

Kingfield Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 24th, 2017: 6:00 p.m. Webster Hall, 38 School Street, Kingfield, ME

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

Absent:

Selectmen: Heather Moody, Raymond Meldrum, Wade Browne, John Dill, Brian Hatfield

Municipal Staff: Leanna Targett

Public: Jim Boyce, Terry Coffin, Fred Nichols, Chuck Twitchell,

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m.

First order of business: to review minutes from last meeting (4/10/17).

Steve Yates motioned to accept minutes. All those in favor: 12 (Jim Meldrum was absent at the time that we voted on this.)

Fred Nichols and Chuck Twitchell gave information regarding the fleet of fire trucks that the town has. There are five trucks. 2003 used ambulance, 1984 ladder truck, 1984 used military truck; tanker was purchased as a service truck in 1998-- in pretty good shape, but is starting to see some wear, but should last another 10 years: however, dump valve is rotting out on the back of the truck, and there are some lighting upgrades that need to be completed. To purchase new dump valve, \$3,000 to \$6,000, depending on the type of dump valve you purchase. Engine 5 tanker (2006) had some problems last year: truck was running funny, kept defaulting back to a failure code. Dealer could not find anything wrong with it. Truck also had an issue with the pump. Pump has been rebuilt, but they are not sure if the truck is still having problems with the truck pumping out black smoke occasionally. The problem with not having Engine 5 truck not in service is you are held back to about 500 gallons/minute, whereas Engine 5 can pump 1000 gallons/minute. Chairman Churchill inquired as to whether the \$4,000 in the budget was enough money to cover the repairs that the town would be looking at in the next year. Nichols replied that that might not cover the yearly repairs and maintenance, as well as replace the dump valve. Twitchell interjected that he thought that the budget should remain the same (\$4,000), regardless of the need to purchase a new dump valve. He stated that, generally, the fire department has money left over at the end of the year. Some discussion surrounding the price of a new fire truck.

Departmental reviews:

Administration: slight change: need to add insurance back into the budget (\$11,500), in the event that the new town clerk might take the option of health insurance; this brings the bottom line for administration to \$240,500.00. Clint Knapp moved to accept the adjusted amount; Brad Orbeton seconded the motion. Motion to accept the budget with the adjusted amount. All in favor: 13

Public Works: Wade Browne shared information regarding the purchase of a new truck. Out of equipment reserve (\$30,000 every year), lease to buy program (through International) for a plow truck. Should be able to pay for itself based on what we put into it every year. 5 years of a \$36,000 payment, we will own the truck after five years. In four years, the town might look at purchasing an additional piece of equipment. Brad Orbeton inquired about what would be covered with the warranty on the new truck, that would cover all of the big ticket items (motors, transmissions, etc.). Extended warranty (\$10,000 over the course of 5 years). Extended warranty covers electronics, air conditioning, heating, some hydraulics and plow maintenance. Extended warranty cost is included in the \$36,000 per year. Steve Yates inquired about the plan for the older trucks (trucks will be shuffled around); Clint Knapp inquired about the cost of a sidewalk plow-- that is in the plan for the next year or two. Nothing has been decided regarding the type of sidewalk plow we would like to purchase. Move to accept by Clint Knapp, seconded by Brad Orbeton, All in favor: 13

Wastewater: John Goldfrank inquired about grants that we might be able to apply for in the year; Leanna Targett stated that they are working on spending the money through the Northern Borders grant; looking at eliminating some pump stations throughout town, which will save money on electricity, etc. Department will continue to use the 1987 red pumper truck for this year, and perhaps into next year. Plan is to apply for the CDBG grant, which would cover the purchase of a new pumper truck; purchase would occur on/after July 1st, 2018. Discussion about how the town qualifies for these grants ("slum and blight" designation, low to moderate income level). Motion to accept by Brad Orbeton, seconded by John Goldfrank. All in favor: 13

Fire Department: Chuck Twitchell will not be here for next year's budget meeting, they will be restructuring as of January 1st, 2018. He is not in favor of asking the taxpayers to support the Fireman's Auxiliary. Motion to accept by John Goldfrank, seconded by Clint Knapp. All in favor: 13

Caretaker: New caretaker has been hired (Jim Ross). John Goldfrank inquired about what we think we will be spending from now until town meeting on cemeteries and parks. The town also had to buy some supplies, as well as servicing all of the lawn mowers. Whatever money that is not spent prior to town meeting will not be carried forward, but will go back into the general fund. Asking \$20,000 to be budgeted, which will cover the payment of the caretaker, as well as maintenance to the parks, which also comes out of the caretaker budget. Move to accept Clint Knapp, seconded by Brad Orbeton, All in favor: 13

