

**TOWN OF EAST KINGSTON, NH
SELECTMEN'S PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, 2010**

6:30PM – Fire Chief Ed Warren & Deputy Fire Chief Matt Gallant

Attending: Selectmen Matthew B. Dworman & Kimberley I. Casey. (David R. Pendell, Jr.-Absent).
Others Attending: Fire Chief Ed Warren, Deputy Fire Chief Matt Gallant, Carolyn (Carrie) Sullivan, Bonnie Terrill, Sarah Ayers, and Vanda Moore.

Due to the first snowstorm of the season this evening, Mr. Dworman arrived at 7:15PM, and with Mr. Pendell sick, Mr. Dworman called this Selectmen's Public Meeting to order at 7:15PM, with apologies for keeping the 6:30PM appointment waiting.

NONPUBLIC SESSION: Mr. Dworman **MOTIONED** to go into a nonpublic session at 7:15PM under RSA 91-A-3, II: para (c) Matters, which if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. The Board was polled and the results of the poll were: Matthew B. Dworman –Yes, & Kimberley I. Casey –Yes.

The Board was polled & determined the divulgence of the information would render the proposed action ineffective & the information will be withheld from the public during the public meeting Minutes of December 20, 2010. The results of the poll were: Matthew B. Dworman –Yes, & Kimberley I. Casey –Yes.

Mr. Dworman **MOTIONED** to adjourn the Selectmen's non-public meeting at 7:20PM. Ms. Casey seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

APPOINTMENT: The Board reviewed an appointment for the fire department. Mr. Dworman **MOTIONED** to approve and sign an appointment, based on the recommendation of the Fire Chief, for David McElroy as Lieutenant for the Fire Department through 12/31/2011. Ms. Casey seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

FIRE DEPT.: Fire Chief Warren explained that in a previous meeting, he had stated he was going to purchase a RAD57 out of the ambulance special fund for approx. \$6,000 and he has since convinced Kingston to also purchase one, so they are getting them at a lower rate of \$5,500, and it will be purchased from the 2010 budget. The Board of Selectmen agreed to the purchase.

Fire Chief Warren stated the new Fire Engine is about 1-2 months out for delivery. No date has been set yet.

The Board acknowledged comments from Town Counsel, regarding an agreement to merge South Hampton and East Kingston Fire Departments. Fire Chief Warren stated he had spoken with Town Counsel and they are discussing all their options before moving forward.

MINUTES: The Board reviewed the Selectmen's Public/Non-Public Meeting minutes dated 12/13/10. Ms. Casey **MOTIONED** to approve and sign the public meeting minutes as written. Mr. Dworman seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Mr. Dworman **MOTIONED** to approve and sign the non-public meeting minutes dated 12/13/10 and sign the approved amended 12/06/10 minutes. Ms. Casey seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

REGISTER: The Board reviewed the check register in the amount of \$615,461.73. Mr. Dworman **MOTIONED** to approve and sign the check register as presented. Ms. Casey seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

SPECIAL PERMIT: The Board acknowledged receipt of a Special Permit Application for the State of NH, submitted by Dragon Mosquito for the 2011 season. Ms. Casey **MOTIONED** to authorize Mr. Dworman to sign the application as submitted, noting it is the same as last year. Mr. Dworman seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT: The Board reviewed Settlement Agreements, based on the assessing company's recommendation and Board approval.

Mr. Dworman **MOTIONED** to approve & sign the Settlement Agreement for Matthew & Lynn Blunt and an abatement for E. Verna Bent and Whippoorwill, as recommended by Avitar. Ms. Casey seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

REQUEST FOR DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS: The Board acknowledged receipt of Requests for Disbursement of Funds submitted by the Town Clerk/Tax Collector Barbara Clark.

Mr. Dworman **MOTIONED** to approve and sign a reimbursement to David Baker for \$4,878.00 for MBL #08-02-16; Chase Home Finance for MBL #13-03-21 for \$3,858.00 & \$4,096.00 for MBL #17-01-18, & Maplewood Title Co. for \$74.91 MBL #10-04-08-5. Ms. Casey seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT: The Board acknowledged from the Planning Board, the Notice of Decision for an approved Invisible Business for Scott DePanfilis of 7 Clark Road. It was noted, being an Invisible Business, no permit is required to be signed.

