

Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 3rd, 2025; 6:00 PM Webster Hall 38 School Street

Attendance

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

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

Public: Brad Orbeton, Claudia Diller, Susan Davis, Henry Williams, Mary Nodine, Steve Yates, Laura Columbia, Jeff Maget

Via Zoom: Rebecca Richard

Absent:

Chairman Browne calls the meeting to order.

The board reviews meeting minutes from February 18th, 2025. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Selectman Lander. Motion passes 4 to 1 abstain.

New Business:

Chairman Browne recognizes Superintendent Laura Columbia to discuss facilities assessment and strategic planning process. Laura explains that MSAD 58 had a facilities assessment review completed by an outside company to provide statuses on all buildings in order to make some informed steps going forward. The studies performed indicated expenditures forecasted out 20 years. Within each report 1-2 items were selected as high priority. Mt Abram High School has issues with the roof leaking throughout the building with a cost estimate to replace at \$937,800.00 there are also thirty-eight exterior doors that need to be replaced. This cost is \$121,800.00. Day Mountain Middle School in Strong study indicated that the roof is in poor condition with a replacement cost of \$424,600 and there is an interior wall that is cracked and peeling from the roof leaking. Repairs would cost \$15,000.00. The Phillips Elementary School survey indicates some exterior walls that are brick are covered in mold and need to be cleaned and sealed. Cost estimate of \$5,000.00 and the air ventilator is in failed condition. This has a replacement cost of \$13,000.00, it is recommended to replace the HVAC system to include air conditioning, heating and ventilation with a cost estimate of \$699,900.00. Kingfield Elementary School has a bay window in poor condition, it is leaking and difficult to operate. It is suggested that the window be replaced at \$6,000.00. The charge that was given to the finance and operations committee was to review and research immediate, short- and long-term recommendations. Part of this research would include reviewing data on the cost of operating each building, looking at projected enrollment and how this will impact the school budget. The board will be looking to create a five-year plan. Laura says that no board decisions have been made on any of this. Laura indicates that additional information can be found on the school website under facilities assessment. Following further discussions, the board thanks Laura for her explanations.

Old Business:

Chairman Browne moves into discussing wastewater rates. TM, Targett explains that the board must first choose an option for the wastewater budget. She explains that the difference between the four options being presented are revenue from taxpayers and revenue from TIF. Option one is \$25,000 from users and a match of \$25,000 from TIF. A half and half scenario. Option two is \$12,500 from users and \$37,500 from TIF. Known as the 3-year step down. Option three is \$8,333

from users and \$41,667 from TIF. Known as the 5-year step down. Option four is \$50,000 from users and a match of \$50,000 from TIF. A half and half scenario. Option 1 and 4 is ripping the band-aid off completely. The users will pay an amount and the TIF will match that amount. The board reviews the budget and agrees that option two is acceptable. TM, Targett explains by selecting option two there is a predetermined amount set for residential users according to what is needed for budget revenue. That cost per corrected EDU will be \$80.50 per quarter. The next step is to choose a flat rate for businesses which again has a predetermined cost for gallons of water – per one thousand gallons. Upon further review Selectman Dunham makes a motion for a flat fee of \$250.00 per quarter for businesses plus water usage. Seconded by Selectman Rushton. All in Favor. The per 1,000 gallon cost will be \$1.50. TM, Targett explains that the rates will officially be adopted following a public hearing. Chairman Browne requests that TM, Targett create something for the meeting to educate the public in attendance.

New Business:

The board agrees to review the first draft of budgets as homework. TM, Targett explains that the board is looking at a ½ million dollar increase with all of the items that have been discussed throughout the year. She states that the board could lower that to \$228,000 by removing everything that was wanted in budget. This would be an 11.52% increase. She also pointed out that outside requests were not received and would be provided during the next board meeting. TM Targett says there may be items that she has forgotten about that may need to be added.

Town Manager Updates/Discussion: TM, Targett has no updates to provide.

Selectmen Discussion: None

Public Comment: Brad Orbeton states his concerns for upcoming school budgets if there are slashes happening at the state level with funding.

Selectman Dunham makes a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant Title 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A –Personnel Matters – misconduct of an individual. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in Favor. There are no motions made 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.*