

**Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024; 6:00 PM Webster Hall 38 School Street**

**Attendance**

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

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

**Public:** Sue Davis, Claudia Diller, Henry Williams, Lynn Burnell, Dennis Burnell, Jeff Maget, Polly MacMichael, and Rob MacMichael

**Via Zoom:** Michelle Veilleux, Rebecca Richards

**Absent:** Hunter Lander,

Chairman Browne calls the meeting to order.

Board reviews meeting minutes from December 2, 2024. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept all the minutes as written. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. All in Favor.

**Old Business:**

Chairman Browne notes that Julie Swain is not present to talk about parking spaces in town. TM, Targett stated that Julie notified her earlier in the day that she would not be in attendance.

Discussion with Claudia Diller on sidewalks, signs and slow down speed initiatives. Claudia says she had emailed Leanna to discuss a few items and the one question she has is because Leanna had posted a really good slow down note on the Kingfield page that she thought was excellent, lets get the town on board, lets all slow down, but is it possible for her to post it on the community forums because nobody reads the town page. Can she put it on the New Portland Community Forum, the Carrabassett Valley River Community Forum, and the Kingfield Maine Community Forum because that is what people read the most. Selectman Jordan asks if it would be one time. Claudia says no, we were talking about doing it monthly. Selectman Rushton asks what is involved, is it a big to-do or do you just push a button. TM, Targett says it is just pushing a button. Chairman Browne says if she has time to do it then yes. Selectman Jordan says as long as if she doesn't get to it or forgets to do it that she gets hammered with complaints. Claudia says she doesn't think she would do that to Leanna, she might remind her. Selectman Rushton asks if permissions are needed from the other towns. TM, Targett says she will send them to the other forums, and it is up to them to allow the posting or not. Claudia says the one question she has on that is where it is being sent by the town office, is the selectboard on board with this initiative. Chairman Browne says we would not direct her to help do that if we weren't. Claudia asks if it could be stated like a sign she saw that stated that it was endorsed by the selectboard. Chairman Browne says I don't think we need to get that picky, were putting it up there and asking people to slow down, we have it on our web page, we don't need to keep nit picking each little thing about it, if we asks her to put those on those things then it should be good enough. Claudia says her concern is if the selectboard goes along with this initiate then it will really cut back on any blow back. Chairman Browne says if it is coming from a town official then it is coming from all of us, not just one of us, if we have asked her to - then it is coming from all of us.

Chairman Browne says we did get some photos of things we could get for the sidewalks that will also help to slow people down, they are a foldable sign incase one is run over. Chairman Browne says we need to figure out if the stick to the ground or if they are weighted. TM, Targett says there are a few different options – some that can be weighted and others that can be drilled into the ground, and even some that have a sticky type of a base. Chairman Browne says we do not want them permanent for the wintertime. TM, Targett says they would be used for three seasons and would need to be removed in the winter.

Claudia says with the crosswalks the state is supposed to put up pedestrian crossing signs wherever there are crosswalks and there aren't any in town. Chairman Browne says I don't think you will see them put one on every corner in town where we have crosswalks. Claudia says your supposed to – it's a law. Chairman Browne says the signs would be blocking the view of people driving. Claudia says it's the law. Chairman Browne says you will see one downtown and a bunch further up town. Chairman Browne says I can't think for one minute that they are going to put up four large signs by Polly's building as there are four or five crossings right there. Claudia says it is the law and DOT's responsibility. Claudia says, I spoke with Leanna about this, and I am asking that they follow through with it. TM Targett says she did discuss this with DOT today and said that DOT did look at the village area but decided against it because they need to be seven feet high, they are great big yellow signs, and they would have to be on 3x3 posts. DOT just didn't see where they could be placed in the village area they assumed the board and residents would be upset to have numerous signs in one central location so their suggestion was for the pedestrian crossing signs that could be placed in the road. Claudia is concerned that they would not be out in the winter, and it is very scary crossing that road. Selectman Rushton says he crosses that road three times a day and it is important to just be vigilant.

Selectman Rushton notes that on his travels to Skowhegan and such he has noticed that some towns have a bypass for the trucks. His fear is that with the loss of trucks it would result in a loss to businesses. Rob MacMichael notes that the truck traffic is nonstop every day. Polly MacMichael says the comprehensive plan says that we already exceed back in 2007 the percentage of truck traffic that is supposed to go through the middle of a downtown by like many percentage points and there has been nothing to stop that. Selectman Rushton asks what do you do, we all rely on trucks. Polly MacMichael says I don't think you can stop it; it is a matter of trying to slow the traffic down as it has been an issue in Kingfield for a really long time. Polly says additionally the boarder crossing north of us is undergoing a renovation in the next five years that will make truck traffic even more prevalent.

