

**Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024; 6:00 PM Webster Hall 38 School Street**

**Attendance**

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

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

**Public:** Jim Boyce, Sue Davis, Henry Williams, Lynn Burnell, Dennis Burnell, Jeff Maget, Julie Swain, Polly MacMichael and Rob MacMichael

**Via Zoom:** Danielle Mathieu, Rebecca Richards

**Absent:**

Chairman Browne calls the meeting to order.

Board reviews meeting minutes from October 21, 2024. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept all the minutes as written. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. All in Favor.

**Old Business:**

Chairman Browne states that there is no old business.

**New Business:**

Chairman Browne moves to discussion on parking/no parking within town limits. Chairman Browne states that we have had some issues on the corner of Main Street and Depot Street which were issues with the painting of no parking signs. As we all recall, that has always had no parking, usually on the stop sign that was from corner to corner and around the corner. Also, we have rules from DOT that you cannot park within 20 feet of an unsignalized crosswalk or 30 feet of a signalized crosswalk. Signs should be posted to indicate that parking is not permitted. We all know that Farmington had an issue this year with someone getting run over because they did not have parking spaces far enough away from crosswalks. So, we did not do it to discourage business from anyone downtown. We did do it because we are trying to look out for the town and to make sure people do not get run over that may be in a crosswalk that is the only reason. Chairman Browne says that area did have signs, and he is not certain what happened to them after the Route 27 project so that is why we painted them. Selectman Jordan says she agrees with everything that was just said. Selectman Rushton says there have been signs there ever since he has lived in Kingfield.

Polly MacMichael is recognized she says she obviously understands and respects safety and totally appreciates the parking spaces that were finally painted along Depot Street which is super helpful and awesome. The one thing she is concerned about is the no parking specifically written on the road. With respect to safety I understand that however I do not remember a sign being on the stop sign that says no parking, which is beside the point. We have always had an issue in town with parking. I know that nearly every business has a waiver from the planning board for the three-minute parking rule and I am concerned that so many businesses have that waiver for parking that so many businesses are relying on very view spaces in town. In the discussion with DOT there

was huge concerns with parking, we have all listened to John Goldfrank talk about parking for ever, its hard, I know space is limited but what we and Julie has for concerns with the no parking signs specifically written on the road is that it doesn't welcome people, it is not welcoming for people to access those buildings like Annis, CSM, Kingfield USA, whereas before they were just open, there weren't any spaces drawn on the road, there was just nothing there, so when you specifically put no parking it discourages people from parking there. From our observation with those spaces downtown they were never parking spaces, people wouldn't come and park and get out of their car and walk around town for a couple of hours they would just do a quick stop, like drop your kids off to dance or quickly run into Julie's shop or people grabbing a breakfast sandwich at Annis. So the parking that happened in those spaces where is says no parking was so minimal. People do not generally park there. Julie parks there when she has to unload stuff. So placing no parking in big letters on the road it discourages people from....

Chairman Browne interrupts and says it discourages people from parking where they are not supposed to park. Chairman Browne says there is all kinds of other parking downtown, so no we have Bob's Cash Fuel there that is parking two spaces down from you taking up a space or two when you know there is parking out behind your place as you have a little alley down back, there is parking behind Goldfranks, there is all kinds of parking if they choose to go there. So, the no parking is to discourage people from not parking where they are not supposed to park and we can't put jersey barriers up because we don't want anybody getting hurt, or for anybody to run into those things. Chairman Browne says you have people with buses and such that can swing going around that corner and people do park there longer even to go into dance class, we have seen them three in a row from that corner of High Street down to get to the dancing thing. Rob MacMichael asks what the unsigned crosswalk thing was that he spoke of. Chairman Browne says you cannot park within twenty feet of an unsignalized crosswalk or thirty feet of a signalized crosswalk.

Polly says so a couple of things, we had a parking fund for parking in town that keeps making money so are there any solutions for parking downtown? That is my first thing. My second thing is when I was on the board I specifically asked for parking signs on Depot so not only the lines on the road but also a specific parking sign. Chairman Browne says remember that DOT turned that down as well they did not want it out there. Polly says they did not want it on the Island so I was going to offer that we can happily put a sign on the corner of the building that says parking on Depot Street this way or public parking on Depot this way. Chairman Browne says there is nothing to stop you from doing that, that I know of, you can do whatever you want on the side of your building like a smiley face. I don't disagree that people who are visiting town probably doesn't realize that there are parking spots up there and we are discussing tonight in Executive Session possible parking.