Animal Control: Motion to accept by Brad, seconded by Kathy Houston. All in favor: 13

Rec Department: Amount will remain the same because the Kingfield Trail Builders are filing as a non-profit and therefore will not be covered under the Rec Department. Kathy Houston inquired about what is covered under Land Improvement (covers the trail that goes to the school from the park, or the fencing that surrounds the Little League field): Deb Johnson inquired about the transportation-- it covers part of the Carrabassett Day Camp summer program. Linda Stewart drives the bus, we are covering the difference between what the campers pay and the cost of running the bus; the town usually ends up paying \$200 to \$300 for the summer program bus. Motion to accept by Kathy, seconded by Diane, All in favor: 13

Transfer Station: Brad Orbeton commented that the transfer station looks great. There are a lot of things under cover that were not before. John clarified that the appropriation was \$52,920.00 Moved to accept by Steve Yates; seconded by Danielle Mathieu. All in favor: 13

Municipal Services: Moved to accept by Steve Yates, seconded by Clint Knapp. All in favor: 13

Clint Knapp is concerned that we are being asked to fund so many different programs. TIF money is not “free money”. It could be used for highway equipment, fire equipment, etc. Some towns are no longer donating for any outside requests; although we are not there yet, we need to be conscious of supporting programs that support elderly and our youth.

American Red Cross: Danielle asked about the request-- whether it was a standard request, or something specific to our town? It was clarified that the Red Cross can request from either the towns, or the county, but not both. There was discussion regarding Clint Knapp’s comment about being conscious about making some changes. Motion to accept \$400 recommendation for the Red Cross instead of \$500 by Steve Yates. Seconded by Clint Knapp. All in favor: 8 Opposed: 1.

Bridging the Gap: Brad Orbeton recommended that we accept the motion to support this program. Motion to accept \$600 request by Brad, seconded by Clint. Discussion surrounding past years’ requests. No money was requested last year. All in favor: 4. Opposed 7. Abstained 2. Not recommended.

Celebration Fireworks: Clint Knapp motioned to recommend \$0. Seconded by Brad Orbeton. Some discussion surrounding TIF monies, and how they can or cannot allocated. Kathy made a motion to move the vote: All in favor: 11 Opposed: 1.

Community Concepts: Motioned by Brad to recommend \$0. Seconded by Neal McCurdy. All in favor of recommendation: 5 Opposed: 6. Not recommended. Steve Yates recommended \$200. Seconded by Debra Johnson. All in favor: 7. Opposed 4.

Economic Ministry: Motion to accept \$2,500 donation by Brad Orbeton. Seconded by Clint Knapp. All in favor; 12 opposed 0

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce: recommended by Brad Orbeton to accept \$300. Seconded by clint knapp: All in favor: 9 opposed: 2

Kingfield Artwalk: Diane recommended \$0 for Kingfield all in favor 9 opposed 3

Kingfield Christmas Lights: Moved by Clint to accept \$500 recommendation. Brad seconded all in favor: 12. Opposed: 0

Kingfield Festival Days: Discussion that it seemed like this was a lot of money; should the amount be less? Jim inquired about local businesses donating money to support the Kingfield Days’ Committee. Neal McCurdy commented that, with the new committee, we should be giving them money with which to work. Motion for \$4000 by Steve Yates. Seconded by Neal McCurdy. All in favor: 11. Opposed 1

Kingfield Historical Society: Motion by Brad to accept. Seconded by Clint Knapp. All in favor: 12.

Kingfield POPS: Motion to accept by Neal McCurdy; seconded by Brad Orbeton. All in favor: 11, Opposed: 1.

SnoWanders: Motion to accept by Brad. Seconded by Clint. All in favor: 12 Opposed: 0

Kingfield VEC planters: Diane Christen questioned why we were putting more money into an account when there is already some money in there? Some discussion about the KES school planting the flowers and painting the pots, which will cost \$1,000 to \$1,500. Many people have offered to “sponsor” a planter to keep them maintained and watered during the summer. Motion to accept \$1000 recommendation by Brad. Seconded by Jim. All in favor: 9, opposed 3.

Maine High Peaks: Discussion: Neal McCurdy went down to the county commissioners, we have never seen any money in their proposals for Kibby TIF monies. \$99,855.10 approved in TIF funds, \$27,500 remaining. It is bothersome that there is no transparency in their funding proposal. Income from Kibby has been left out of their proposals, which is causing some concern. Also some question about the number of Kingfield businesses that are represented in the Maine High Peaks guidebook. The number that was quoted was 70 businesses; budget members counted between 30 and 35. Motion by Brad to recommend the \$2500 we have been giving them. Seconded by Michelle. All in favor of \$2500 recommendation: 9 Opposed: 3.

