



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

6:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER – ROOM 200

Chairman Kimberley Emberg called to order the meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:00 PM. Selectmen in attendance: Donald Alcombright, Sheila Vaughn, Jessica Kramer, and Tyler Bouchard.

Staff Present: Keith Hickey, Town Administrator; Gloria Mitchell, Assistant Town Administrator; Patricia Tucker, Assistant to the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This meeting is being recorded by PACTV. Anyone intending to make an audio or video recording of this meeting should notify us at this time.

Financial assistance applications are available on the Town's website or by contacting the Selectmen's office.

The Annual Town election is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, at Kingston Elementary School, and all positions that will be on the ballot are listed on the Town's website.

- Nominations are available now in the town clerk's office, and Thursday, March 2, is the last day to obtain nomination papers.
- The last day to register to vote in the election is Saturday, April 1.

Dogs must be registered by March 15 either online, through the mail, or in person in the clerk's office. After March 15, there is a \$20 late fee.

The annual rabies clinic is being held on Saturday, April 1, from 10 AM-12 PM at the Kingston animal shelter; the cost is \$10 per pet.

OPEN FORUM:

Elaine Fiore of the Sewer Commissioners came to speak and inform the Board that after the sewer plant expansion, they will have three tanks full, and the fourth tank will only come online once we have funding for the leaching fields. It was mentioned that there is more sewer capacity at this time unless the project has already been before the sewer commissioners.

APPOINTMENTS:

COA ADVISORY BOARD REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF BYLAWS TO BRING TO TOWN MEETING FOR APPROVAL

Ms. Emberg introduced that the COA Advisory Board was before the Selectmen last year, and they formed a working group and completed a new Bylaw the COA Advisory Board voted at their January 10th meeting to support the change in the Bylaw. The Advisory Board is requesting the Selectmen review the proposed changes in hopes that the Selectmen will support the changes on the Town Meeting Warrant.

Caty Starr, the secretary of the COA Advisory Board, was in attendance to provide a background and answer any

questions the Board may have.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Mr. Bouchard, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to accept the changes to the Bylaws to be added to the Town Meeting Warrant.

UPDATE FROM EVERSOURCE ON TRANSMISSION LINE CONSTRUCTION

Ms. Emberg explained that after the last meeting with Eversource, the discussion went off-topic, and it was suggested that conversations happened with Eversource and the residents after hours.

Eversource provided an update that residents requested EMF testing, which was completed, and the hotline will be available at any time. Eversource stated that within the presentation, all residents were invited to the discussion of structure size was discussed. The Claims process information was also provided to the residents.

Ms. Emberg explained in the meeting packet is provided information by Eversource why the bigger poles are needed and why the construction timing happened. MEMO in the packet.

Ms. Emberg asked the Board if they had questions, and they did not.

Jennifer Cloud of 16 Bog View was in attendance to ask about the safety measures that Eversource will take.

Eversource stated that they have placed pads and railings for safety measures and that there is matting to level the area at the utility poles with railing and construction fencing. Ms. Cloud showed him the picture and mentioned there was no fencing.

Paul Vilela of 4 Tall Timbers Lane discussed that he did take advantage of EMF testing and followed up with an email to Mr. Earle regarding his concerns.

Mr. Earle addressed the concerns of Mr. Vilela by stating that the study provided by Eversource was not based on this specific project and that the claims information will be provided to the Board for review.

CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING: THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PETITION FROM NSTAR ELECTRIC D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY TO CONSTRUCT OR ERECT NEW TRANSMISSION LINES ACROSS THE TOWN OF KINGSTON PUBLIC WAYS. SAID REQUEST TO GRANT PERMISSION TO CONSTRUCT, AND A LOCATION FOR SUCH A LINE WITH THE NECESSARY WIRES AND CABLES THEREIN, SAID LINE TO BE LOCATED, SUBSTANTIALLY AS SHOWN ON THE PLANS FILED HERewith DATED NOVEMBER 17, 2022, ACROSS THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC WAY OR WAYS OF SAID TOWN OF KINGSTON

Ms. Emberg explained that the public hearing was opened in the last meeting and continued to tonight, and a brief overview was provided.

