



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
AUGUST 1, 2023

6:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER – ROOM 200

Chairman Kimberley Emberg called to order the meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:05 PM—selectmen in attendance: Donald Alcombright, Sheila Vaughn, Tyler Bouchard, and Eric Crone.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Financial Assistance Applications are available on the Town's website or by calling the Selectmen's Office.

The following Boards/Committees are looking for volunteers. Please reach out to the Board of Selectmen's office for more information.

- Council on Aging Board
- Finance Committee
- Capital Planning Committee
- Community Preservation Committee
- Cultural Commission
- Ichabod Washburn Fund Trustees
- Rent Control Board
- Old Colony Elder Services Board of Directors
- The Meals on Wheels Program is looking for volunteers

Upcoming Events

- Movies in the Park at Gray's Beach – The Rise of Gru will play on August 10.
- Music in the Park at Gray's Beach – Pickpockets will be playing on August 15, and Adam Frates and Friends will play on August 29.
- Kingston Farmer's Market – The Farmers Market is held at Gray's Beach on the first Sunday of the month through September.
- The Kingston Police Department will host the annual National Night Out event at Silver Lake Middle School from 4:30–7:30 PM. The event will include pony rides, public safety vehicles, a K-9 demonstration, food, and more. The event is free of charge, and all are welcome.
- A History of Kingston Schools Exhibit will be at the Adams Center from August 16th-August 31st. Please see the Library Website for more information.
- Antique Radios Talk with Expert Ross Hochstasser is on August 9 at the Adams Center.

Mr. Bouchard announced that last Thursday, the Town was awarded a grant from the Seaport Economic Council of \$344,000 for ramp improvements at the town boat ramp. Mr. Bouchard thanked Tom Bombardier from the waterfront committee for his efforts in working on this grant. This is in addition to CPC Funds, and the hope is that money goes back to CPC.

OPEN FORUM:

There was nobody in attendance for open forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

JOINT MEETING WITH SEWER COMMISSIONERS TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES TO FILL OPEN POSITION DUE TO RESIGNATION

Ms. Emberg explained that Thomas Taylor resigned from the Sewer Commissioners as of July 1, 2023, leaving a vacancy, and the Board was notified on July 6 from a memo submitted from the Sewer Commissioners informing the Selectmen of the vacancy. Ms. Emberg explained how the joint meeting will occur to appoint an individual until the next election per MGL Chapter 41 Section 11.

Ms. Emberg invited the applicants to introduce themselves and share why they would like to fill this vacancy on the Sewer Commission.

Brian Donahoe began by stating he has been a resident for the last 36 years; he is interested as he has previously sat as a sewer commissioner and would be excited to serve again. Mr. Donahoe stated that his learning curve would be very short due to his experience, and he has 50 years of experience in this industry and has been at DEP for ten years.

Ms. Fiore added that he has a Grade 6 wastewater license and will be very helpful to Dave, the Wastewater Superintendent at the treatment facility.

Ms. Emberg mentioned that in April of 2022, Mr. Donahoe came before the affordable housing trust about development, and she asked if the lack of sewer capacity impacted that development; Mr. Donahoe stated it did not and added that on the original plan for the sewer was to run through that area of town.

Mark Guidoboni addressed the boards by stating that he was interested from a business point of view and concerned about adequate infrastructure to support businesses within the Town. That was the original interest; now that he sits on the silver lake regional school committee, it has been more time-consuming than he expected, and he would like to support Bob Donohue.

Dan Harlow began by reading from his application letter that he believes that the duty of government members is to facilitate equal treatment and opportunity. He stated that he has asked questions of the sewer commission that have gone unanswered and meeting minutes are behind on the website and that the last set of minute he could find was from December 2022.

Ms. Fiore addressed the missing meeting minutes that Mr. Harlow mentioned and stated there have been challenges with the minutes and the office, and they are working on completing them. Ms. Fiore also noted that any questions were asked to be in writing so they could be adequately addressed, and no written questions have received. Mr. Harlow stated that he disagreed with Ms. Fiore's representation.

Ms. Emberg asked if he had any property developments that the lack of capacity would impact, and Mr. Harlow answered no.

Motion by Ms. Fiore, seconded by Mr. Watson, and a 6-1-0 vote, Ms. Emberg opposed,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Brian Donahoe as a member of the Kingston Sewer Commission effective immediately until the next Annual Town Election.