Mr. Dworman **MOTIONED** to approve the Invisible Business as recommended by the Planning Board for Scott DePanfilis. Ms. Casey seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

DOT: The Board acknowledged receipt of a letter from DOT regarding their plans to conduct a drainage analysis on NH Route 107-A over Hog Hill Swamp-Powwow River, also referred to as Green Brook. It was noted copies have been provided to the Road Agent and Conservation Commission.

WM.: The Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence dated 12/09/10 from WM regarding the rates for 2011.

COMCAST: It was noted that Comcast has not yet provided an update to the renewal contract for their review.

BUDGET/WARRANT: Ms. Gallant reviewed the changes to the Warrant #'s 7, 8 & 9 with the Board members, based on the recommendation from DRA. The Board members agreed to the changes and were also informed the appropriate Dept. Heads were in agreement to the changes.

MISC.: At 7:35PM, Mr. Dworman asked if the audience had any questions. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Dworman informed them the MRI report would be completed & received after the holidays. They are waiting for him to complete his study.

Mr. Dworman added his thoughts would be that upon receiving the report, the Board would review it and then discuss the report. He added no decisions would be made the night they receive it. Ms. Carrie Sullivan

asked for copies to be made available to the public. Ms. Casey responded personnel issues are non-public and discussions cannot be done in public.

Carrie Sullivan stated she wants to see what we are paying for. Mr. Dworman noted they would get to see the final report.

After several derogatory comments made by Carrie Sullivan, Mr. Dworman addressed her by saying that when she applied for the vacant position of Selectman when Mr. Poelaert resigned she stated during her interview, that she was a positive person and has no bridges to burn and has no agenda. He stated she has been extremely negative and has been very challenging, and he asked her to take a breath! Ms. Sullivan responded she just wants her questions answered. She added it has been challenging for her to deal with the Board, adding Kim & David make her blood pressure rise.

She added she is a positive person and does not have an ax to grind, she just wants problems solved.

Mr. Dworman again stated they need the final report first, they don't have it yet.

Ms. Casey asked Carrie Sullivan if she is implying that the Board of Selectmen are going to change the report? She expressed that the Board of Selectmen want it factually correct before giving it out, but they are not making changes to it.

Mr. Dworman also noted that the final report by MRI is his opinion, and ultimately the Board of Selectmen will make any decisions based on the information provided, and they reserve the right to not support the information, but they hope to use the information to base their decisions on.

Ms. Bonnie Terrill offered her frustration with the home values going down, and the taxes going up. It was noted that most of the property tax bill goes to the school and a small portion covers the town.

Ms. Casey stated the municipal portion is small and you would have to reduce it by \$299,000 to get \$1.00 savings. If you were to close the Town Offices, you would not reduce the tax rate. (Total tax rate = \$23.33, and town portion is \$6.18).

Mr. Dworman added they are looking at everything.

Ms. Casey stated the bond payments cover the construction of the library, police station, and conservation easements, and the payment is about \$450,000, which equates to \$1.50 of the \$6.18 town portion.

Carrie Sullivan inquired why the Town Clerk/Tax Collector does not get a bonus, and Mr. Dworman responded elected officials do not receive bonuses, only part time and full time employees. They have continued the past practices of the town, and they have not given any pay rate increases for 2011.

It was further noted the budget does not increase the tax rate, but the additional warrant articles that are approved do add to the tax rate, and also the bond payments contribute to the tax rate. He added if the municipal portion was completely eliminated, the school portion is still going up.

Carrie Sullivan questioned the salaries in the town report last year. Ms. Casey responded the town report included the W2 amounts for each employee. Mr. Dworman further explained that everyone's income was included, every penny that every person received, and Carrie Sullivan still questioned it.

Again, it was noted that the town has bonded almost 5 million dollars (for 20 years) to cover the cost of building the new library, the new police station, and the acquisition of conservation easements (almost 4 million with \$330,000 unexpended for the Conservation Easements, \$850,000 for police station, and \$467,500 for library building).

Ms. Casey explained that developed space costs more than undeveloped space, so the conservation easements will, in the long run, help the town.

Mr. Dworman noted the residents voted to build the library, and the residents voted to build the police station, and to acquire the conservation easements. Carrie Sullivan responded she thinks we are trying to build an empire. She said the library is an empire, the police station is an empire, and she expects the fire department to become an empire next.

Mr. Dworman **MOTIONED** to adjourn this Selectmen's Public Meeting at 8:20PM. Ms. Casey seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah G. Gallant
Administrative Assistant

David R. Pendell, Jr.

Matthew B. Dworman

Kimberley I. Casey