Ms. Emberg asked the public to provide any information regarding the public hearing topic, which is the lines crossing the road.

Kevin Lanigan of 16 Smith Fuller Lane stated he has 60 feet off his property line, and it is 125' high. Plympton, the poles are galvanized, and why didn't Kingston choose the pole style?

Ms. Emberg asked if anyone had any concerns regarding the transmission lines themselves that cross the public way.

Michelle Phillips of 44 Bog View Road discussed the safety of the residents.

Mr. Bouchard stated that the scope and ability of the Board to fix this is limited, and if the Town denies the State may overturn the decision. Ms. Kramer shares Mr. Bouchard's sentiments.

Kristy Bennet of 20 Bog View Road discussed her frustrations regarding the project.

Ms. Vaughn asked if they could go underground. Eversource answered that due to the cost, it was eliminated as the cost would be passed to the consumer. Kevin Lanigan of Smith Fuller Lane asked what is important here.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Mr. Bouchard, and a 5-0-0 vote, VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to close the public hearing.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Ms. Kramer, and a 4-0-1 vote, Ms. Emberg voted against.

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen not to approve the request of NSTAR Electric d/b/a Eversource to construct or erect transmission lines across the Town of Kingston Public Ways as stated in the public hearing notice.

PRESENTATION FROM PLYMOUTH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO PRESENT SELECTMEN WITH ARPA REIMBURSEMENT CHECK

Commissioner Greg Hanley and Jared Valanzola, County Commissioner Chairman, were in attendance to present the ARPA Reimbursement check.

Mr. Valanzola talked about the Cares Act funds that Plymouth County received.

Commissioner Hanley presented the Board with presenting a county flag to the Town.

APPROVAL OF A ONE-DAY LIQUOR LICENSE FOR MAKE A WISH, A CHARITY EVENT ON MARCH 11, 2023, FROM 3:00 PM-5:00 PM AT JB'S INDOOR DOG PARK, 101 KINGSTON COLLECTION WAY

Ms. Emberg explained that Make a Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island are hosting Wish Community Puppy Party at JB's Indoor Dog Park at Kingston Collection on March 11, 2023.

Motion by Ms. Vaughn, second by Ms. Kramer, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to approve the request for a Day Liquor License to Jacki Brady of Make a Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island for Wish Community Puppy Party at JB's Indoor Dog Park, located at Kingston Collection, 101 Kingston Collection Way, on March 11, 2023, from 3:00 PM -5:00 PM.

REQUEST FROM PROMOTOR LINE INC. TO HOLD THE ANNUAL CAPE COD GETAWAY MA BIKE RIDE ON JUNE 24, 2023.

Ms. Emberg explained that Promotor Line Inc. received a request to hold the Annual Cape Cod Getaway Bike ride on June 24, 2023, through the streets of Kingston. The proposal was sent to the Police and Fire Chief and the Superintendent of Streets for review; their recommendations are in the meeting packet.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Mr. Bouchard, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to approve the request from Promotor Line Inc. to hold their 38th Annual Cape Cod Getaway MA Bike Ride on June 24, 2023, according to the traffic control plan presented with the following conditions:

- The applicant successfully acquired the proper permits to hold the event from MassDOT.
- The applicant contacts the Kingston Police Department to schedule detailed officers as recommended by the Police Chief.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

DISCUSSION OF COMBINING THE POSITIONS OF TREASURER AND COLLECTOR

Ms. Kramer recused herself ~~excused herself~~ from the conversation and left the table.

Ms. Emberg discussed as a follow-up to the February 14th meeting, which included a proposed budget if the Collector and Treasurer position was combined, which is in the Board packet.

The table of the current staffing in both departments and proposed staffing if the departments are combined.

Ms. Emberg discussed multiple articles, and Mr. Hickey thinks the Board should bring what they want to see to Town Meeting.

Mr. Hickey discussed the transition if this was to pass.

Combining the two positions varies, depending on whether the warrant article seeks to appoint or elect the positions. If the Board wanted to pursue the positions combined but remain *elected* positions, the special legislation path would be the route to take; it does not require a ballot vote like this statutory provision. If they want to combine and make the combined position appointed by the Select Board according to this statute, c. 41, s. 1B, rather than elected, the article on the town meeting warrant pass by a majority and then have it pass via ballot vote.