Polly says my third issue is when Bike Maine came here years ago there was an effort in town with DOT and the road reconstruction to put in those crosswalks, so if we are in fact going to address safety in town it would be awesome if we could do some of the further recommendations that Bike Maine has for pedestrian friendly crosswalks in town, like painting, or getting some bike signs. Polly says, Leanna you remember we talked at least three years ago about getting a bike sign at the top of the hill. Chairman Browne says was not the state supposed to put in crosswalk signs. TM, Targett says yes, but they did not do anything with bikes. Polly says there are other things, traffic calming is a huge issue in the downtown area so putting the crosswalk/sidewalk extensions where crosswalks are, like they have in Skowhegan they do a great job of slowing traffic, so if we are concerned about safety lets actually be concerned about safety. Chairman Browne says he

does not disagree. Selectman Jordan asks for clarification as to what they are. Polly says they are so integral to transportation in bigger towns that you probably don't even notice them, but what they are is two posts made out of PVC so if you crash into one its not going to hurt you either in a car or walking they are posts that come out from the sidewalk into the crosswalk just as an indicator for a crosswalk, they come out maybe three feet on the sides of the road towards the actual crossing of the road but there are a couple of other things that we could do according to Bike Maine safe streets they work with DOT so if we really are concerned about safety lets do more. The board does not disagree and is interested in finding out more with details on removal for winter and such. Polly says she remembers when art walk used to put a cone in the road to slow down traffic and it worked, she knows that the board is not a fan of these ideas, but traffic is so bad. Selectman Rushton says he has noticed that there is no room, he is at Annis ever day and notices with vehicles and trucks there is simply no room, he wonders if the parking spaces are bigger than they used to be, and he is not sure that you could come out two feet in both directions. Polly says she does not know what he is talking about, but the road is definitely wide enough. Polly says, Chris I have seen you park across the road and go to Annis, there is no crosswalk there, it is all kinds of weird to get from Rolling Fatties to the new building. I have to go way out of my way to use the crosswalk. Polly says it is unsafe for many reasons.

Selectman Rushton asks where the bike signs Polly mentioned would start, would it be near the sled shed, are we talking a bike lane? Polly says its just a bike sign, so one of those yellow metal signs and we initially talked about it right at the bottom of Gilmore hill and Carrabassett Coffee because we were hoping to put in a bike path that would cross the road right there. Polly says since it is just an ATV trail there it might make sense to have it closer to town, but people do use that stretch of road from Gilmore Hill to Freeman Ridge Road to get to the Freeman Ridge bike park.

Julie Swain says since she was the number one complaint on this she just wants to say that what's done is done, but in the future maybe the town could work with business organizations downtown and weather it was meant to or not I have lost three spots out of four in front of my store and the majority of my business stops on their way out of town, sometimes if I am lucky the go across the street. So, when there is no parking instead of some nice lines like everywhere else in town except there it affects my business period whether it's meant to or not. Its money out of my pocket so that's why this hits me hard, and it makes me upset. So, in the future when there is actions being done downtown that will affect businesses it would be great to have foresight. Look at what the overall impact of this is like you did with speed bumps, you talked about it, you surveyed but this was just done and there was no consideration.

Chairman Browne says it has always been that way, way before your business, way before any business, even when Dick Keenan was in there. Julie says Peggy Hansen says differently, she says it used to be a handicapped spot in front. The board argues this is not the case. Julie says she has worked there for 40 years and remembers. Selectman Jordan says no, that would have been a horrific place to put handicapped parking. Julie says it was a different time and now it is a truck highway.

Selectman Jordan says what could we have done any differently? Julie says every other place has diagonal lines, look around there is nowhere before this incident that said no parking in capital bold letters. Diagonal lines are just a little friendlier, it covers your liability. People are going to park

wherever they want to park but at least it covers your liability so if they get hit by a truck its on them. Julie says you cant save everyone from being stupid, if they are going to be stupid and park somewhere in no parking, fine, I will take their money. I will take a stupid person's money, I need to make a living but for now I am going to see how it works out this winter but I am not optimistic that one parking spot is going to support my business.

Chairman Browne says there is all kinds of parking besides the corner. Chairman Browne says he wishes we did the diagonals everywhere with the no parking. Julie says yes, then it is friendlier. Chairman Browne says I have recently seen people park between the no parking writing because it does not say it in the middle. Julie says in the meantime lets keep this momentum going for safety. Following further conversation, the board agrees to discuss additional safety measures at a later date.

Discussion with SnoWanderers Trail Master Jim Boyce. Jim Boyce says that after the vandalism on the snowmobile bridge that the DA was not willing to prosecute we have been discussing purchasing a shipping container to put a lot of our stuff in that has been left out in the past in order to lock it up. We would place it between the two buildings so that you would not see it from the road. We have \$20k in snowmobiles and another \$16k in an ATV, groomer parts and such all of which could be stored in the container. We have cameras but we all know that does not mean much as the DA just throws it out. We allow other organizations to use the building now and would like to clean it up some to include storing some items in the container. It would be placed between the sled shed and the pole barn. Chairman Browne asks if they will make it look pretty. Jim says we can paint it gray like the building. Jim asks for the board's support in this. Board provides full support – all are in favor.

