

**Town of East Kingston, NH
Selectmen's Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 5, 2009**

**6:30PM – EKES Budget Public Hearing
6:45PM – Fire Chief Sam Richard
7:00PM – Town Budget Public Hearing**

ATTENDING: Selectmen Robert A. Caron, Richard S. Poelaert & David R. Pendell, Jr.

Others Attending: SAU16 Superintendent Mike Morgan, Asst. Superintendent Tony Baldasaro, EK School Board Members David Miller, Bob Nigrello, Stacy Penna, EKES Principal Jim Eaves, Fire Chief Sam Richard, Ed Warren, Matt Gallant, Conrad Moses & Ted Lloyd.

Chairman Rob Caron called this meeting to order at 6:30PM. Supr. Mike Morgan called the School Board budget public hearing to order at 6:30PM.

SCHOOL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING: School Board Chairman Dave Miller provided a handout (see attached) to the audience and reviewed the budget. It was noted the proposed 2009 budget is at \$2,556,195, reflecting an increase of \$29,433 or 1.16% from the previous year.

Mr. Miller noted most of the amounts are contractual, including an increase in NH Retirement, which will be affected on both the employer as well as the employee portions.

It was also noted, on the whole, the SAU assessment is down, and the utilities have been contracted at a lower rate. The outstanding loan for debt service will be paid off by 2010, and then the school district will be debt free. The \$110,000 note will be paid off in 2010.

Mr. Miller further noted the school district recently received a generous gift from a local businessman who owned a lumberyard in Kingston, by the name of Richard Sargent. He stated in his will that (in the 60's & 70's) he was treated very well by the town officials of East Kingston, and left half of his estate to the Town for school purposes. On Dec. 22, 2008, they received a check for \$300,000, with an additional check to be issued at the closing of probate on the estate.

The school board members graciously accepted the gift and will memorialize Mr. Sargent by putting the funds to appropriate use.

Mr. Miller offered to go through that budget by line item, but found it unnecessary. He asked if there were any questions, and there were none.

Mr. Miller stated School Principal Jim Eaves for the past 6 years, has provided a very lean, but responsible budget to the School Board members, and they have accepted his budget numbers as presented. He added the biggest part of the budget is the contractual salaries for the teachers.

It was acknowledged that they are currently in their 4th year of a five-year contract with the teachers.

Supr. Mike Morgan explained that this is the first year for the East Kingston School District and the Town for SB-2.

The handout also included not only the proposed budget of \$2,556,195, but also the default budget of \$2,533,034. The default budget is last year's budget with additions & deletions of contractual services.

Bob Nigrello arrived at 6:40PM. Matt Gallant, Ed Warren, and Sam Richard joined the meeting.

Supr. Mike Morgan reviewed the warrant articles, stating the total amount of \$30,000 between the 2 articles may be removed or stay after further discussion regarding the recent gift from Richard Sargent.

The last warrant article relates to the removal of the restrictive language of using the Pound School only as a library. The School district releases all of its rights to the land/buildings. They want the building to be used by the Town as they see fit.

To date, Supr. Morgan added, they have not yet received any citizens' petitions.

Mr. Morgan stated they brought the budget in as low as possible.

At this time, Supr. Morgan had the School Board members and the Asst. Supr. introduce themselves. (Principal Jim Eaves, Asst. Supr. Tony Baldasaro, School Board members Dave Miller, Stacy Penna and Bob Nigrello).

It was acknowledged the deliberative session would be held at the Elementary School on Wednesday, 2/04/09 at 6:30PM, and then voting day by ballot will be held on Tuesday, 3/10/09, also at the school.

Supr. Morgan stated that, typically, you might get 1-2% at the deliberative session and 20-25% to vote.

Supr. Morgan asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Ed Warren responded they had done an amazing job with what they presented. He thought they did a nice job, and had no questions.

Mr. Nigrello **MOTIONED** to adjourn the Public Hearing on the proposed 2009-2010 EKES Budget. Mrs. Penna seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At this time, 6:50PM, Supr. Mike Morgan, Tony Baldasaro, Dave Miller, Stacy Penna & Dave Miller thanked the Board of Selectmen and left the meeting.

NONPUBLIC SESSION: Chairman Caron **MOTIONED** to go into a nonpublic session at 6:50PM under RSA 91-A-3, II: para. (a) The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted and (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: Robert A. Caron – Yes, Richard S. Poelaert – Yes, & David R. Pendell, Jr. - Yes.

