

Kingfield Selectmen Special Town Meeting set for November 9

By David Hart
Irregular Staff

KINGFIELD — Representative Tom Saviello visited the Kingfield Board of Selectmen to announce that he plans on running for a seat in the Senate after his term expires in the House.

Administrative Assistant Doug Marble said that the board members discussed the town-owned Newell property. They also discussed a leak that was detected near a skylight and also discussed hiring a person to clean the trailer.

Members decided to table the discussion so that some member can visit the property to assess the situation, and bring that assessment back to the next meeting. The property is about to be listed or currently listed with area realtors.

Marble said that members talked about snow removal around town hydrants. The question of how often they should clear the hydrants was discussed along with the need for the Kingfield Water District to mark them to identify their location.

Members set the rate of \$75 they'll charge the district for service.

Members then appointed Mary Beth LaMonte to fill the balance of Jim Meldrum's term. That term will expire at the March Town Meeting with an election process to commence.

Cemetery caretaker Mike Shirley was in to discuss issues regarding his position. Things such as not using his personal lawn mower in the future were discussed among other communication issues. The board decided to look at specific issues with the towns' budget committee.

Members were also hopeful that they could facilitate a meeting with the town's cemetery association and others before budget talks.

Selectmen said they set the cost for fire protection for Salem Township for the Franklin County Commissioners. The budget item was set at \$6,500 up from \$6,000 last year, Marble said.

Members also discussed policies on snow day closings

for the town office as a first order of business. Nothing was decided last Monday, Marble said.

The warrant for a Special Town Meeting scheduled for Nov. 9 was also agreed by selectmen.

Articles will include one to see if voters will agree to change the budget year from the current calendar year to a fiscal year running from July 1 to June 30.

A second article will see if the town will vote to spend an amount not to exceed \$3,000 from the general fund to pay for the 2009-2010 season for Sugarloaf Explorer Transportation service for Kingfield.

The third article will determine if voters want to expand its board of selectmen from three to five members. If approved, members will be elected at the March Annual Town Meeting. New seats would be a one- and a three-year-term.

In a special selectman's meeting held later that week, selectman Neal McCurdy opposed the question of whether the board should be expanded at a Special Town Meeting. Although he did not admit he opposed the concept of expanding, he would prefer the issue go before voters at the Annual Town Meeting. He also had budgetary concerns by adding additional members.

The next regularly scheduled meetings of the Kingfield Board of Selectman were set at Nov. 2 and Nov. 16.

Union 37 supports reorganization plan

RANGELEY — On Tuesday, Oct. 20 the Union 37 School Committee unanimously voted to support the Reorganization Plan to unify the school districts of Rangeley, Dallas Plantation, Sandy River Plantation, Rangeley Plantation, Lincoln Plantation and Magalloway Plantation.

Members present included representatives from all the plantations, except Lincoln and Magalloway. One of the Rangeley Plantation members who voted in favor of the Reorganization Plan requested that it noted that he did not support the funding portion of the plan and felt it should be based solely on student count.

This plan will be voted on by all the towns, as a local referendum on Nov. 3. The plan proposes one school district, one school board and one budget, and will give a voting voice to all people in the Rangeley area in education of their students. The funding proposal in the plan is based the state funding requirements in EPS and student count.

The vote followed a discussion of the questions brought up at the informational meetings recently completed and held in all the towns and plantations of Union 37. Questions at the meetings included issues around the representation model, the funding formula, the value of

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why would they take a position? What gain is there by contributing \$25,000?"

Clark said that there are over 100 communities facing penalties next year. The penalty was supposed to be enforced this budget cycle, but lawmakers postponed the action for one year.

Last Friday, Clark said he was seeking answers to these questions, and called the Poland Spring / Nestlé Waters bottling plant in Kingfield for an explanation.

"Nobody knew of the contribution, nor could they find

anyone in the State of Maine who took responsibility for the donation," Clark explained.

The superintendent was further baffled why an out-of-state corporation would invest in such a political battle which could separate people in voting within this state.

"How can they gain from this," Clark asked and referenced withdrawing money from local bank accounts and switching banks as an example.

Corporate representatives were unavailable as of press deadline.

Question 3 will be before the voters on the Nov. 3 ballot.

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to local share. It is also factored into formulas to determine county taxes and ambulance services. Some of our district towns' valuations have nearly doubled over the past five years, while others towns follow a more steady increase.

In the school formula, the state valuation is used based on the determined valuation amount from two years ago.

Most recently, Kingfield Administrative Assistant Doug Marble has been reviewing Kingfield's proposed 2010 state valuation coming from the Maine Revenue Service. These figures show a significant spike in valuation.

In 2006 the state had Kingfield valued at \$78.2 million. The last school budget factored Kingfield's 2007 value at \$93.25 million. The proposed 2010 figures shows

Kingfield valued at \$132.8 million.

Eustis has gone from the last school budget valuation factor of \$144.65 million to a proposed \$166.3 million for 2010. Eustis was at \$93.4 million in 2005.

Next year's school budget will show a \$15 million rise in Phillips and a \$17.8 million rise in Strong. Another \$2.55 million is in the proposed 2010 figures for Phillips set at \$78.8 million. Strong follows a similar pattern proposed at \$78.45 million for 2010.

Carrabassett Valley has grown from \$393 million in 2005 to a proposed \$604.4 million for 2010.

Rangeley has also seen a spike rising to a proposed \$643.9 from \$596.15 from last year.

Other Franklin County towns show a rise this year varying from \$2 to \$10 million. Farmington has grown from \$455.1 last year to \$464.15 million.

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