

KITTERY TOWN COUNCIL
March 27, 2023
6:00PM

1. Call to Order

Chair Spiller called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Introductory

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call

Councilors present: Councilor Bragg, Councilor Dow, Councilor Stevens, Councilor Clark, Vice Chair McGuire, Chair Spiller.

Councilors absent: Councilor Hamm (Military Leave)

5. Agenda Amendment and Adoption

Chair Spiller casts one vote in favor of adoption as presented.

6. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager reported on Emery Field Phase 2 Project, Whipple Road Sidewalk Project, Recycling Scholarship Applications, Route 236/Dennett Road Hydrological Study and March for Meals on Wheels.

Upcoming Dates:

Youth Ad Hoc Com Applications Due – March 31

Easter Egg Hunt – April 1

York River Partnership Stewardship Committee Applications Due – April 14

Mooring Renewal Deadline – April 15

Councilor Stevens asked if the meeting on the Hydrological Study was recorded. She also asked if there is a picture model for the Emery Field Project.

Town Manager responded.

Councilor Dow asked about the funding for Emery Field Playground.

Town Manager responded.

Chair Spiller stated that the presentation on the Hydrological Study was very well done and

interesting.

7. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

- January 23, 2023
- February 13, 2023

All were in favor of accepting both sets of minutes as presented.

8. Interviews for the Board of Appeals and Planning Board.

9. All items involving the town attorney, town engineers, town employees or other town consultants or requested offices.

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. (030223-01) The Kittery Town Council moves to hold a public hearing and vote on the June warrant articles.

Chair Spiller gave an overview.

Motion to move the warrant article as presented by Councilor Dow, seconded by Councilor Stevens.

Councilor Dow has questions and/or changes he would like to make to articles 5, 6 and 9.

Councilor Stevens has a question about article 6.

Chair Spiller asked Council to vote on all other articles that do not have any questions or changes to be made. After the vote they will open up discussion on the 3 articles in question.

Motion passes 6-0-0

- b. (030223-02) Town Council moves to make recommendations on articles 5, 6 & 9.

Moved by Chair Spiller, seconded by Councilor Dow.

Councilor Dow stated that he feels article 5 and 6 should be increased to \$80,000. Town Manager responded to the suggestion to increase.

Vice Chair McGuire asked for clarification on when article 5 is used. Town Manager responded.

Vice Chair also asked if the Town gets a reimbursement from the state on General Assistance. Town Manager responded.

Councilor Stevens asked for the difference in what is typically spent on General Assistance in past years as opposed to this year's costs.
Town manager responded.

Councilor Stevens moves to increase the amount in article 5 from \$40,000 to \$80,000 and article 6 from \$40,000 to \$100,000, seconded by Councilor Dow.
Motion passes 6-0-0

Councilor Dow asked for clarification on Article 9 and previous LED lighting projects.
Town manager responded.

Vice Chair McGuire stated that from a CIP perspective, Article 9 is catching up to inflation costs.
Town Manager responded.

Chair Spiller moves to place Council recommendations for articles 5, 6 and 9 on the June ballot, seconded by Vice Chair McGuire.
Motion passes 6-0-0

11. DISCUSSION

- a. Discussion by members of the public (three minutes per person)
- b. Response to public comment directed to a particular Councilor
- c. Chairperson's response to public comments

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

13. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Donations/gifts received for Council disposition.
- b. (030223-02) The Kittery Town Council moves to appoint a Councilor to interview Douglas Basnett along with the chair of the Kittery Community Center Board of Directors for a three-year term to expire December 31, 2026.

Chair Spiller moves to appoint Douglas Basnett, seconded by Councilor Dow.
Motion passes 6-0-0

- c. (030223-03) The Kittery Town Council moves to approve a request from Footprints Food Pantry to post signage around Town from May 13, 2023 to May 20, 2023 for the US Post Office Stamp Out Hunger food drive.

Moved to approve by Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Dow.
Motion passes 6-0-0

d.(030223-04) The Kittery Town Council moves to support the SAFER grant application.

Town Manager gave an overview.

Moved to support the application by Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Bragg.

Councilor Dow asked for clarification for the number of firefighters the Town was looking to acquire with the SAFER Grant and the cost to the Town with seeking 8 additional fire fighters after the grant has expired.

Vice Chair McGuire stated that he shared similar concerns to Councilor Dow about seeking 8 more fire fighters and the cost to the Town after the grant has expired.

Councilor Stevens asked about the anticipated revenue from the ambulance bay.
Town Manager responded.

Councilor Stevens asked if the ambulance bay should continue to be contracted out vs. having the Town take over.
Town Manager responded.

Councilor Stevens stated that she feels more comfortable with having requesting 4 firefighters through the SAFER Grant instead of 8.

Councilor Clark asked the Town Manager how many fire fighters the Town needs to be considered fully staffed.
Town Manager responded.

Councilor Clark asked about the reliability of contracting the ambulance bay out. He stated that he would feel more comfortable seeking 8 firefighters to cover the public's safety.

Councilor Dow asked how much as been invested in Gorges Road vs. Walker and if there would be rent charged for the ambulance bay if it continues to be contracted out.
Town Manager responded.

Councilor Bragg stated that she supports seeking 8 fire fighters from the SAFER Grant.

Vice Chair McGuire asked for clarification around the ambulance services.
Town Manager responded.

Chair Spiller asked the Town Manager if she has looked into similar sized communities when assessing the number of firefighters needed.
Town Manager responded.

Chair Spiller stated that Council is in support of the SAFER Grant and that if the Town gets the Grant that is when they will vote on how many firefighters they will actually seek.
Town Manager responded.

Councilor Stevens asked if the Town would have a better chance at receiving the Grant if we applied for only 4 vs 8.

Town Manager responded.

Motion passes.

6-0-0

14. COUNCILOR ISSUES OR COMMENTS

Councilor Stevens stated she had no comments at this time.

Councilor Clark stated that he had no comments at this time.

Councilor Bragg reminded the community that the Senior Tax credit application is due April 1 and to keep the community of the Nashville shooting in their thoughts and prayers.

Councilor Dow stated that Emily Flinkstrom was named honoree women of the year for 2022 for all her hard work and dedication to serving her community.

Vice Chair McGuire stated that he believes very strongly in voting rights and is saddened to hear that legislature in Maine was in support of doing away with ballot drop boxes. He further stated that accessibility for voting is vital and thought the ballot boxes helped many residents vote and hopes to see the use of them continue.

Chair Spiller stated that she has no comments at this time.

15. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

- a. Communications from the Chairperson
- b. Committee Reports

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Dow at 7:02 PM, seconded by Councilor Stevens.
All were in favor.

Submitted by Jennifer Wheeler

Disclaimer: The following minutes constitute the author's understanding of the meeting. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, the minutes are not intended as a verbatim transcript of comments at the meeting, but a refer to the video of the meeting on the Town of Kittery website.