Chairman Caron **MOTIONED** to adjourn this Selectmen's Non Public meeting at 7:05PM. Mr. Poelaert seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES: The Board reviewed the public & nonpublic meeting minutes dated 12/22/08. Chairman Caron **MOTIONED** to approve and sign the public meeting minutes dated 12/22/08. Mr. Poelaert seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Caron **MOTIONED** to approve and sign the nonpublic meeting minutes dated 12/22/08. Mr. Poelaert seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

REGISTER: The Board reviewed the check register dated 12/23-12/26/08 in the amount of \$157,475.19. Chairman Caron **MOTIONED** to approve and sign the register as presented. Mr. Poelaert seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sam Richard left the meeting. Conrad Moses, Ted Lloyd, Matt Gallant & Ed Warren joined the meeting.

TOWN BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING: Chairman Caron called the Public Hearing on the proposed 2009 Town budget at 7:02PM. Mr. Poelaert seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The audience was provided with a handout of the budget, default budget, and warrant, to date, to review, (see attached).

Chairman Caron proceeded to discuss the proposed 2009 budget at \$2,550,000, which reflects an increase of \$101,600 from the previous budget of \$2,448,400.

It was noted upon the retirement of Road Agent Bob Rossi, a salt shed had to be built on Town property. Sand & salt could no longer be stored on his personal property.

Road maintenance for 2008 was not done, in order to have the funds to build the storage area. There is a warrant article to discontinue the Highway Salt Shed Capital Reserve Fund, and another article to use those funds for the highway budget to maintain the roads in 09 that were not done in 08.

The Board members stated they would issue a letter explaining the warrant articles, and insert it into the Town Report, along with providing it to the Town Clerk to mail with all absentee ballots to help inform voters.

It was also noted the warrant article to withdraw from the Revaluation Capital Reserve fund (\$43,500) for the 2009 revaluation, and the road maint. (\$35,800), will also appear on the revenue side of the budget, therefore, there will be NO tax impact to the taxpayer for either article.

Chairman Caron stated the highway budget increased for 2009 based on the increase in cost of sand, salt, and equipment. Mr. Gallant added the cost of pavement also increased. Mr. Gallant stated the budget only increased due to the increase in cost for the items.

He added the Town of East Kingston locked in last August, at a rate of \$59 per ton for salt and, for example, Kingston did not and they are paying \$73 per ton.

It was noted the Town is required by law to conduct a revaluation every five years. The Town has set aside funds for the past several years to cover this cost for the revaluation to be conducted in 2009.

The Board members read and discussed each warrant article. It was noted with SB2, the Board is not to add a vote of the Board to recommend or not, (only on special warrant articles).

Mr. Warren asked if in the Selectmen's Insert, would they consider listing a vote to recommend or not? The Board agreed to consider it, as some residents may be interested.

It was noted the default budget is set at \$2,436,000. It was further noted the deadline for citizens' petitions is 1/13/09. Mr. Pendell noted there is a citizens' petition to repeal SB2 that will be submitted by the deadline.

Chairman Caron asked if there were any other questions, and being none, **MOTIONED** to close the public hearing at 7:40PM. Mr. Pendell seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

TC/TC DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS: The Board reviewed the TC/TC Requests. Mr. Pendell **MOTIONED** to approve and sign the requests for the following:

1st American Tax Service: \$500 (Duguay) + \$500 (Ward) + \$8,341 (Dawson) + \$26 (Boucher)
K. Plourde: \$304.50, & H. Hauser: \$7.88. Mr. Poelaert seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

PLANNING BOARD: The Board acknowledged receipt of the Planning Board meeting minutes dated 12/18/08 for their review.

STATE OF NH: The Board was informed the outstanding BTLA case has been scheduled for a hearing on Thu. March 26, 2009 in Concord, and Avitar will represent the Town (re: 22585-06PT).

ICE STORM: The Board was presented with a memo expressing appreciation to the EOC Director, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Road Agent for their valuable assistance throughout the recent ice storm and the snowstorms that followed. Mr. Pendell **MOTIONED** to approve as written for distribution. Mr. Poelaert seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

It was noted the ice storm incurred costs of up to \$25,000, and with the snowstorms that followed an additional \$35,000. Road Agent Matt Gallant stated before paying any invoices for the last storm of the year, he was over budget about \$10,000.

It was further noted the Governor declared a state of emergency; therefore, the EOC Director/Adm. Asst. will be submitting the costs incurred for some reimbursement.

Mr. Poelaert suggested a meeting with school officials, along with Town officials, to discuss how they can improve their plans when an emergency occurs. It was further noted that the East Kingston Fire Association did not assist the firefighters, nor any other department of the Town, during the ice storm (like food, etc.).

Mr. Gallant informed the Board of Selectmen that at the recent EKFA meeting (Sun. 1/4/09), he stated that he did not agree with the Association spending money to redo the kitchen in the firehouse if they were not going to use it, especially during times like we have experienced over the past four years with floods, ice storms, and heavy snow storms.

