

GREENVILLE — Zebadiah Kellogg-Roe, a former Greenville town treasurer, was found guilty by a jury on all four counts of aggravated felonious sexual assault against a 12-year old girl that dates back to 2001.

Kellogg-Roe, looking directly at the jury at Hillsborough County Superior Court in Nashua, stood silent on Thursday afternoon, as the floor person pronounced the guilty verdicts against him for raping the young girl at his home at 621 Darling Hill Road during the fall season, almost a decade ago.

“We’re very happy that we were able to get a conviction,” said Robert M. Walsh, Hillsborough County Attorney. Originally, Kellogg-Roe faced six counts of aggravated felonious sexual assault, but Walsh said two were dropped just prior to the start of the trial. “It was a strategic decision because of the severe traumatic state of the victim,” said Walsh, who up until the day that the victim testified earlier this week, was unsure if she actually would speak.

For Kellogg-Roe, the guilty verdicts are a fulfillment of one of three requests the victim once asked of him during a telephone conversation. “[The victim] asked three things of Zebadiah Kellogg-Roe,” said Defense Attorney Donald Topham during Thursday morning’s closing arguments, including that he confess to raping her, burn down the home in which he raped her in, and kill a man who had also allegedly raped her. “She called Zeb and poured her soul,” said Topham, adding that during the same phone conversation, she also lashed out at him because he was a man, just like the other person who raped her and because her mother taught her all men were rapists. “[The victim] said on the stand, my mother told me all men rape,” said Topham.

Topham reminded the jurors of testimony given earlier in the week by Leigh-Mae Friedline, Kellogg-Roe’s fiancée. In particular, how she saw Kellogg-Roe’s demeanor change while having the telephone conversation with the victim. “Friedline said his face

had hardened and that he was a different person after that,” said Topham, in that it became his mission to do whatever necessary stop the victim’s suffering. “He’s not asking to be tried. He’s asking instead to be crucified,” said Topham.

“He wants you to find him guilty,” said Roger ‘Rusty’ Chadwick, First Assistant Hillsborough County Attorney. “All the evidence is there, so find him guilty.”

Chadwick told the jurors that they shouldn’t believe Kellogg-Roe’s biblical claim that he lives under the law of suffer and permit because he seems to do whatever he wants.

“Suffer and permit? There is one person who lives by this creed. Leigh-Mae Friedline,” said Chadwick, “A few months after her engagement, she finds out he confesses to raping a 12-year-old girl,” and that he is leaving the victim everything he owns in a living will. “She stays. She commits,” said Chadwick of Kellogg-Roe’s fiancée.

Prior to Kellogg-Roe’s arrest in March 2008, he had confessed several times, including to the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript, where he brought a hand-written letter. During closing arguments, Topham said all the confessions that Kellogg-Roe made claiming that he raped the victim were a ruse to help the victim heal. “He chose to take the pain upon himself, by confessing over and over again,” said Topham. “Even though the confession was a lie, he’d do anything for [the victim]. Even sacrifice his life.”

According to Topham, Kellogg-Roe lovingly took the victim into his home and became a doting parent to her after the girl’s mother unceremoniously dropped her off and left her there. “[The mother] abandoned her child like a pet at the shelter,” said Topham, of the woman whom he also said liked to move around a lot. “Only this time was different. She continued her journey without her child. What kind of mother abandons her child?”

Topham asked the jurors.

Topham said the young girl had a stable life living with Kellogg-Roe, which is something she never had living with her mother. “She never knew when she was being dragged to another man’s home,” he said.

While Topham described Kellogg-Roe as a gentle man who willingly took on the role of a parent to help the victim, Chadwick said he sees a much darker side, especially after listening to a tape recorded conversation between Kellogg-Roe and Temple resident, Lisa Beaudoin, where he discusses the topic of rape fantasies.

Chadwick told the jurors that Kellogg-Roe directly linked his rape fantasy to his relationship with the victim.

The jurors may have agreed. After a little more than four hours of deliberation, at 2:30 p.m., an announcement was made that a verdict had been reached. Walsh said that Kellogg-Roe will be sentenced on Monday, March 15. He is facing a sentence of 10 to 20 years on each charge.