

Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 6th, 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: Clay Tranten, Myra Coffin, Terry Coffin, Jane Deely, Audrey Tague, Sue Davis, Julie Talmage, Norma Parkinson, Judy Bemis, Jan Royall, Annie Twitchell, Chris Rushton, Claudia Diller, Tammy Paul, John Goldfrank, Rebecca Richard, Benjamin Davis, Taylor Jordan, Jeffrey Maget, Ryan Reed, Linda Manning, Monique Poulin, Diane Christen, Bethany Mahar, Kim Robinson, Laura Columbia, Jennifer Pooler, Jessica Kane, David Davol

Via Zoom: Danielle Mathieu

Absent:

Chairman Browne calls the meeting to order.

Board reviews meeting minutes from April 1, April 22, and April 25, 2024. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept all minutes as written. Seconded by Selectman Lander. Vote of 3 to 1 abstain.

Public Comment:

John Goldfrank asks if the public will be able to speak when the school board does their presentation. Chairman Browne says yes.

Terry Coffin asks if the holes in the roads can be fixed this year.

Ryan Reed asks if public comment is for anything. Chairman Browne indicates that it is just for what is listed on the agenda. Ryan asks how he could speak to an item. Chairman Browne says to get listed on the agenda.

Chairman Browne decides to skip old business to hear from the school board first on the agenda.

New Business:

Superintendent Laura Columbia to discuss MSAD #58 proposed FY'2024-25 Budget.

Laura says the budget is set at \$11,885,475 which is a 3.06% increase (+\$352,438) over the current fiscal year. We will receive a decrease in state funding of \$124,099.00 which contributes to a 10.50% increase in the overall local tax burden to our communities, compared to 6.77% this past year. We have taken \$685,000.00 as a balance forward to reduce the tax burden. Kingfield will change from \$1,878,916 to \$2,207,862 or an increase of \$228,956. Which is a 12.19% increase for Kingfield. How much a town contributes to a school system is based on State property assessed values. Laura says new this year we are asking voters to approve the transfer of \$616,000 from undesignated funds to the Capital Reserve Account. This will allow the district to better respond to emergency needs and improvement for all of our school. We have discussed this reserve account being used for repairs: roof repairs at all schools and paving at MTA. The board asks for a total of Kingfield students in the school which Laura provides as such: PreK to 4th grade 34; Middle School 22 and Mt Abram High School 28 for a total of 84 residents. Following further discussion Julie Talmage is recognized for which she suggests hiring an outside consultant to look at what there might be for options to lessen the tax burden on the town of Kingfield.

Old Business:

Chairman Browne moves back to old business to discuss speed bumps/tables. TM Targett says she has spoken with a few companies about lengths and was informed that we would need to purchase them in sections. TM Targett wonders if staggering them on the road would be beneficial. Following further discussion, the town manager is tasked with creating a survey to be provided with the local ballot planned for June 11th for residents only.

New Business:

Chairman Browne moves the discussion to Planning Board Chairman Clay Tranten to discuss a contract zoning application. Clay informs the board that the planning board has recommended this be put to a vote of the people.

The board agrees to set the election date for voting as June 11, 2024, with state primaries and school voting as previously discussed. This is done by Selectman Dunham making a motion to recommend sending to the voters on June 11th. Seconded by Selectmen Lander. Motion 3 to abstain.

The board then reviews the warrant to call the meeting. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept as presented. Seconded by Selectmen Lander. Motion of 3 to 1 abstain.

Following further discussion on contract zoning and upcoming changes to ordinance a suggestion is made to list information about the new LD2003 on the town's website.

Next item is the Village Enhancement Committee members Susan Davis, Jan Royall and Claudia Diller have three items to discuss. River Project – TM Targett explains that this project already received selectboard approval last fall but was has not been completed as the committee had requestion additional items such as moving guardrails and parking that the board took no action on. The committee has since decided to forego the guardrails and parking and would like to see the project move forward. TM. Targett says that she is prepared to create bid packages and that she and the road commission should be responsible to see the project through. The board agrees.