It was noted the EKFA response was no one called the Association to let them know they needed help.

POLICE DEPT.: The Board acknowledged receipt of a letter dated 1/05/09 from the Police Chief requesting a letter of appreciation be sent to Mark & Derek Brinkerhoff for all their assistance throughout the storms for clearing trees and branches off of town and state roads.

The Board of Selectmen agreed to forward a letter to the Brinkerhoff's. The Road Agent agreed with the Police Chief.

Mr. Pendell suggested working with the School to use their kitchen facilities during emergencies.

Mr. Poelaert suggested a clean up day in the spring for any tree branches remaining after the winter storms. Mr. Gallant added that Dave Sullivan has been going around Town picking up tree branches since the storms.

Mr. Poelaert stated to the Road Agent (Matt Gallant) that he thinks he has been doing a great job so far. The roads have been sanded and salted in a timely manner throughout the storms. The roads have been plowed great!

UNITIL: It was noted Unitil would forward to customers, letters informing them of billing for December & January during the power outage, and a letter explaining the cost to the company for damages incurred during the storms.

COMCAST: The Board acknowledged receipt of a letter dated 12/29/08 from Comcast stating they have an agreement with Channel 6 to continue broadcasting.

PRESCOTT: The Board was informed Mrs. Prescott inadvertently paid her property taxes with her son's checking account, and not having sufficient funds, the check was returned. Mrs. Prescott immediately paid the property taxes and has submitted a letter requesting the penalty and fees (\$42.97) be waived, as it was an oversight, and not done intentionally.

The Board discussed the matter, and determined \$25.00 was a bad check bank fee, and \$17.97 was the penalty fee.

Mr. Pendell **MOTIONED** to waive the \$17.97 fee, as the bank will charge the Town the \$25 bank check returned fee. Mr. Poelaert seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

CLERK: The Board acknowledged receipt of a letter dated 12/30/08 from Tommie Levesque, resigning her position as School District Clerk.

IRS: As policy, the Town uses the IRS mileage rate for reimbursement. Mr. Pendell **MOTIONED** to reimburse .55 cents per mile, effective 1/1/09. Mr. Poelaert seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERV.: The Board acknowledged receipt of notification from the State of NH, Dept. Health & Human Services, stating the current Health Officer's 3-year appointment expires 2/25/09.

It is a state appointment, and they have provided a nomination form to be completed and provided to them. Health Officer Matt Gallant has expressed his desire to not renew his appointment at this time. The Board members and Matt were asked to look for a replacement for the Board to nominate to the state.

CHAMBER: The Board acknowledged receipt of an invitation to the new Southern NH Division of the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce on 1/8/09.

FORECLOSURE: The Board acknowledged receipt of a notice of mortgage foreclosure sale on 1/21/09 on the 52 Willow Road Property.

POLICE DEPT.: The Board acknowledged receipt of a letter from the Police Chief dated 1/5/09 regarding a request for information. The Board agreed the Police Chief would handle the matter.

CALENDAR: 1/6 Planning Board meeting, 1/13 Selectmen's meeting, 1/15 Planning Board meeting, 1/19 Holiday observed, 1/20 Selectmen's meeting, 1/21 Cemetery Trustees meeting, 1/29 Accounts Payable and Payroll Processing & 2/02 Deliberative Session at EKES.

PAC: Mr. Pendell informed the Board of Selectmen there is a PAC Committee (Public Action Committee) that is working to educate people about SB2.

Mr. Pendell stated they want to produce a mailing to all residents. The Adm. Asst. offered to assist in the mailing.

It was noted by Ed Warren, the EKFA plans to deliver the Town Reports (along with their annual calendar), on Sat. 2/28/09, according to a discussion held at the EKFA meeting on 1/4/09.

FIRE STATION: Mr. Gallant & Mr. Warren had both attended the EKFA meeting and wanted to bring forth to the Board of Selectmen the need to replace the door and frame at the fire station, as it is a safety issue.

After discussion, Mr. Pendell **MOTIONED** to expend funds to replace the door and frame at the Fire Station on the right side (side entrance) of the building next to the Town Hall, as soon as possible. Mr. Poelaert seconded. Motion carried 3-0. (The Board of Selectmen agreed to ask Mr. LeClair to perform the work, as he is currently working at the building).

At 8:25PM, Chairman Caron **MOTIONED** to adjourn this Selectmen's Meeting. Mr. Poelaert seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah G. Gallant,
Administrative Assistant

Robert A. Caron

Richard S. Poelaert

David R. Pendell, Jr.

