

Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes

Monday August 3rd, 2015, 6:00 PM Webster Hall 38 School Street

Attendance: Wade Browne, Raymond Meldrum, Brian Hatfield, John Dill, Raylene Tolman, and Valarie Tucker

Absent: Leanna Targett, Heather Moody,

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Selectman Browne makes a motion to accept meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Selectman Meldrum. All in Favor.

Co-Chair Dill states says the first item is to review July's financials. Selectman Meldrum says he needs clarification on the rec department. Co-Chair Dill says we did not allocate any money at town meeting for the rec department but they put some numbers in in case someone wanted to take it over – they had enough cash. Selectman Meldrum says he understands that but is shows a balance as of July 1st. Co-Chairman Dill says \$11,870.44 is what they have going forward between the savings account and checking account. Selectman Browne says it is shown on the bottom of the paper. Selectman Meldrum says he didn't pick upon that in the beginning. Co-Chair Dill points out that we have already paid the animal shelter in full – sometimes we pay that quarterly but now it's annually. Raylene Tolman says they want us to pay it annually. Co-Chair Dill says Kingfield Pops, Festival Days and Art walk have all received their money that we approved at town meeting. Co-Chair Dill points out that the computer licensing is expensive – but we can't do without it. Selectman Browne asks if what we budgeted for the transfer station will be enough since we thought we were going to get rid of someone but they are still coming in. Co-Chair Dill says we had done it based upon 75% of what we had done in the past so it may not be – we will get through the year and see what happens. Co-Chair Dill says the staff at the transfer station is always working – they have put new doors on a building and they looked pretty good which I believe is what some of this building repair and maintenance is. Selectman Browne says we also had to work on the loader which cost a good amount of money. Co-Chair Dill says Bryan used it and it didn't work so well however it seems to work fine at the transfer station. Selectman Hatfield asks if Kingfield uses equipment that belongs to the transfer station is that our equipment to use – should we lease it from them. Co-Chair Dill says it is not our equipment to use – the transfer station bought that equipment and it should stay there but in the past these are things that happen overtime and it has been ok to use that because Bryan used to put some time and effort into the transfer station. Selectman Browne says it was a swap even public works used it once when there was issues at the dam so it's been a swap not just a use it whenever you want type of thing. Co-Chair Dill says Bryan used it on Thursday up at the compost pile but by rights it should stay at the transfer station. Selectman Hatfield says maybe it could be worked out so that there is some type of charge. Co-Chair Dill says yes or talk with the other stakeholders and says we use it because we do this and this but maybe it should be written down somewhere so that it sticks in somebody's mind. Selectman Browne says would it be too much of an issue to have a line item figured out of what it would cost to rent one of those by the hour and maybe figure out a positive/minus for the plowing we do up there. Co-Chair Dill says yes to think about it as an in-

kind service. Selectman Browne says yes – have it someplace where it is available to look at. Selectman Dill says maybe we could talk to Leanna and ask her to keep a notebook. Co-Chair Dill says the fire department looks ok but the sewer billings doesn't look quite right maybe it should be \$17,000 not \$7800. Raylene Tolman asked are you talking about what we have collected so far because the billing was \$18,000.00 – so I think she has put what has been collected. Co-Chair Dill says it's not a big issue but a question for Leanna. Co-Chair Dill says we have a large amount spent in public works under repair but he believes that was the truck.

Co-Chair Dill says with old business – he doesn't know if we have any so we will move right over to new business. He says we have a request from the Franklin County Sheriff regarding providing animal control officer duties – and he thinks he saw an e-mail that says if it something we want to do it would have to be next year because we already have a contract through the end of June. Selectman Meldrum says as far as he is concerned this situation has been discussed before and it doesn't seem feasible now that one person could handle all of the towns in his opinion plus locally if you have a skunk jumping up and down in your shed our local guy comes in and helps you out, I am opposed to one person trying to handle it county wide. Co-Chair Dill stated that he had noticed the town of Strong or Phillips decided not to do it. Selectman Browne says it was Strong. Co-Chair Dill says considering our share of the county taxes went up \$14,000.00 this year – we don't need to keep adding more to that. Selectman Meldrum says the county already covers unorganized territories if they don't have someone for that and they don't seem to like that in the least. Selectman Meldrum says he is 100% against it. Selectman Browne says he agrees – he is not for it either. Co-Chair Dill says we have been fortunate and have had pretty good response from our animal control officers and I don't think we need to go out of town for this. Selectman Meldrum says we seem to have a good back-up system as well. He says once you give up local control it's gone for good. Co-Chair Dill says it won't get less expensive. Co-Chair Dill says he is not certain if a vote is needed on this or if we should wait two weeks. Selectman Hatfield asks if we can just dismiss it. Chairman Dill says we could vote not to do it – usually we take a few weeks to think about new items of discussion. Selectman Hatfield makes a motion to dismiss it without further interest. Seconded by Selectman Meldrum. All in Favor.

