

Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 7th, 2024; 6:00 PM Webster Hall 38 School Street

Attendance

Municipal Officers: Wade Browne, Hunter Lander, Chris Rushton, Morgan Dunham

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

Public: Jim Boyce, Tom Wiencek, Barbara Wiencek, Mike Shirley, Jane Shirley, Bobby Brown, Claudia Diller, Fred Nichols, Henry Williams, Sue Davis, Jeff Maget, Aaron Hanson, Rob MacMichael, and Polly MacMichael

Via Zoom: Dee Menear, Danielle Mathieu, Rebecca Richard

Absent: Kim Jordan

Chairman Browne calls the meeting to order.

Board reviews meeting minutes from September 16, 2024. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept all minutes as written. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in Favor.

Chairman Browne states that the first business is a public hearing for general assistance ordinance maximums. Motion by Selectman Dunham to recess Selectmen's meeting to open a public hearing for General Assistance. Second by Selectman Lander. All in Favor.

Chairman Browne reads: Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4305(1), the municipal officers of the Municipality of Kingfield, after notice and hearing, will hereby enact the attached General Assistance Ordinance with appendices in its entirety. This Ordinance shall supersede and replace all previous Ordinance versions. A copy of this Ordinance will be filed with the Maine Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4305(4) and shall be available for public inspection at the municipal office along with a copy of 22 M.R.S. chapter 1161.

Chairman asks for any public comment. Hearing no public comment (or after public comment), Selectman Dunham makes a motion to reopen the Selectmen's meeting. Second by Selectman Lander. All in Favor.

Selectmen Dunham makes a motion to approve and sign the new General Assistance Ordinance with appendices in its entirety as provided. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in favor.

Board then reviews the quarterly financials covering July August and September.

Old Business:

Chairman Browne asks if the board has reviewed the draft of changes to disposition of tax acquired property. Selectman Dunham states that she has reviewed it and did not find any errors. Chairman Browne makes a motion to accept as written. Seconded by Selectman Hunter. All in Favor.

Chairman Browne asks about two drains on Riverside Street that are so high up the water will never get to them. He asks TM, Targett to follow-up with the engineer on this.

New Business:

Chairman Browne moves to Claudia Diller who would like to discuss the selectboards plan for speed control on Riverside St. Chairman Browne says there is nothing that the board can do for speed control, he says we are not cops so the only thing we can tell you to do is call the cops, every opportunity that you can call the cops, give them a description, have them stop at your house and all those other things. I don't know what else to tell you, the town doesn't want to spend any money on speed bumps or humps so it's a cops issue not a towns issue.

Aaron Hanson says it will happen on West Kingfield Road once the construction is done. Chairman Browne says it probably will, but we have no legal authority to stop anybody.

Claudia says actually there are some things you can do as a selectboard one of them is to start an initiative to slow traffic down on town owned roads, you can also post – the town manager could post things on all the forums in New Portland, Kingfield, Sugarloaf and Carrabassett Valley asking people to slow down in town periodically just to remind them to please do it. The Town Manager or one of you people could go down and talk to the sheriff and tell him we have a problem in this town.

Chairman Browne says you can call the Sheriff just as well as we can. Claudia says I call them, and they think I am some kind of a crazy lady. If you guys call them and say we have a problem in this town and need regular enforcement, somebody driving down these roads looking for speeders.

Chairman Dunham says they just do not have enough staff for that. Claudia says they have enough staff to catch speeder in the winter, skiers but it is not skiers that are speeding on Riverside – its locals its people in this town who really think they can do whatever they want. Chairman Browne says so like parking in the middle of the road on Riverside. Claudia says while we were working on our driveway. Chairman Browne says while working on your driveway they were strategically placed so that you had to go slow right there. Claudia says because people are going 60mph, were walking on the driveway and on our lawn and they are three feet away from us going that fast. Chairman Browne says call the cops.

Chairman Browne says we have discussed this topic enough times. Claudia asks if we pay for the police and what we are getting for that. Chairman Browne says they are stopping people on Main Street, they are coming to accidents, dealing with people dying. Claudia says if they are patrolling Route 27 then why not Riverside or West Kingfield Road. Chairman Browne asks how do you know they are not. Henry Williams says the sheriff's department makes the rounds 2-3 times a day in this town and if you look out the window you will see them, Henry says I see them.

Claudia says the other thing you can do which is pretty inexpensive is to place these things in the middle of the road that say slow down. So emergency vehicles and everyone can get around them no problem, you could also put up electric signs permanently in the 30 mph zone, put a striping on the road to slow down and have it so that it is flashing their speed on both ends, the problem is our houses are 30 feet away from that road its just dangerous, I have seen the flashing signs all over the place they are putting them up everywhere and they are permanent and they work year round so those are some things the town can do too. I don't want to sit hear and hear you say there is nothing we can do when there is something you can do. Selectman Rushton asks if the

items in the road would be flexible so that fire trucks and cars just go over them. Claudia says no, they are sturdy pyramid things, so if you hit them you will do some damage, Claudia says you just go around them. Chairman Browne states that we can not have flashing signs in town. Chairman Browne says we have had the one in front of your house this year and that hasn't worked. Claudia says it does work. Chairman Browne says I think people are going fast just to make you ugly and I understand that, I don't know how to stop them either but it is a cop situation.

