



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION
MINUTES
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
August 19, 2024

6:00 p.m. – CALL TO ORDER – ROOM 200

Chairman Eric Crone called to order the meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:00 p.m.—selectmen in attendance: Kimberley Emberg, Donald Alcombright and Melissa Bateman

Staff Present: Keith Hickey, Town Administrator, and Patricia Tucker, Assistant to Town Administrator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- This meeting is being recorded by The Local Seen. 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.
- For anyone interested in volunteering, there are several vacancies on various boards and committees. Please check the website for a listing.
- Please check our website for any additional events or notices www.kingstonma.gov

OPEN FORUM:

There was no one in attendance for open forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

6:00 P.M. Dangerous Dog Hearing

Mr. Crone began by saying that due to circumstances have changed and this will not be heard this evening.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Appointment of Veterans Agent

Mr. Crone stated that due to the retirement resignations of the two Administrative Assistants within the Veteran's Department, the Veterans Agent position is vacant.

Mr. Hickey added that shortly after the resignations were received, the Veterans Administration informed communities that VA claims must be submitted by an Agent who has been certified to submit claims to the VA. Only a Veterans Agent can receive the certification. For the past several years, Kingston has paid the Town of Plymouth a small sum to use the Plymouth Veterans Agent as Kingston's Veterans Agent to meet the Veterans Agent mandate. With the new VA certification requirements, the Plymouth Veterans Agent is unable to represent the Town of Kingston, causing Kingston to hire its own Veterans Agent. Ms. Eriksson is a veteran and has begun the VA certification process.

Mr. Hickey is recommending the hiring of Lisa Eriksson to the Veterans Agent position.

Ms. Emberg asked if they will be replacing the administrative assistants and Mr. Hickey stated not at this time.

Motion by Ms. Bateman, seconded by Mr. Alcombright and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen appoint Lisa Eriksson to the position of Veteran's Agent a Schedule D-5, exempt position as part of the Wage and Personnel Bylaw with an anticipated start date of August 26, 2024, consistent with the terms in the offer letter.

Appointment of Public Safety Dispatcher

Chief Holmes spoke of Mr. Burke's background and introduced him to the Board as Mr. Burke attended the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Emberg and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen appoint Andrew Burke to the position of Public Safety Dispatcher a C3-Step 1, hourly position as part of Kingston Town Employee Union with an anticipated start date of August 26, 2024, consistent with the terms in the offer letter.

Request from Police Department to Deem 2006 Mercury Mariner SUV Hybrid as Surplus

Chief Holmes stated that this is not a workable vehicle, and it is cost prohibited to repair.

The Police Department is requesting the Board deem the vehicle surplus and authorize the Police Department to dispose of the vehicle in the most cost-effective way possible.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Emberg and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen declare the Police Department's 2006 Mercury Mariner SUV Hybrid as surplus and authorize the Police Department to dispose of the vehicle in the most cost-effective way possible.

Request to use ARPA Funds to Purchase Police Items

Mr. Crone briefly discussed that the Police Chief Brian Holmes is requesting authorization to use ARPA funds to purchase the following needed items.

Chief Holmes discussed the items he is requesting and stated these are not wants they are needs.

Ms. Emberg confirmed with Mr. Hickey that ARPA money is required to spent by year end, Mr. Hickey stated that is correct.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Price per item</u>	<u>Total</u>
Glock mod. 22	6	\$544	\$3,264
Motorola APX 4000 Radio	4	\$2,698	\$10,792
Body worn camera	1	\$5,800	\$5,800
Axon Electronic control weapon (tazer)	2	\$4,000	\$8,000
PBT Preliminary Breath Testing device	1	\$900	\$900
Total Funds Requested			<u>\$28,756</u>

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Emberg and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the use of local ARPA funds no greater than \$28,756 for the acquisition equipment listed shown in the agenda addendum for the Kingston Police Department.

Request to Authorize Finance Director, Kathleen Barrette to Prepare and Enter American Rescue Plan Act Reimbursement Requests with Plymouth County

Mr. Crone stated that Plymouth County requires each community's governing body to appoint an employee to be authorized to submit ARPA reimbursement requests to Plymouth County.

Mr. Hickey stated this is a housekeeping item as Ms. Barrette is new to the position and Ms. McCoy used to handle this.

Motion by Ms. Bateman, seconded by Mr. Alcombright and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen authorize Kathleen Barrette to prepare and enter information into the Plymouth County American Rescue Plan portal in support of one or more applications to Plymouth County for grants (ARPA Grants) to be funded from a grant received by Plymouth County under the American Rescue Plan Act.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hickey read from his report:

- At the August 13th Water Commission meeting where the Commissioners discussed their proposed funding request for a new well on the former Kelleher property. The Water Commissioners intend to bring an article forward at the Fall Town Meeting for preliminary costs associated with locating and drilling a new well but will be waiting until the 2025 Annual Town Meeting to request funding to drill the new well.
- Town and School Dept. staff met to discuss establishing a School Zone for the Silver Lake campus. A placeholder has been included for the August 27th agenda for the Board to consider accepting the recommendation of creating a school zone.
- The new Wastewater Department leaching field construction remains well ahead of schedule.
- The Facilities and Planning Departments have been working to create a consistent Town of Kingston sign that would be placed along the road at town borders. The Planning Board was pleased with the design and color choices.
Facilities Manager Rob Cuocco has met and received approval from the Planning Board on the sign design. Mr. Cuocco and I will present location proposals to the Board at the August 27th Board meeting seeking support. If the Board supports the proposal, Mr. Cuocco and I will present to the Zoning Board for an off-premise sign waiver.
- John Coombs has resigned as a Council on Aging Van Driver effective September 6th.

Miscellaneous Updates

- The Kingston School Committee and Selectmen are meeting on August 27th to interview School Committee candidates interested in filling the School Committee vacancy. Does the Board want to discuss other topics while the two boards are meeting, ie budget, budget timeline.
- Conservation Agent Matt Pennella and I are meeting with the Brockton Mayor on Friday, August 23rd to discuss Brockton's withdrawal of water from Silver Lake. Conservation Agent Pennella made me aware of the water level in Silver Lake and expressed concern about the impacts of excess water withdrawal from the lake from Brockton. We are meeting to discuss Kingston's concerns.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Ms. Bateman mentioned the music night tomorrow night at Gray's Beach.

Ms. Emberg thanked everyone for National Night Out and special thank you to Laura Casey-Pupek for all her hard work.

Motion by Ms. Emberg, seconded by Ms. Alcombright n and a 4-0-0 vote,
VOTE: I move to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker
Assistant to the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen