

## **Kingfield Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**

Monday, April 10th, 2017: 6:00 p.m. Webster Hall, 38 School Street, Kingfield, ME

**Attendance:** Sarah Churchill, Steve Yates, Clint Knapp, Jim Meldrum, Neal McCurdy, Michelle Beedy, Diane Christen, Linda Norton, Brad Orbeton, Danielle Mathieu, Kathy Houston, John Goldfrank, Debra Johnson

**Absent:** Polly MacMichael, Heather Moody

**Selectman:** Brian Hatfield, Wade Browne, John Dill, Raymond Meldrum

**Municipal Staff:** Leanna Targett

**Public:** Jim Boyce, Angela Boyce, Karen Reed, John Hagerstrom, Myra Coffin, Terry Coffin, Yvonne Woodcock, Pam Dixon, Mike Shirley, Dee Menear, Joni Blanchard, Richard Fotter, Brooklynn Brown, Debbie Smith, Julia Bouwsma, Rebecca Austin, Nancy Thomas, Cynthia Orcutt, Brian Collins, Tammy Goldfrank, Rob MacMichael, Polly MacMichael, Lisa Standish, Sue Davis, Donald Tranten

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Jim Meldrum to elect Sarah Churchill as chair. Seconded by Brad Orbeton All in favor

Motion by Diane Christen to elect Jim Meldrum as co-chair. Seconded by Clint Knapp . All in favor

Motion by Diane Christen to limit amount of time for people to speak to five minutes. Seconded by Michelle Beedy. All in favor

Point of order: Jim Meldrum wondered if people would have to be present on the first night in order to receive funding. Steve Yates said he would prefer to see a face here, but there are a couple of entities that may have no one to represent them, but who are still worthwhile to consider for funding. Brad Orbeton also replied that, in the past, we have allowed people who could not be present the first night to present their case on the second budget night. Chairman Churchill recognized that most entities who were requesting money had a representative there tonight to represent them.

**#1. American Red Cross:** Karen Reed, a volunteer for the Red Cross, presented facts about what the Red Cross does in the area. Requested \$500 to help with their efforts.

**#2: Bridging the Gap:** Yvonne Woodcock presented information about the community service project that provides meals once a month to elderly people. Requested \$600 to help with expenses. Money, if approved, goes for the food and the supplies; not any other church

expenses. Steve Yates inquired about whether this group delivered meals to elderly who were unable to leave their home, and whether there were volunteers who help with the program.

**#3: Community Concepts:** Provides the town of Kingfield with transportation for medical appointments, community service needs, etc. Requesting contribution of \$1,000.00 to expand continue their efforts. Steve Yates inquired about where the van is located, and how people would go about setting up a ride. Direct number to transportation center on the back of the pamphlet that was left behind. Sue Davis inquired if they were registered with 211, which is a United Way program where someone can dial 211 on their cell phone and they will receive assistance with connecting to community service groups, including 911. Community Concepts is registered with 211.

**#4: Economic Ministry:** Yvonne Woodcock thanked the town for our support during 2016. The Economic Ministry has a food pantry included with their thrift store. Requested \$2,500.00, which is consistent with past years' requests. This grant allows the food pantry to purchase food at the Good Shepherd Food Bank in Auburn, as well as purchasing meat and other items locally to supplement their inventory. Yvonne Woodcock also noted that the Economic Ministry is registered with the United Way program 211, as well.

**#5: Franklin County Chamber of Commerce:** Pam Dixon, requesting \$300.00, which would cover a membership to the Chamber. This membership would grant that our town events would be included in the Chamber of Commerce Welcome Guide.

**#6: Kingfield Artwalk:** Cynthia Orcutt represented the Kingfield Artwalk. The Artwalk just finished their sixth season. They are trying to include children's art from the local schools. Recently, the Kingfield Artwalk was included in a summit panel of various Artwalk programs throughout the state. Kingfield Artwalk is requesting \$1,500.00

**#7: Kingfield Christmas Lights:** Diane Christen requested \$500 to purchase lights and repair the outlets on the electrical poles (\$100 an outlet). This year the Bicentennial Committee took over most of the Christmas activities for the year, so the Christmas Lights Committee did not have to expend much money. As of right now, there is \$551.00 left in the account.

**#8: Kingfield Festival Days:** Tammy Goldfrank represented the Kingfield Days' Committee. A couple of young women have stepped forward to take charge. Eight people showed up to the first meeting. The Committee is requesting \$5,000 out of TIF funds.

**#9: Kingfield Historical Society:** John Hagerstrom requesting \$1,200.00, which will cover the utilities (water, sewer, land phone line) at the Historical Society. The Society is continuing a multi-year project to rebuild the foundation under the south end of the Historical Society. They are also working on removing or trimming several trees from the property.

**#10: Kingfield POPS:** Donald Tranten reported that the POPS are in their fifteenth year of the event. This year, the POPS is doing a Kinderconcert on May 25th, and there is also a music program for 7th and 8th grade students that is being sponsored by the Kingfield POPS. There are also two scholarships for students who will go on to study music. Requesting \$5,000.00.

**#11: Kingfield Sno Wanderers:** Jim Boyce represented the Sno Wanderers. He shared an inspection report from the Maine Snowmobile Association, which demonstrated that the club received an impeccable grade on the state of the trails. Requesting \$3,000. to cover building a permanent bridge on the Millay Hill loop, bridge repairs, machinery repairs, and painting the building. The parking lot has been extremely helpful in drawing riders to Kingfield. Jim Meldrum inquired whether the parking lot was big enough. Jim Boyce said he would double it if he could. Wade Browne stated that he did not think the parking lot was big enough. Boyce stated that he has requested a different plowing plan for next winter to try to capitalize on the parking that is there.

**#12: Maine's High Peaks:** Tammy Goldfrank represented the High Peaks. She distributed a High Peaks Guide. Requesting \$6,000.00. The High Peaks support the local snowmobile clubs, as well as promote tourism in our area. The High Peaks are northern Franklin County's Chamber of Commerce. They represent Stratton, Eustis, Carrabassett, and Kingfield. The High Peaks need matching grant money, which means that they can get monies from other entities if there is matching funding from the town. Diane Christen inquired about whether the High Peaks Guide actually pays for itself. Richard Fotter replied that it breaks even. Neal McCurdy inquired if there was money received from Kibby; the original money was \$30,000, but now the book states \$13,000. Richard stated that \$37,500 is the amount of the new grant that they are requesting from TIF. McCurdy also inquired about \$64,000 for expenses, but nothing for labor. Goldfrank clarified that the expenses were for contracted services. McCurdy requested a clearer budget for next year's request, so that it was easier to read. Jim Meldrum inquired how many businesses in our town are included in the book. 199 total, 70 from Kingfield are members, according to Richard. According to Leanna, the last time the town did a survey, there are about 128 businesses in the town. Meldrum inquired whether they contact **all** businesses in the town to invite them to become members. Goldfrank said that they are trying to contact as many businesses as possible to include them. Clint Knapp inquired how many Rangeley businesses are members, to which Goldfrank replied that there were not many, as Rangeley has their own Chamber of Commerce.

**#13: MPBN:** No one there to represent, \$365 requested.

**#14: Safe Voices:** Rebecca Austin, director of advocacy, Thanked us for our support. Requesting \$1,000.00. This program provides trauma-informed client services, wraparound services to help them with a crisis incident and sustaining self-sufficiency. Provide education and outreach intervention in local schools. In Kingfield they supported 2 individuals who were victims of domestic abuse. This year they have provided 24 presentations on Healthy Relationships, which covers age-appropriate relationship intervention to students in grades K-8. Safe Voices is also working on elder advocacy, such as elder abuse. They were part of the

Senior Expo last year, and that event will be happening again this year at the Kingfield Elementary School. Jim Meldrum inquired about the emergency shelter-- is that a cost to the person who requires shelter. Austin replied that the shelter is provided at no cost to the victim. Any victim who requires shelter is welcome to stay as long as they need. However, it was noted by Austin that there are not many people in Kingfield who require shelter-- they work with the victim to find alternative sustainable housing so they can stay in their community . Also noted that they are registered in the United Way program 211, as well.

**#15: Stanley Museum:** Debbie Smith represented the Museum. They are requesting \$5,000.00. They give out a scholarship to a student from Mt. Abram. They also had a car tour last year, which brought in a number of people to our community. They plan to have a silent auction in the coming year, which will also bring people to Kingfield. It is free for all Kingfield residents to visit the museum.

**#16: Webster Library:** Julia Bouwsma representing the Library. Requesting \$10,000.00 to make improvements in programming and materials. The numbers of people who are attending library events in the last two years has increased by 60%.

**#17: Work First:** Requesting \$700. The money would be used to assist with community volunteering events. There is only one person in the Work First program from Kingfield at this time. Steve Yates inquired how they attract individuals to participate in the program. Individuals are referred to the program in their junior and senior years, and they are eligible to participate once they have graduated from high school.

**#18: Kingfield Planters:** Sue Davis representing the Planter program. She is considering doing them again, because she has had a lot of positive feedback. Davis is requesting \$3,000.00 to continue funding the project. Leanna Targett noted that there is \$3,000.00 remaining in the funds that has not been spent yet. The school is looking to contribute to the planter program. The money would be spent on the flowers and the soil. The group has purchased inserts so that there will not be as much soil required this year. But then they will be top heavy, so they will need to purchase cement blocks to prevent the planters from falling over.

**#19: Healthy Equity Alliance:** No one to represent, requesting \$500.00 New request.

**#20: Lifelight of Maine:** No one to represent, requesting \$997.00 (\$1 per resident of Kingfield). Wade Browne stated that they are a multimillion dollar corporation that just installed an additional helicopter in the Biddeford area. This means there are now 3 helicopters in the state that can travel to reach emergencies They can land with a helicopter in the area. John Goldfrank inquired about their affiliation with CMMC. Nonprofit organization.

**#21: Kingfield Fire Department Auxiliary:** Myra Coffin and Brooklynn Brown representing. The objective of the group is to support local firefighters. The Auxiliary provides firefighters with food and beverages during a fire call. The Auxiliary is going to offer to provide house numbers

for people to place on their houses so that their houses are easier to find in the event of an emergency. Requesting \$5,000.00 to cover purchasing cooking materials, as well as a banner. The two fundraisers that they have had thus far this year have been very successful. Steve Yates noted that the Auxiliary has been extremely helpful during fire calls, and that it appears that many of the materials that would be purchased with the money would be mostly a one-time purchase. John Goldfrank inquired about the response that they have received from other towns. Coffin noted that the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Jim Meldrum inquired whether this could be covered under TIF. Leanna Targett stated that it would not be covered under TIF. Linda Norton inquired about the bank account that existed before the group disbanded. Diane Christen stated that they are looking into this situation.

**#22: Kingfield Flags:** The quilt group held a quilt raffle, which raised \$546. The Duck Race from Kingfield Days raised \$350. There are 82 flags ready to go, as well as 4 Canadian flags. We will be putting POW flags up this year at the request of the American Legion. Requesting \$500.00 to supplement fundraising efforts this year.

**#23: Kingfield Trail Builders:** Polly MacMichael representing; a small group that builds multi-use trails on local properties. Requesting \$4,000.00. Money would cover purchases of additional tools, as well as signage on the trails, among other things. Working with a man who has land on Freeman Ridge on a Trail Building Day, which would involve the Trail Builders going to Freeman Ridge land to work on trails there, and then, in return, the Freeman Ridge group coming to our trails to help with any work we might have. John Goldfrank inquired about the distance of the loop, and the type of terrain it will be (intermediate? beginner?) MacMichael said it would be a beginner course, and there are about 1 ½ miles of trail laid out. Also MacMichael noted that they are investigating becoming an official nonprofit, or if it would be better to remain an unofficial group. Neal McCurdy stated that he thought they should be an official group in order for the town to give money to them. Leanna Targett stated that last year the group operated under the Rec Department. Jim Meldrum inquired about the purpose of the trail-- are they specifically for mountain cycling? MacMichael stated that the trails would be multi-use for all non-motorized sports. Steve Yates inquired about paying someone to oversee the project-- that appears to be the main requirement for the funds. MacMichael stated that they may use some of the money to hire someone to oversee the project, but that it would not be. Wade Browne asked about the plan to rescue someone in the event of an emergency. Browne requested that there be a plan in the future for an emergency plan. Jim Meldrum inquired whether the money for the Rec Dept could be used for this, and the Rec Dept chair could be the overseer of the trails. Leanna Targett stated that, yes, that could be a possibility. Chairman Churchill inquired about whether they would still be covered under the TIF if they were included under the umbrella of the Rec Dept. A request was made by the Budget Committee to settle the question of becoming an official group or not prior to the next meeting.

**#24: Celebration - Fireworks:** Tammy Goldfrank thanked the town for their continued support of the Bicentennial Committee's endeavors over the last few years. They are returning \$4000 of the money that was granted last year, as a result of an unexpected donation from Poland Spring. Requesting \$5,000.00 out of TIF funds for fireworks for New Year's Eve celebration.

There was an overwhelmingly positive response to the event last year. The fireworks cost \$5,000.00. Linda Norton inquired about the cost for food-- should the numbers really read \$4500 for the fireworks and \$500 for food. Last year the cost for food was \$200.00, and \$100.00 for the wood for the bonfire.

**#25: Village Enhancement Committee:** John Goldfrank inquired of the selectmen whether the committee was advised not to recommend granting requests. Requesting \$200,000. John Dill stated that for the second request, there is still one landowner who is unwilling to grant permission to use land. That is why there was a recommendation not to grant funds. Dill asked whether a straw vote should be taken to determine whether the town should take the land by eminent domain. Goldfrank spoke about various projects that the VEC is pursuing, such as the streetlights along Main Street and the Mill Street project. Wade Browne and John Goldfrank discussed the landowner who is holding out. Chairman Churchill made a request to table this discussion until the second Budget Committee meeting.

**#26: Appalachian Trail Community:** Lisa Standish representing; spoke about the AT Community. Standish spoke about various events that the AT Community is completing this year, such as a camp training by Stacey McCluskey for KES students and the end-of-the-year celebration at the Trading Post in Narrow Gauge Park. Requesting \$500.00. Jim Meldrum inquired whether this will be covered under TIF funds, and the answer is yes. Diane Christen inquired about the requirement for a celebration a year for the grant.

\*\*\* Short break\*\*\*

#### Departmental requests:

**Administration:** Discussion regarding Town Clerk, Register of Voters/tax collector, which is now Annie Davenport. Jim Meldrum inquired about the tax assessor job becoming part of the administrative assistant position. There was discussion about the time commitment that would be required of the administrative assistant. It was noted that ¼ of the town needs to be assessed every year.

**Public Works:** Steve Yates inquired about where the town stands with regards to purchasing another truck. Wade Browne stated that we have \$125,000 to purchase new equipment for public works equipment, which is about \$20,000 short. The selectmen suggested that there should be an evaluation of all equipment to determine the necessity of fixing the biggest problems first. Request was made for Brian Collins to come to the next meeting prepared to discuss lease-purchase options for a plow truck instead of a front end loader. Steve Yates noted that the public works committee did a great job this winter, given that it was a tough winter.

**Wastewater:** Kathy Houston inquired about the health insurance increases; the response was that in the administration budget, there is one less employee that has chosen to take insurance.

Steve Yates inquired about the state of the wastewater upgrades. Leanna Targett stated that they are working on finishing phase #3, and finishing using the grant money. Phase #4 of the grant request (from Northern Borders and CDBG) would be for equipment upgrades-- which would cover purchasing an upgraded sewer truck and an upgraded dewatering trailer.

**Fire Dept.:** Discussion about Miscellaneous Insurance Claim line-- whenever there is a claim through Kyes Insurance, we have to pay \$1,000, and the insurance picks up the rest of the claim. Brad Orbeton inquired about the remainder of the cost of the new fire station. Leanna Targett responded that there is a quite a bit of time left, but she does not have an immediate answer tonight. Clint Knapp inquired about what the fire dept has in equipment reserve money. The answer is \$55,669. Discussion about the age of the equipment. Clint Knapp noted that the fire chief was concerned about pump capacity. It was clarified that the pump capacity problem has been resolved.

**Caretaker:** Discussion about inclusion in public works; it was removed in order to show taxpayers how much is being spent on mowing cemeteries, etc. Currently advertising for the caretaker position.

**Animal Control:** Question regarding the payment to the animal shelters (\$2 per resident of each town). This is a state law-- non-negotiable.

**Recreation Dept.:** May increase in the event that the Kingfield Trail Builders request (\$4,000) is granted under the Recreation department. Discussion regarding the insurance that might need to be investigated to cover any damage that might be incurred on the part of the landowner. Also, discussion surrounding the possibility of who is responsible in the event that someone gets hurt working on the Kingfield Trail Builders? Is the town responsible? Mowing line under the rec dept goes to the caretaker position in the town to mow the baseball fields.

**Programs:** Discussion surrounding suggested granting of \$1500 for the Kingfield Artwalk, when the number of Artwalk events each year has decreased. Linda Norton questioned whether there would be more information shared at the next meeting regarding the Kingfield Trail Builders.

**Transfer Station:** It was noted by committee members that the dump has looked really good; Linda Norton suggested that it could be sanded better.

**Municipal Services:** Discussion about ambulance services. Discussion about abatements. Leanna Targett noted that there were some rather large oversights this year; there is a list of abatements available in the town office if people are interested in learning more.

**Tax Increment Financing:** Jim Meldrum inquired about the Management Fee; discussion about the Economic Development Coordinator: to pay someone to oversee everything that goes on in the town (ex. Kingfield Days, Rec Department, etc.). Continuing discussion about the event coordinator-- to be tabled until the next budget meeting.

Brad Orbeton makes a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Kathy Houston. All in favor: 14.