PUBLIC HEARING: PETITION FROM NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY DBA EVERSOURCE ENERGY REQUESTING INSTALL UNDERGROUND CONDUIT AND ONE HANDHOLE ALONG KINGSTON STREET

Ms. Emberg explained that NSTAR is seeking to install an underground conduit and one handhole along Kingston Street, Kingston.

Ms. Emberg read the public hearing notice:

Public Hearing Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Kingston Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the Petition of NSTAR Electric Company dba Eversource Energy to locate underground cables, conduits, and manholes, including the necessary

sustaining and protecting fixtures, in, under, along, and across the following public ways:

Kingston Street: Underground Cable and Conduit location – Install 46' +/- of 3" Conduit and one (1) handhole 322/H2A.

The hearing shall take place on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, and the meeting will begin at 6:00 PM in Room 200 at the Town House, 26 Evergreen Street, Kingston, MA. Anyone interested is invited to attend and be heard in this matter.

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

Marissa Jackson from Eversource attended to discuss that this construction is necessary to provide a new electric service for the customer located at 15 Kingston Street. Ms. Emberg added that Kingston Street is near the Ocean Hill area.

Ms. Vaughn asked if this would impact the streets with traffic; Ms. Jackson explained that typically there would be a detail and one-way traffic, which should take less than 8 hours.

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

There were no comments or questions from the Board or the public.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Mr. Crone, and a 5-0-0 vote,
VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to approve the request from NSTAR Electric Company dba Eversource Energy to install an Underground Cable and Conduit location – Install 46' +/- of 3" Conduit and one (1) handhole 322/H2A along Kingston Street, Kingston. This construction is necessary to provide a new electric service to 15 Kingston Street.

REQUEST TO USE TOWNHOUSE PROPERTY

Hannah Selig, the president of the class of 2025, along with Katy Arnold, the secretary for the class of 2025, and their advisor Carrie Mathias were in attendance to discuss that they are seeking the opportunity to use the Town House lawn for a cow plop during the agricultural fair on September 10.

Ms. Selig explained the event and stated they had done this in the past and raised \$7,000 for the class.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Mr. Bouchard, and a 5-0-0 vote,
VOTE: I move to approve the use of Town House property for the Class of 2025 to have a Cow Plop on the front lawn. Once the event is over, the Town House property shall be restored to its condition prior to the event in coordination with the facilities manager.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

OPEN SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Ms. Emberg explained that the Board is required to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Ms. Emberg said the warrant will be open for six weeks and closed at the September 12th Selectmen's meeting.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Vaughn, and a 5-0-0 vote,
VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to open the 2023 Special Town Meeting at 8:00 AM on August 2, 2023.

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Ms. Emberg explained that due to a recent resignation of the Republican seat on the Board of Registrars, there is a vacancy. After a few weeks of announcing at the Selectmen's meeting, we received only one application. There was no discussion by the Board.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Charles Read to the Board of Registrars effective immediately until June 30, 2025

ANNUAL REAPPOINTMENT TO AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Ms. Emberg explained that the associate member Elizabeth Corbett wants to be reappointed to the Agricultural Commission. There was no Board discussion.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Elizabeth Corbett to the Agricultural Commission as an Associate Member effective immediately until June 30, 2024.

APPOINTMENT TO AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Ms. Emberg explained that the process that the member currently sitting in the associate seat has stated that she is not seeking to be reappointed. A letter of interest from Jean Landis Naumann was received, and Ms. Naumann used to sit in the Selectmen seat on the agricultural commission.

Motion by Ms. Vaughn, seconded by Mr. Crone, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move to appoint Jean Landis Naumann to a one-year term expiring June 30, 2024, as an associate member of the Agricultural Commission

APPOINTMENT OF THE ASSISTANT TAX COLLECTOR AND COUNCIL ON AGING COOK

Ms. Emberg explained that the position of Assistant Tax Collector is vacant due to a promotion within the Tax Collector's Office. After recruitment, the Tax Collector recommends the promotional transfer of Debora Barry to the position. Due to a vacancy, the position of a less than part-time cook at the Council on Aging was vacant. After the recruitment process, The Director of Elder Affairs is looking to hire Phillip Woerner for the position.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Debora Barry to the position of Assistant Tax Collector, an FY24 Grade 5, Step 6, a nonexempt position as part of the Kingston Town Employee Union – Clerical, with the Tax Collector's Office with an anticipated start date of August 2, 2023, consistent with the terms of the offer letter.

