



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION
MINUTES

TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
October 8, 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: Tyler Bouchard, Kimberley Emberg, Donald Alcombright, and Melissa Bateman.

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

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
- All services and tie ins will be completed by October 10th and then there will be trench repair pavement should be completed by November 15th, the overlay will be completed in the Spring
- The upcoming Town MBTA Open House on October 28th from 4pm-6pm. The Town Planner will be available for any questions.

OPEN FORUM:

Pine duBois with the Jones River Watershed requests the Board to reconsider some form stop/speed at Landing Road and Maple Street, there was another accident at the end of September. She cannot understand why there cannot be a stop sign at the end of Maple Street. Ms. duBois also feels like traveling under the bridge should be one way.

APPOINTMENTS:

Awards and Recognition for Police Department

Mr. Crone introduced Police Chief Holmes, who attend the meeting to present awards to Police Department Staff and recognize their achievements. The full recognition is within the Board Packet.

The Kingston Police Department Letter of Merit is issued to sworn and civilian members of the department to recognize performance, professionalism and acts in the line of duty that are measures of good public service, good police work or a successful endeavor of an individual or group.

Chief Holmes recognizing Departments Letter of Merit, for the September 23rd event that the Kingston Fire Department. Det Lt. Skowrya, Sgt. Potrykus, Sgt. Berna, Officer Marshall, Det. Francis, Det. Howell, Dispatcher Herrick and Dispatcher Sjostedt.

Joint Meeting with Board of Assessors to Interview Interested Candidates to Fill an Opening on the Board of Assessors

Mr. Crone explained that due to an opening on the Board of Assessors, this is a joint meeting to appoint a new member until the next election. There was only one letter of interest in the position.

The Board of Assessors opened their meeting.

Mr. Dunn introduced Ken Stevens as the only applicant to the Board. Mr. Stevens stated that his letter provided to the Board lists all his experience. He briefly talked about his vast experience with the
Mr. Martin talked about the vacancy and how the previous member, Mr. Scott DeSantis, passed away and he would be greatly missed.

Motion by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Martin and a 7-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move to appoint Ken Stevens as a member of the Board of Assessors effective immediately until the next Annual Town Election.

The Board of Assessors closed their meeting.

Quarterly Update with Fire Chief Mark Douglass

Fire Chief, Mark Douglass, was in attendance to provide a quarterly Fire Department update to the Board:

- Call Volume
 - Calls for Service - Currently 2,345 since July that is at 8.7 per day, 100 over last year
 - Of those calls - Rescue / Medical 1,814 - Fire and other Emergencies 531
- Average Response time is about 6 minutes 26 seconds.
- Mutual Aid
 - Provided 63 times
 - Received 94 times Growth of this number largely relates to simultaneous calls and reduced staffing due to injuries
- Personnel
 - Chief
 - Deputy Chief
 - Administrative Assistant
 - 4 Captains (2 Paramedics, 1 Advanced EMT, 1 Basic EMT)
 - 24 Firefighters (22 Paramedics, 2 Basic EMTs)
 - 4 Additional members began in February of 2024 bringing shift staffing to 6.
 - On September 3 Stephen Campbell retired after 25 years of service to Kingston and close to 40 years in the Fire Service.
- Stations
 - Both Stations are in generally good condition but will require continued maintenance and improvements.
 - Station 1 was recently struck by a vehicle, and we are still in the process of completing repairs that range from electrical problems and electronic equipment losses to trim and siding repair, to cleaning and painting.
 - Station 1 will require roof replacement and the replacement of some windows in the next couple of years. We hope to do these projects in conjunction with the addition.
 - Station 2 will require the replacement of some of the components of the vehicle exhaust capture system vintage 1988 along with other small maintenance items within the next year or so.
 - A high priority at Station 2 is the repair or replacement of the asphalt parking lot and driveway that are rapidly deteriorating
- Ongoing Capital Projects
 - Engine 1, ordered 2022, delivery time has been extended to April of 2024.
 - Brush breaker, chassis has been delivered, construction underway with about a 6–7-month delivery time frame.