Current Treasurer Carl Pike and Tax Collector Ken Moalli support combining the positions.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Mr. Bouchard, and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to approve an Annual Town Meeting warrant article requesting authority to combine the Town Treasurer and Tax Collector positions into a Treasurer/Collector position. Further, I move the warrant article to indicate that the positions will be combined as appointed positions.

DISCUSSION OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DATE

Ms. Kramer came back to the table.

Mr. Hickey discussed that May 6, 2023, was decided on for Annual Town Meeting. The Moderator has a conflict on May 6. The Town Administrator will confirm whether April 29 is available for Town Meeting.

Motion by Mr. Bouchard, second by Mr. Alcombright, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen set the Spring Town Meeting for Saturday, April 29, 2023

DISCUSSION ON SENIOR TAX WORK OFF AND VETERANS WORK OFF PROGRAM

Ms. Emberg discussed that at the February 14 Board meeting, the Town Administrator gave the Board a survey of the amounts offered for the senior and veteran tax work-off neighboring communities. A discussion also occurred about whether or not to implement an income or asset limit for participants.

Mr. Bouchard does not think an asset limit needs to be part of the process. The Town Administrator confirmed that there has not been an issue with having too many applicants.

The Board agreed that they would return to the asset limit discussion.

Motion by Ms. Kramer, second by Mr. Bouchard, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to recommend including a warrant article at the 2023 Spring Town Meeting to increase the senior and veteran tax work-off allowance to \$1,000.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ARPA FUNDS FOR THE TOWN BUILDING FIBER PROJECT

Ms. Emberg explained that in the Board materials, there is a memo from the IT Manager, Marie Grossmann, outlining the need for additional ARPA funding to complete the fiber project. Ms. Emberg read from the memo.

Mr. Hickey discussed that the Assistant Town Administrator worked on this project with the IT Manager.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Ms. Vaughn, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to approve the requested additional ARPA Funds for the Town Building Fiber Project as presented.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR - FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Mr. Hickey read his report.

Financial Updates

- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has published the estimated revenues and expenditures for communities that correlate to the Governor's proposed budget. The revenues and charges for FY23 and FY24 are below. The estimated revenues and charges will change a bit as the budget is debated by the House and Senate, but I expect the final budget totals for both to remain relatively consistent.
 - The Finance Committee and Capital Planning Committees are continuing to review the FY24 proposed budget and Capital Improvement Plan, respectively. Departmental requests will be completed later in March.

Project Updates

- The Gray's Beach playground project remains on schedule. Below is the reminder of the schedule moving forward:
- Phase 1 – March-June 2023
 - Partial equipment delivery is scheduled for mid-March (weather dependent).
 - Construction and installation are to begin again when equipment is delivered.
 - Engineered Wood Fiber will be installed, and Playground to be open after the above installation is complete.
 - The expected timeframe for the completion of Phase 1 installation - is approximately 1 month.
- Phase 2 - July 2023:
 - Remaining equipment installation
 - Poured-in-Place Rubber Installation
 - Projected timeframe for Phase 2; 3-4 weeks
- Personnel Update
 - Public Health Nurse Leanne McGuinness resigned effective February 27, 2023.

MEETING MINUTES:

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Ms. Emberg discussed the summer board meeting schedule will be as follows due to July 4th Holiday is on a Tuesday. June 20, July 11, and July 18, the Board of Selectmen will meet.

Ms. Vaughn recognized Ms. Kramer, who performed in the play monologues that were held at the Reed Community Center for Sara Emmotts, a resident who is no longer with us.

Ms. Vaughn also mentioned that Ramsey's run is on March 18, and all the information is on the Kingston Recreation website.

Motion by Ms. Vaughn, second by Mr. Alcombright, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move to adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker
Assistant to the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen

Documents used at the meeting:

Agenda

Agenda Addendum

Bike Ride Information

Senior Tax Work Off Backup

Combined Collector/Treasurer Information

Make a Wish

COA Bylaw

Town Administrator Report

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

MARCH 14, 2023