

## TOWN OF KENNEBUNK

### SELECT BOARD – WORKSHOP MINUTES

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020 – 4:00 P.M.

TOWN HALL, ROOM 301

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

At 4:02 p.m., L. Blake Baldwin, Chair of the Select Board of the Town of Kennebunk, called to order the Workshop. Present were Select Board members L. Blake Baldwin, Wayne Berry, Edward Karytko, Shiloh Schulte, William Ward, Jr., Frank Paul and new Board member, Peter Brewitt.

Staff members present: Town Manager Michael Pardue, Finance Director Joel Downs, Community Development Director Chris Osterrieder and Community Engagement/Social Services Manager Karen Winton.

#### 2. DISCUSS THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE'S PROPOSED MICRO LOAN PROGRAM

- a. Will Armitage spoke, offering a broad overview of the proposed program.
- b. June Huston offered added information on the proposed program.
- c. Questions were posed regarding limits of loan amount and allowable uses for loan.
- d. Brewitt read comments regarding his thoughts and position on this subject.
- e. Karytko spoke of his thoughts and position on this topic – opposed to “using taxpayer money” for this initiative.
- f. Downs offered information related to the use of funds and how they are handled when the TIF program concludes.
- g. Ward asked Downs questions regarding the logistics of the TIF funds. Downs recommended another TIF training be conducted for the benefit of all.
- h. John Costin spoke about how he believes the Select Board, Budget Board and Town administration has done an admirable job planning and managing the TIF dollars. He encourages the Select Board to carefully evaluate this proposed program. Urges “we” not consider this as “extra money” going forward.
- i. Karytko spoke of his concern of needing a “solid plan” for downtown – need to see what we need money for in the future.
- j. Ward asked for clarification as to where businesses interested in applying must “reside.” The response was, “anywhere in Kennebunk.”
- k. Schulte states he thinks the program is good but asks if it is needed right now, is this an appropriate use of these funds etc.? Making decisions with “imperfect information.”
- l. Paul is looking forward to TIF education. He cites it would be awful if we did not support local businesses over a \$50K micro-loan program.
- m. Schulte states he thinks this proposed program is “a good idea.”
- n. Marc Brunelle spoke, citing we do not need to rush into this but we are grinding in the wrong direction.”

**3. DISCUSS ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SELECT BOARD AND TOWN COMMITTEES**

- a. Baldwin presented a PowerPoint outlining the roles and responsibilities of Town committees.
- b. Baldwin asked the Board to focus on “What is the problem” as related to committees?
- c. Baldwin stated with regard to committees, “we can tell them what to do or they can tell us what they can do for us.”
- d. Ted Trainer spoke of committees and their formation and governance process.
- e. John Costin offered his thoughts starting back in 2007, saying “it goes to the issue of how this Town works.” He suggested that the people that serve on Town committees are indeed “Town officials.” He equates committees to being the “capillaries” of the Town. He supports ad hoc committees.
- f. Patti Sass Perry spoke. She said she is not looking to the Board for what they should be doing. They want to be integrated into the functionality of the workings of the Town and set what they believe is a proper course of action as a committee.
- g. Pardue spoke as to the pressures being applied to staff as they try to support boards and committees and the prioritization of the demands brought their way.
- h. Discussion ensued regarding the Select Board Liaison role.
- i. Ted Trainer stated his understanding of how ideas of a committee can impact staff.
- j. Patti Sass Perry spoke of wanting to use the Comprehensive Plan as a guide for going forward. She also spoke of the staff giving access to needed data – they (committees) can get the data.
- k. John Costin spoke of the challenges associated with the Select Board serving as liaisons to various committees. He spoke of BART –Boundary, Authority, Role, Task.
- l. Baldwin summarized the intent/efforts of the workshop and the dialogue that has occurred tonight. He acknowledged the importance of this discussion, and others that will follow, as committees, the Select Board and staff feel “unsatisfied” with the way committees are functioning at this time. He wants us all to make an effort to improve the functionality of committees in our community.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

The workshop concluded at 6:10 p.m.