MPBN: recommended \$100 by Brad. Seconded by Diane All in favor: 12

Safe Voices: Motion to accept \$1000 by Kathy Houston. Seconded by Jim Meldrum. All in favor: 9 opposed 3

Stanley Museum: recommended by Diane to give \$2000, seconded by Deb Johnson. Discussion about changing the agreement to amend the wording that says we cannot spend taxpayer money on the Stanley Museum, based on its lease. Is this misappropriation of funds? Deb took back her seconding, Motion for \$0 by Brad, seconded by Deb. All in favor of \$0 recommendation: 4. Opposed 6. Abstained: 1. Recommended \$1000 by Diane. Seconded by Steve. All in favor: 3. Opposed: 8. John motioned that we give them \$5000. Seconded by no one. Motion by Michelle for : \$3000. Motion by Diane for \$2500 recommendation. Seconded by Kathy. All in favor: 6 Opposed: 5.

Webster Library: Recommended \$10,000 by Brad Orbeton, seconded by Jim Meldrum. Question about how much money the library has in their trust? All in favor: 11 Opposed: 0 Abstaining: 1

WorkFirst: federally funded program. Motion by Danielle Mathieu to accept \$700 recommendation. Seconded by Michelle Beedy. All in favor: 6 Opposed: 5

Healthy Equity Alliance: Motion by Brad to recommend \$0. Seconded by Clint Knapp. All in favor: 12.

LifeFlight of Maine: clarification: nonprofit business. Asking for guidance from health workers in the room: Is this worth it? Motion by Brad Orbeton to recommend \$0. Seconded by Steve. All in favor: 12

Kingfield Fire Department Auxiliary: clarification that there is not a lot of money left over from the previous auxiliary (\$200). Money was “given” to the New Portland Fire Department to use, as it was not being used in Kingfield. Motion by Brad Orbeton to recommend \$1000. Seconded by Jim Meldrum. All in favor: 12 Opposed: 0

Kingfield Flags: Motion by Danielle Mathieu to accept recommendation of \$500, seconded by Diane Christen. All in favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstaining: 1

Kingfield TrailBuilders: Brad recommended \$0, seconded by Neal McCurdy. All in favor: 8, Opposed: 4

AT Celebration: Steve Yates recommended \$250. Seconded by Kathy Houston. All in favor: 11. Opposed: 1.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF): changes have been made: \$70,000 to \$69,000. Grant funds to local businesses \$1,500.00 to \$0.00. Economic coordinator is built into the TIF proposal. Deb Johnson stated that there is a chance we will lose our volunteers if we are paying someone to be a coordinator. Also there were comments regarding the fact that it is a lot to ask someone to do for \$2,500.00. Tons of discussion regarding the Economic and Community Services Coordinator position. No decision was made regarding this position. Recommendation by Brad Orbeton to accept as amended. Seconded by Diane. All in favor: 12. Opposed: 0.

Village Enhancement Committee (VEC): John Goldfrank clarified that we need to do the street lighting during the Rte. 27 road restructuring, coordinating with DOT. The ability to borrow the \$ is there; there will be a debt service incurred if approved. Jim Meldrum was asked to put in his opinion of the funding proposal. There was discussion surrounding the fact that they only amending that we can do is to lower the proposal and change the decisions made on the types of street lighting, etc. Brad Orbeton stated that if we have the sidewalks, we need to have the street lights, just as much as we need to have a plow to clean the sidewalks. Clarification was asked regarding the Riverfront Trail Head . Recommendation that we support article #1 as written. All in favor: 12 Opposed: 0

Article #2: One of the 5 property owners is still holding out for compensation. Clarification was made that the majority of the selectmen are not opposed to the project itself. Raymond Meldrum clarified that it does not seem like the town is getting a lot of value for the amount of money that we are spending. John Goldfrank clarified that the engineering is done, there are plans that have been drawn up. Brad made a motion to follow the selectmen’s recommendation, which was to not recommend it:

Brian Hatfield clarified that the area has appealed to him for as long as he has lived in our town. This money that has been allocated would enable us to go forward and research the history of that-- to afford the town extra parking,

John Goldfrank: correction: the voters approved it in 2011, Mill Street property owners did not receive a letter from the VEC until 2 ½ years ago. Do you want to give your land? Landowners cannot do this, so they went over to easements for perpetuity.

Chairman clarified that there is a motion on the table to support not recommending Article #2 of the VEC committee. All in favor: 11 Opposed: 1.

Motion to adjourn. All in favor: 13.