Co-Chair Dill says that there is paperwork to appoint Jane Deely as a ballot clerk who is another local person. Board agrees to sign appointment papers.

Co-Chair Dill says we have an abatement for two years' worth of taxes in the amount of approximately \$800.00 for a trailer on the West Kingfield road that apparently completely gutted a few years ago and the garage is not above average or even average as it has been neglecting and rotting so a re-evaluation was completed to adjust for this. Co-Chair Dill says one of the things that has bothered him is that he thought the law said that the assessor sat here on April 1st that way if anyone had an issue at that point and time could come in and complain – and we are just kind of doing abatements willy and nilly – and were doing two years, and I guess it's legal to go back a few years but you kind of wonder why – we spend a spare amount of money on abatements which was over \$5,000.00 last year I would like to see us do less. It just seems that people are walking in every day for abatement and I think there is a process. Raylene Tolman say the process we have is that if someone comes in and ask about it we have them contact Heather.

Co-Chair Dill says back in the day it was April 1st. Raylene says correct. Co-Chair Dill said the assessor or head selectman would sit in the office on the 1st and e is uncertain what to do about it. Selectman Browne says that is the first he has heard of April 1st. Co-Chair Dill says it is another thing that just seems to slide by – it used to be you would declare your property on that day, places like Jay Winter used to come in with their list back in the day – and I am not sure we are even doing that properly but we can check and see. Selectman Browne says he is pretty sure the process is you come in and see Heather and she goes and looks at it and does the calculations from there – it could be in their favor or not, Every one of us have the opportunity to have her look at our house if we don't like the tax, and there are some owners that won't let the tax assessor in the house. Co-Chair Dill says if it was bad two years ago why are we abating now. Selectman Meldrum suggests to hold off signing until the board can ask Heather a few questions. Selectman Hatfield says he agrees with Raymond, supposing you made an improvement I wouldn't expect that the owner would get a bill in the middle of the year – so it kind of works both ways. Co-Chair Dill says this may be right he doesn't know. Selectman Dill says we should wait and talk to Heather for more information. Raylene Tolman states the April 1st date is for the tax value on that day, so if you have just land on April 1st that is what you are billed for – if you build a house shortly after you are not billed until the following year.

Co-Chair Dill states that new superintendent Susan Pratt will hold a meet and greet August 10th from 6-8pm in Webster Hall he believes she is going to all towns in the district. He had read that they have a new principal for the high school. Selectman Hatfield says he did a very nice presentation at the last school board meeting about funding. Co-Chair Dill says the website design is moving forward at www.kingfieldme.org which is a new site and the old one will link to the new. The Credit Enhancement Agreement has been submitted to Smitty for the first review. Banking Services are a work in progress. Safe Routes to School we are awaiting a contract from DOT and there is a possible public informational meeting with DOT the end of August so stayed tuned.

Co-Chair Dill asks for any other. Selectman Hatfield says after attending the last school board meeting he is feeling that all of the issues that he is aware of is being well attended to and with the changes to the school board it should be calmer. Co-Chairman Dill says that is good to hear. Selectman Browne says that Mt. Blue is trying to get exchange students from other countries and they are paying somewhere between \$55,000 to \$75,000.00 per kid. Selectman Hatfield says Kim knows about that. Selectman Browne says yes he sent her the info to see if Mt. Abram was able to offer something like that the only question is where the kid would stay, maybe a host family or maybe some place like a housing similar to CVA's. Co-Chair Dill said similar to what a lot of academy's have done – a dorm. Selectman Browne says it doesn't seem like it would take too many kids to offset some big money – if it's possible. Co-Chair Dill says it certainly is worth looking into; they used to have exchange students that they placed with host families. Selectman Hatfield says e be curious to see what happens to the money if it goes to credit a particular town or just the district. Co-Chair Dill says he believes it all goes to the district. Brian Hatfield says we have only gotten one response from the letter that was sent out to owners on behalf of the VEC as far as he knows. Selectman Browne says that is all he knows of.

Motion to adjourn by Selectman Browne. Seconded by Selectman Meldrum. All in Favor