Claudia asks the board to have Leanna call these trucking companies to slow down. Claudia says it doesn't take long. The board does not respond to this request.

## **New Business:**

Chairman Browne moves into discussion on clearing sidewalks for winter season. Chairman Browne says we were finally able to get the sidewalks cleared thanks to Travis and his own machine until ours gets fixed which is going to be a little bit still. He did run into a giant rock from out at Audreys retaining wall that got plowed up by her plow truck driver which ate Travis's machine up pretty good. Travis says he already has it back up and going. Chairman Browne says we need to discuss what we want to do for that. Travis has offered to rent his machine and have him run it or if we need to put it out to see if anyone else wants to do it, which no one else has stepped up to the plate as they don't want to do it either. Chairman Browne asks the board what

they want. Chairman Browne says we need to know what he wants to rent his machine. Chairman Browne says he wants everyone to know that Travis has been hesitant to do anything like that because the way people talk about the way we keep using Travis, but this should not be part of the discussion. There is nobody else that has a machine that does this, ours has broken down and he has allowed us to use his at the moment, but we should be reimbursing him for that. Chairman Brwone says he is already an employee so we can pay him his hourly rate, time and a half, whatever so they can be done. Selectman Jordan says if Travis is willing they need to be done because people are walking between the sidewalk and Route 27 often wearing black clothes – which is very concerning. The board says they are in support. Chairman Browne says we need to figure out what Travis wants and have a discussion in Executive Session and bring it to the town if needed, however we do have money in the budget for the third person that we have been unable to hire. Chris Rushton thanks Travis for driving his machine to Kingfield at night from Salem. Sue Davis asks if the town can contact someone like Nunes to see if they have a snowblower and could do it - another words sub-contracting it instead of putting the burden on the town crew. Chairman Browne says we could, but we are in the now – right now. Sue Davis says maybe in the future you can find out if they do that. Chairman Browne says in the future we will make sure our machine is up and running and hopefully we can find someone else to help run it. Selectman Jordan says she does not believe Nunes has a sidewalk machine. Travis says he is willing to do it until the town's machine is up and running. He is not interested in doing it every year. Following further discussion, it is agreed that the details would be discussed in Executive Session.

Next item is to discuss engineering costs for Lander Bridge repair/replacement. Chairman Browne clarifies for the public that it is not a bridge but a big culvert. TM, Targett says DOT has it labeled as a bridge as they inspect every two years. Chairman Browne says it is on West Kingfield Road. Board reviews bid from Mainland. TM, Targett says she had sent this out to four different companies, and they were the only ones to respond. TM Targett reminds the board due to the cost of the project engineered plans are needed. Chairman Browne says we need to do it. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to pay Mainland Development \$32,000.00 to start the engineering process. Selectman Jordan seconds motion. All in Favor.

Board discusses scheduling a work session to discuss wastewater rates. The board agrees to January 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Polly MacMichael says when she read over the report she noted a 60% increase overall to cover operating costs.

Chairman Browne notes that there is a Real Estate abatement that is not on the agenda for the board to review. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept. Seconded by Chairman Browne. All in Favor.

**Town Manager Updates/Discussion:** TM, Targett says she has nothing to report at this time.

**Selectmen Discussion:**

Selectman Jordan asks about the snowflake lights in Skowhegan if those could be purchased with TIF. TM, Targett says no they are temporary holiday decorations. TM Targett says when she looked into how other towns purchased them it was purchased by business associations, churches, and even private donations. Some of the bigger towns were purchased through taxation.

## **Public Comment:**

Polly MacMichael is recognized, she says she is wondering what came out of the recent executive session on parking. Chairman Browne says we are looking at a few locations which will be discussed further with property owners if they are willing to sell. These parking spaces are somewhat out of the way and people will need to walk.

Polly MacMichael asks why Julie was skipped over on the agenda. The board explains that she wasn't in attendance. Polly asks why plowing around Depot Street and Main Street hasn't happened as it is really difficult for people to get to the post office safely especially with no sidewalks and the four crosswalks to nowhere. Chairman Browne explains that it is a difficult corner and there have been discussions on the best way to handle. Part of the issue is that the plows are carrying snow from High Street and Depot Street on that corner and the sidewalk machine has nowhere to blow the snow. Rob MacMichael asks if the loader or a tractor could clean it up. Chairman Browne says yes. Following further discussion, it is agreed that TM, Targett will talk with public works to clean-up this area downtown at their earliest convenience.

Motion made by Selectman Dunham to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6) D. – Labor Negotiations, further discussion with Travis Targett. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. All in favor.

Following the executive session a motion is made by Selectman Dunham to accept the proposal of \$1500.00 per mile x 3 miles per month to include breakdowns and insurance. Seconded by Selectman Rushton. All in Favor.

Selectman Dunham makes a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Rushton. 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.