

Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 7th, 2025; 6:00 PM Webster Hall 38 School Street

Attendance

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

Municipal Staff: Leanna Targett (Town Manager),.

Public: Claudia Diller, Susan Davis, Steve Yates, Kathy Houston, Jeff Maget, Henry Williams, Polly MacMichael, and Rob MacMichael

Via Zoom: Rebecca Richard

Absent:

Chairman Browne calls the meeting to order.

The board reviews meeting minutes from March 17, 2025. Selectman Jordan makes a motion to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Selectman Lander. Motion passes 4 to 1 abstain.

Selectman Dunham makes a motion to recess selectmen meeting to open a public hearing for wastewater rates. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in Favor.

Chairman Browne opens public hearing. He explains the history of rate setting which began in January 2020. Chairman Browne explains that the rates will be that residentials will pay \$80.50 per quarter per Equivalent Dwelling Unit. Or EDU. Businesses will pay a flat rate of \$250.00 per quarter plus a quarterly rate of water usage based upon their 3-year average water usage at \$1.50 per one thousand gallons.

Chairman Browne asks for any questions. Polly MacMichael asks where the public hearing was posted. TM, Targett explains that it was posted in three places in town as required, on the town website in two locations, on two Facebook pages and had been advertised in the Franklin/Sun Journal which is also uploaded to the associated press. Polly MacMichael asks what the next step in the process is. Chairman Browne says it will be adopted, and billing will start in July. Sue Davis states that she does not accept the charge and plans to contest it. Sue Davis states that she has been to the meetings and wants to know if the figures are for the last budget or current budget. Chairman Browne says current budget. The users need to pay for the system not taxpayers and we need to stop using TIF funds to balance the budget.

Polly MacMichael asks who is going into everyone's house to confirm layouts. Chairman Browne says no one, we are using the engineered designs from when the system was placed online. Polly MacMichael asks why the board changed their mind from charging everyone for straight water usage. Chairman Browne explains that the board looked at numerous scenarios and this made the most sense.

Rob MacMichael asks how mixed use will be handled. TM Targett explains that this was not discussed and was just thought of a few days ago. She says that the board will need to look at options such as the business/home having two separate water meters or another determination. This will be forthcoming.

Polly MacMichael asks if the old comp plan was considered in the rate setting. Polly MacMichael says you have made decisions without determining what is needed. This was identified in the 2007 comp plan. Chairman Browne explains that the rate setting is for the current budget. He explains that there is an engineering firm looking at the system, but we do not have their reports yet. They

will need to be considered in the next budget cycle and rate setting. Chairman Browne explains how we need to remove the TIF from operating expenses which he says we have done in a drop down so that it does not hit all at once. Polly says that the selectmen are making decisions without all the answers. Selectman Dunham says we need to make decisions it has been four years since the last increase. Following further discussion Selectman Dunham makes a motion to close public hearing and to reopen the selectmen's meeting. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in Favor.

New Business:

Chairman Browne recognizes Jessica Sechler, Director of Marketing & Communications to discuss Sugarloaf Marathon. Jessica indicates that the marathon is scheduled for May 11th this year. They have 1,026 runners registered, which is lower than last year's 1,300. We figure 10-15% will not show up so that will leave 800-900 runners this year. A postcard will be mailed to all Kingfield and Stratton residents. Jessica says that the route is still the same with all proceeds going to the Sugarloaf Charitable Trust.

Old Business:

Chairman Browne moves into the final review on budgets that are presented for 2025-2026. Board reviews budgets. TM, Targett explains how there is a new public works budget for the board to consider as Selectman Jordan requested looking at a lesser amount for the third public works assistance. TM, Targett would like the board to consider the larger costs found under the municipal services section which includes roads, painting the office and revaluation costs.

The board discusses lowering the amount for a revaluation to \$50,000.00 which would be a 3-year plan of savings. The board agrees to send the entire budget as is to the budget committee for recommendation and then to the municipal body.

Polly MacMichael asks if the board has thought about a town Sheriff to assist with public safety. Polly MacMichael feels that it may generate some money. Chairman Browne says the cost would be \$100,000.00 for a car and everything maybe more. Rob MacMichael asks if giving tickets and such would offset some of the cost.

The board discusses the future issues with additional traffic coming from the boarder once it is opened more. Claudia Diller asks if there can be pedestrian lights installed. Polly MacMichael suggests the board get ahead of the pedestrian friendly infrastructure.

Next item is the follow-up discussion on the Trust for Public Land conservation project. TM, Targett explains that at the last meeting it was agreed that the board would decide if they wished to send a letter of support which is not a commitment for this conservation project. The board agrees to send a letter of support.

New Business:

Chairman Brown moves into discussing the possible discontinuance of Island Road. Selectman Lander states that he requested this be on the agenda. Selectman Lander says that the taxpayers continue to pay fairly substantial amounts of money yearly for Island Road every time it washes out and he feels that the board should consider discontinuing that road. Following a brief discussion, it is agreed that additional discussion will take place in May.

Chairman Browne notes that there is a real estate abatement that did not make it on the agenda that should be considered. Upon review Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept as presented. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in Favor.

Town Manager Updates/Discussion: TM, Targett says she has no updates at this time.

Selectmen Discussion: Selectman Jordan notes that the town of Phillips and town of Strong have both circulated petitions to withdraw from the district. Selectmen Jordan says I have fought closing any schools for years however I suggest that the selectboard consider hearing from a former superintendent on his thoughts on the district. Selectman Jordan says I know that this board is considering hiring a consultant and possibly a committee. TM, Targett informs them that nothing can be done at the Selectboard level until a petition is circulated. Kathy Houston indicates that she might be willing to circulate a petition.

Public Comment: None

Selectman Dunham 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.*