many clubs and towns throughout Maine. It was a horrible winter. We got about 7 weeks of snowmobiling of which 5 were good weeks. On a good year we usually get 18 weeks. Jim says everything is cleaned up. He would like the board approval again to place the picnic table and trash can down by the river again for spring/summer/fall. Board agrees. Jim says there is a possibility we may be able to get through to Carrabassett Valley next year. We are 30,000 registrations down statewide this year which will affect us moving forward.

The board is provided the first draft of the budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. TM, Targett provides a summary to all departmental increases and decreases with the bottom line before any changes are initiated by the board of a total municipal budget increase of only \$23,038.00 meaning that the mil rate could possibly stay the same.

Selectmen Discussion:

Selectman Dunham states that housing is still a necessity in Kingfield and wonders if something should be done about regulating Airbnb's. Chairman Browne asks how we would go about regulating it.

Polly MacMichael says she has some thoughts. One would be a hotel and room tax, another would be to look at town land to build something that could be managed by the town or to sell some town land that a private developer or nonprofit could build on, lastly, she suggests creating grant funds with stipulations to assist with housing needs.

Chairman Browne asks for an update on the town's engineer. TM, Targett indicates that he is scheduled to be at the next meeting. He asks how the code officer and assessor are doing. TM, Targett says very well – working out nicely. He asks when we might receive something from the utility advisory committee. TM Targett explains that they placed the rate setting in the hands of Maine Rural Water and there have been some difficulties meeting to discuss between them and her.

Town Manager Updates/Discussion: TM, Targett wishes to note for the public record that she has but the so-called brakes on the current sign ordinance after speaking with a few selectboard members that felt there were too many errors to proceed so quickly. TM, Targett says that she had a request for tonight budget papers but was not willing to provide to the public until the board had a chance to review. She asks if the board is comfortable making those available after tonight's review. The board agrees provided it is well noted that they are draft copies.

Selectman Dunham moves to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(F) Discussion of Confidential records for Simmons Fund Request.

Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in Favor.

Motion to recommend Simmons Fund request made by Selectman Dunham. Seconded by Selectmen Lander. All in Favor.

Selectman Jordan makes a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in Favor.