The board reviews a letter from Franklin County Emergency Management Agency. The letter indicates that Franklin County EMA has submitted a project proposal for the installation of two United States Geological Survey (USGS) river gauges in Franklin County. The letter indicates that it is essential for enhancing flood monitoring capabilities and improving emergency response efforts across our communities. The proposed locations for the gauges are in Farmington, at the Sandy River near the Fairbanks Bridge (Route 4), and in Carrabassett Valley, adjacent to the South Branch of the Carrabassett River near Route 27. The total estimated cost of the project is \$151,400, with 75% anticipated to be funded by federal resources through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), leaving a non-federal match requirement of 25%, or \$37,850. To ensure equitable cost distribution, they propose a cost-sharing model based on the land mass percentage of each municipality. First responders will gain access to critical information to efficiently allocate resources in flood-prone areas, and the data collected will inform future infrastructure development, thereby enhancing community resilience. The request for Kingfield to contribute is \$931.11 towards the 25% non-federal match, calculated according to your town's land mass percentage. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to pay the \$931.11 as requested from selectman contingency. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. All in Favor

Board reviews two real estate abatements. Upon review Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept abatements as presented. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in Favor.

Discuss ARPA funds expenditure. TM Targett notes that the board had a work session a week ago to discuss ARPA funds. In that meeting there were options for consideration of how to spend the remaining funds. Following discussion, it appeared that the board supported spending the remaining funds on a wastewater study and leach field inspections. TM, Targett reminds the board that motions are not made in work sessions and therefore asks the board if their intentions are to spend the funds on wastewater studies. Selectman Rushton makes a motion to spend the remaining funds on a system study for the wastewater department. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in Favor.

**Town Manager Updates/Discussion:** TM, Targett provides updates to include the comprehensive planning committee holding its first meeting this past Monday. She says that it appears to be a great group of individuals. Voting results from November were less than previously. 886 voters compared to 899 in 2020. TM Targett says, as the board is aware she provided details to all staff members on the new paid family medical leave act (PFML). Deductions will begin on January 1, 2025. She calculates the cost of matching the deductions to be about \$2,500.00.

She contacted Maine DOL to ask if they had any suggestions for a consultant for school research but has not received a response. She was hoping to make contact with someone and to get an approximate cost to provide to the board. She has put out an RFP for slip-lining the culvert on West Kingfield Road. This must be done to hire an engineer due to the expected cost being in excess of \$100,000.00.

Lastly, as the board is also aware I am ecstatic to report that I have received the green light after two years of work for the BRIC Grant. The plan is to move forward with our three troubled areas to include Mill Street, mill pond dam and river embankment, Island Road, and the end of West Kingfield Road/Blanchard Hill. It may include Rapid Stream, but I am not certain. 90% will be covered by the grant and the town will be responsible for the other 10%. I have already drafted an RFP for engineering services using a list provided to me of firms that work with EMA and FEMA. This has been two years and will probably be another two before there is real progress. The board thanks Leanna for her hard work on this.

### **Selectmen Discussion:**

Chairman Browne asks for any selectmen discussion.

Selectman Rushton notes that there may be some major changes within the school that could cost the taxpayers more, some of which are maintenance to buildings, and he wants to remind everyone that wastewater could be big money in the future after the survey is completed.

Chairman Browne asks about sidewalks. He understands that the roads come first but the sidewalks should be done a day or two after a storm. Chairman Browne says it is not Travis's responsibility it is Brians. Today Briand should have had this as his top priority. It needs to be done immediately, and Leanna needs to be made aware of any plans. Travis has his own department, his own work. It is Brian's responsibility.

Chairman Browne asks if Leanna has had any luck with the wastewater formula. TM, Targett says she reached out to Brian Twitchell last week for help, but their schedules seem to clash. She will follow up this week.

Chairman Browne notes that he has attended the Maine Health ambulance meetings, but he can not be a voting member. He says that we really need to have a voice on that committee. TM Targett and Selectman Dunham both offer to serve. Selectman Dunham says she was on the board and just stop receiving invites for some reason.

**Public Comment:**

Henry Williams is recognized, Henry says the sidewalk machine is not running. There are a pair of vice grips on it. Chairman Browne says this goes back on Brian, he needs to get it fixed, it should have been serviced this past summer. Henry says we still have equipment to get up and running its too much pressure.

Motion made by Selectman Dunham to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6) C - Possible acquisition of real property for municipal parking. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in favor.

There are no motions following the executive session.

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.*