



TOWN OF KINGSTON

Finance Committee

26 Evergreen Street

Kingston, MA 02364

April 23, 2024

Minutes

Call to Order

At 6:50pm Carl Pike opened the Finance Committee Meeting portion of the joint Board of Selectmen Meeting in Room 200 at the Kingston Town House. Also present were members Michael Cowett, David Fuller, Elaine Fiore, and Jason Viveiros. Derek Billnitzer and Debra Moran attended via zoom.

Final Review of Town Meeting Warrant Article #6

Police Chief Brian Holmes presented a revised budget increase from the previous week to add only one officer and one dispatcher in fy25.

To add \$85,556 salary + \$27,000 benefits for one officer for 9 months.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: Jason Viveiros

Vote: 5-2-0

To add \$71,618 salary + \$36,000 benefits for one dispatcher for 12 months.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: Jason Viveiros

Vote: 7-0-0

There was much discussion regarding the school budget increases. Elaine noted the impact it will have on everyone, especially the elderly, and there is no economic development or affordable housing in Kingston. Carl stated the increases are unsustainable and the town may be looking at a Proposition 2 ½ override next year. Both Carl and Elaine stated the Finance Committee has a fiduciary responsibility to all 15,000 residents.



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To bring forward Town Administrator proposed additional budget cuts of \$128,142

Motion: Elaine Fiore

Second: Derek Billnitzer

Vote: 1-6-0

To approve fy25 budgets of \$16,744,111 for Silver Lake and \$14,568,740 for Kingston schools

Motion: Elaine Fiore

Second: Michael Cowett

Vote: 5-2-0

To approve fy25 Total Operating Budget of \$57,658,693

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 5-2-0

Adjourn

At 7:36pm a motion to adjourn was made by Michael Cowett, seconded by Derek Billnitzer, and passed unanimously.