Planters – Susan indicates that Rob and Polly MacMichael, who recently purchased the old Sugarloafer shop and additional building would like to take the planter over, they will plant, place in town and are willing to store in the fall. Susan says when she did this the cost was \$3,000.00 which covered the cost of plants and taking care of them. The board agrees that they are town property and therefore should be stored on town property. The board says they are good with Polly taking this over for the town just return to the town. Board indicates concern with placement of the flowers to include more than just the village.

Comprehensive Planning Committee – TM Targett states that Susan has mention that the committee should include the selectboard, planning board, and public. She says that you hire staff to do all the work, so the committee is there just for input. Chairman Browne notes that he has discussed with the town manager a structure similar to what Carrabassett Vallet and Rangeley did with their survey process in that anyone was able to fill it out not just the residents.

The Board reviews a letter from Maine DOT to exceed weight limits on town roads for 2024 project. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept as presented. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. All in favor.

The Board moves to discuss the removal of maple trees on Riverside Street. TM Targett explains that there are three trees that she has been made aware of in the town's right-of-way that need to be removed near one homeowner's property. The cost is approximately \$1,000.00 per tree. TM Targett says the reason this is on the agenda is to make the board aware that this is just the beginning. There are a number of trees that are dead or dying that the town is responsible for and has no budget for. Following further discussion, the board agrees that the trees must be removed.

The Board reviews the quarterly financials for January, February, and March.

The board reviews a quit claim deed for property that was foreclosed upon. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept as presented. Seconded by Selectman Lader. All in favor.

The board reviews the Wastewater commitment for April-June 2024. Selectman Lander makes a motion to accept as presented. Seconded by Selectman Dunham. All in favor.

Selectmen Discussion: Selectman Dunham asks if Norpine planted seed in the area previously discussed. TM, Targett says she believes this was done in the fall.

Board directs TM Targett to instruct the road commissioner's that his top priority to be filling in the holes on town roads particularly Riverside and West Kingfield Road.

Chairman Browne asks when we will have documents from the engineer to get the roads out to bid and suggests looking into skinny mix for the other roads. TM Targett says she agrees but is awaiting the bid process to see what is left for funds.

The board requests a list of where all the planters will be placed prior to placement. The board also wants to be certain that the Village Enhancement Committee is asking owners and not staff members for bench placement permissions.

Town Manager Updates/Discussion: TM, Targett says that she received no bids for the crack sealing that she had sent to 18 companies and suggest the town look at purchasing a commercial piece of equipment to do the work. TM, Targett also indicates that the town report has gone to print.

Chairman Browne recognizes Ryan Reed to speak. Ryan asks if the board has received the letter from Mark Green as the workforce housing committee was caught off guard by a recent Daily Bull Dog article. He says that there was a lack of communication from the town. Chairman Browne says this was everyone's fault, we were told there would be no burden on the town. Ryan says speaking as a resident of Kingfield and committee member to the workforce housing we were caught off guard. Our lawyer only charged \$1,700.00 and created everything from scratch and the Kingfield town attorney charged more than \$6,000.00. Chairman Browne says because the document kept changing. Ryan asks who is responsible for the changes, the committee agreed to

what the people asked for. Ryan says it is unfair to rack up the fees and send us a bill. Ryan asks again if the board received the letter and why it had not been discussed in a public meeting because it was sent after the April 1st meeting of the board. Selectman Jordan says we received the letter from the Town Manager and had already made a decision where to take the lawyer cost from and it was clearly stated then that the contract zoning ordinance should have clearly defined all costs which it had not. Selectman Jordan says why are we going to fight. Terry Coffin notes that the cost was for approximately 30 hours of work. Chairman Browne states that it was for every call, email, zoom meeting, reviewing documents etc.

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

**The minutes provided above are a summary. The Town meets record management requirements and retention schedules by maintaining permanent records of electronic recordings of meetings to satisfy the requirements of §403-A. Minutes by Leanna Targett.*