Next item on the agenda is a discussion with SnoWanderers Trail master Jim Boyce to discuss New Year's Eve and provide updates. Jim says he is before the board to ask permission for the annual fireworks and bonfire next to the sled shed. The board grants permission. Jim says he would like to also ask to place the winter parking sign on the hill directing people to the gateway parking lot and to be allowed to put out a picnic table and trash can on Gilmore hill for sliders. Board agrees. Jim says we are still cleaning up from last years storms, we are dealing with culverts, a bridge behind the school, we are trying to neaten the area around the sled shed. The club recently paid for the culvert and materials to cross route 27 where Travis had ditching completed for the wastewater department. We are also planning to move the bridge out on Stanley to a location on the Woodhouse property. It is a 45-foot bridge, we are also dealing with a 35-foot bridge out near the chase farm which will be stripped and replaced with enviro-mats. Tyson Chase is assisting the club with this. Jim says we will rely on Lexington again to get north as there has been no change in Carrabassett Valley. Lastly, we have ordered some new 2x2 hardwood stakes for our signs which will be less apt to break.

Board reviews the crack sealing quote provided by TM Targett. Chairman Browne says he feels we should do it. Following review Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept the proposal from Coastal Road Repair not to exceed \$80,360.00. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in Favor.

Chairman Browne moves discussion asking if there is a need for a fireworks ordinance. Chairman Browne asks do we need one, there is already a state law about them. Fire Chief Fred Nichols says he is trying to get better guidance about the disorderly conduct law and if it should suffice for law enforcement to enforce. (Title 17A, § 501-A). He suggests we contact the DA's office on this to see if it could be used. Chairman Browne says if we do an ordinance we need law enforcement to enforce it. Fred says if they start a fire then I can do something about it. Mike Shirley is recognized; he says debris from the neighbor's fireworks are landing on his roof and porch and would like to see a fireworks ordinance. Fred says he wonders if the DA could answer if the 10:00pm time frame comes into play with the disorderly conduct. Chairman Browne says that maybe law enforcement should be shown the law. Selectman Rushton asks if a noise ordinance would work. Board agrees that a noise ordinance would need to cover numerous noises in town and might need to be enforced by law enforcement. Someone mentions the use of jake brakes being a noise issue. Chairman Browne directs TM, Targett to contact Scott Nichols about fireworks, speeding, cars parked in the road that should not be and noise issues.

Polly MacMichael is recognized she says it seems like there are a few items and suggest treating them as a whole for instance Claudia and the speeding, these are quality of life issues that could be discussed in a meeting with Sheriff Nichols. The selectmen should advocate. Chairman Browne states that he just said that we should contact Sheriff Nichols. Rob MacMichael says there is an unwritten rule that you can drive 10mph over the speed limit which is fine outside of town but in the village area it is a lot. Polly says jake brakes are issues too they have been, maybe a

personal conversation and advocacy is needed. Selectman Rushton states that cell phones are a big societal problem. Polly says the issues are from our residents and I appreciate a meeting with the Sheriff and Selectmen. Selectman Rushton asks what the cost would be for a town constable. TM, Targett says she would need to research further. Polly suggests sharing the cost with Carrabassett Valley for Carrabassett police.

Chairman Browne states that before the board is a letter from Maine Rural Water Association with analysis on possible sewer rates. He suggests the board review for future discussion.

Chairman Browne notes that there are three abatements before the board. Two of which are real property and one personal property abatement. Board reviews abatements. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to approve all as presented. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in Favor.

Town Manager Updates/Discussion: TM, Targett states that she would like to remind the board that we are looking for a representative for the housing committee. She would also like to mention the email that was sent by Julie Swain regarding the research she has been doing with department of education where she says it does not appear that pulling out from the district would be beneficial to Kingfield. TM Targett says she has not received an update on crosswalks other than the machine broke and is awaiting parts. Wastewater has completed the Annis septic tank install and has also completed the drainage ditch near little baker. Public works is still in need of an assistant and a seasonal employee - this has been posted on the web, daily bulldog, Facebook and Maine Job Bank. TM, Targett says that Fire Chief Nichols and she has been informed that our fire suppression rating has been lowered from 7.9 to 5.5 which is huge – this will save residents on their homeowners insurance and lastly she has been forwarded an email about a law firm that involves tax acquired properties where they have filed a class action lawsuit in federal court against Eastbrook and the lawsuit seeks class action against all municipalities, plantations and unorganized territory. This lawsuit would be for any tax acquired properties sold in the past six years where the town has received more than the taxes, interest and costs. The good news is the last one Kingfield sold was in 2015.

Selectmen Discussion:

Chairman Browne asks for any updates on Mill Street. TM Targett says there are none from FEMA at this time. Chairman Browne asks for any updates on West Kingfield Road. TM, Targett states that she does not have any to provide at this time as she has just returned from a week of vacation and a few days of training. Selectman Lander asks for an update on the rampway. TM, Targett states that Neal Tranten was going to work on the rampway last Thursday but there was a committee using the hall. Neal has stated that it will be fixed prior to elections.

Public Comment:

Bobby Brown asks who owns the corn crib and if there has been any upkeep on it. Selectman Lander says he wonder the same thing if it could be braced from the inside.

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