Ms. Emberg explained that after recruitment, The Director of Elder Affairs is looking to hire Phillip Woerner for the part-time cook position.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Phillip Woerner to the position of less than part-time Council on Aging Cook, a position funded through the Formula Grant, with the Council on Aging with an anticipated start date of August 2, 2023, consistent with the terms of the offer letter.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON HIRING A FIRM TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Bouchard mentioned that this was discussed at the July 18th meeting and would like to bring this back for discussion. The reason he is advocating for this is to have a blueprint of the police department and to have a strong chief, and with a group of 5 selectmen to oversee; he feels that in conjunction with a new chief search, this will be an excellent first step. This will give the Board two different sources of data to pull from if anything is needed at the police department, there will be a report to state as such. Mr. Bouchard would like to remain in the structure of government they have with a strong chief and having a review of the police department will help with that.

Mr. Bouchard discussed that he spoke with Lt. Skowyra, who addressed the police department getting accreditation, but that will take time.

Mr. Hickey believes this would be used as a road map for a new chief to help when hired. Municipal Recourses Inc. did the search for the Town of Duxbury's new chief and if this firm is used for both the search and review; there would be a small discount.

Mr. Hickey recommends MRI for both projects and stated he can request them to come in to sit with the Board to

answer any questions prior to signing on with them.

Mr. Crone said he had reservations at the last meeting and is against having an evaluation of the department. He believes that the Town should have a candidate before hiring a firm to do an independent review and instead supports an assessment if the new chief would like one, but not before. He does not see the benefit in spending the money for this review at this time.

Ms. Emberg concurred with Mr. Crone.

Ms. Vaughn asked if MRI offers accreditation, and if the Town already using them but they are not.

Mr. Alcombright thinks the information can be helpful and expressed that he was not concerned about spending \$20,000.

Ms. Emberg expressed her concerns that with the end of CARES and ARPA money and with no new development, the Town needs to be very careful not to increase the budget.

Mr. Bouchard stated that if we want to maintain this style of government, it gives the Board more information and can be used as a blueprint for the department.

Ms. Vaughn would like the Board to have a presentation before a vote.

Mr. Alcombright thinks having them come to a meeting will be beneficial.

Mr. Hickey said he will reach out to them to participate in an upcoming meeting.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR - AUGUST 1, 2023

Mr. Hickey read from his report:

Financial Updates

- Representative LaNatra contacted me about filing an amendment for Chapter 90 funding. I forwarded a recommendation to fund the shortfall of the Complete Streets grant of \$87,413.

Project Updates

- Staff and I are working with the Water Department to address the Water Commissioner's concerns about the Elm Street Drainage Grant Project's impact on the Water Department property. I will review a proposed resolution with the Water Commissioners at their next meeting.

Personnel Update

- Wade Sinclair Jr., Water Department Pump Operator, left employment on July 28.
- Council on Aging Community Outreach Coordinator Martha Shanahan has resigned, effective August 11.

Miscellaneous Updates

- MassDOT will hold a public hearing on Wednesday evening, August 23' to discuss their proposed project to retrofit sidewalk access from the street to be ADA-compliant. Kingston is one of nine communities that will benefit from this project. All the proposed improvements in Kingston would be on Route 3A. The project is scheduled to begin in the winter of 2024/25.
- There will be a Joint meeting of Silver Lake and Superintendency Union 31 on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the large group room at Silver Lake Regional High School. Discussions will include an update to the Regional Agreement and the Central Office Building proposal.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Ms. Vaughn asked about the budget for the schools will be approved and Mr. Hickey stated they hope to have something by the end of the week.

Ms. Vaughn asked about the Baymont Hotel; Mr. Hickey discussed a fire in a microwave that two children started. DHCD and the Hotel, along with Town Staff and Mr. Hickey, stated he does not believe the hotel was built for extended stays.

Ms. Emberg would like an update on safety projects crosswalks, sidewalks, and bike lanes where they stand.

Mr. Alcombright's asked about possibly having the police and fire provide a report occasionally to the selectmen to address at their meetings. Also adding these reports to the front of the meeting. It was also addressed that if a Board member attends another meeting they can use the Selectmen Comments section to give an update to the Board.

Motion by Mr. Bouchard, second by Mr. Alcombright, and a 5-0-0 vote,
VOTE: I move to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

August 15, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker
Assistant to the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen

Documents used at the meeting:

Agenda
Agenda Addendum
Request from Agricultural Commission
Public Hearing Information
Hiring Information
Appointment Information
Report of the Town Administrator