- Ambulance re-chassis, chassis have arrived at the dealer, the first truck will go for re-mount in December with the second to follow shortly thereafter.
- Station 2 HVAC System, replacement has been completed (ARPA).
- Station Alerting System, installation is complete, we are using it as we work out a few bugs.
- Municipal Radio System, all equipment has been installed and the system is fully functional. We will be doing some programming tweaks to accommodate some additional department needs but this appears to be a very successful project.
- Police / Fire Digital Conversion is complete.
- The Public Safety Departments are having some transmission and reception issues in the Silver Lake School Buildings and surrounding area, we are in the process of addressing the problem and have requested \$158,000 to do so.
- Budget
 - 2 Items this year remain particularly challenging, Injury coverage and Vehicle repairs.
 - Injuries, as reported, have caused a considerable overtime expense with \$116,455 expended between July 1 to October 1.
 - Vehicle repair costs have skyrocketed causing a consistent deficit in that area.
 - On a positive note, medical supplies have leveled off allowing some funds to be used for vehicle repairs.
 - Ambulance revenue on a 12-month cycle is up by approximately \$271,025 over the previous year. This exceeds the original projection when rates were last increased.
- Planning
 - We continue to work with Our Architect as well as Eversource to secure land and develop plans for the Police Station Construction and Fire Station Addition.
 - We continue to work on Capital Equipment Plans (primarily apparatuses) and adjust those plans to accommodate the long delivery times for apparatus and ambulances.
 - This Fall we have been asked to approve ordering a replacement Engine that will be assigned to the Smiths Lane Station. Discussions are ongoing.
 - Very shortly we must begin similar discussions on the replacement of A3, the 2019 Ambulance purchased with CARES Act Funding.
- Fire Prevention
 - Fire Prevention has become a year-round activity not just restricted to one month per year. We try to participate in as many events we can along with our annual school visits.
- Grants 2024
 - Firefighter Equipment Grant
 - \$18,999.95 State plus \$4,667 in Town funds purchased an SCBA fit Test Machine and Battery Tools and Saws to replace some of the old gas units.
 - EMPG, Emergency Management Planning Grant
 - \$3,500 Mobile Data Terminal
 - All equipment from last year's grants has been purchased and is in service
 - Safe and Senior Safe Grant
 - \$7,500 Supports Fire Prevention activities for both schools and senior citizens.
 - This grant cycle we will be requesting funding to outfit our new Firefighters with Ballistic Gear
 - We are assessing other grant opportunities for equipment.
- Other Stuff
 - Reminder to folks to go online for your brush burning permits and if you have trouble with access please call the business line.
 - Lithium-Ion battery training has become ongoing. All Fire Department and Highway /Transfer Station Staff

have received training.

- This fall we will hold another class for our recruits as well as the Police and our tow operators, so we are all well versed and on the same page when it comes to handling these incidents.
 - On the EMS side we have seen considerable stabilization in the price of supplies, which certainly helps the budget. That said we have had some additional training requirements imposed by the State including active shooter response training that will also affect the budget.
 - Having taken a few years off due to covid, next year we will return to group training in the simulation labs at Pro EMS. This provides advanced group training and promotes team building, which is necessary with the number of new members we have.
- Goals for the coming year...
 - Training and more training... with new staff and equipment there will be plenty of that to do. To get everyone up to speed and work as a team.
 - On the Administrative side,
 - Continuing to improve levels of efficiency in all aspects of the Department.

Public Hearing for the Discussion of Continued Winter Maintenance of Unaccepted Roads -

Mr. Crone stated that the Board of Selectmen are holding a public hearing to allow residents to talk about the continued conversations from the September 24th Board meeting to which residents voiced concerns about the roads that have been plowed and sanded that will no longer be maintained without improvement. Residents have requested that the Town continue winter maintenance. Roads that are proposed not to be maintained this winter include:

Country Club Way – 90 Homes
Off Second Brook Street – 5 Homes
Adams Ave – 7 Homes
Randall Road – 4 Homes
Paradise Lane – 6 Homes
Post Court – 5 Homes
Stagecoach Drive – 3 Homes
Kings Grove Lane – 5 Homes
Podbury Lane – 5 Homes
Cobb Ave – 8 Homes
Cedar Street- 9 Homes
Bradford Road – 2 Homes
Russell Pond Road – 7 Homes
Waterview Lane – 6 Homes
Meadowbrook – 3 Homes
Franklin Street – 1 Home
Indian Pond Road (Snively Road) – 2 Homes

Mr. Crone stated that since the September 24th Board meeting, there have been changes to the conditions of some roads that make them now eligible for winter maintenance. The following road have been made the necessary improvements for winter maintenance to continue:

Paradise Lane	Sunrise Drive
Tree Farm Estates	Kings Grove Lane
Off Tarkiln Road	Grandview Ave

Four more roads have had improvements, and are expected to be completed this fall that will allow winter maintenance to continue:

Randall Road	Adams Drive
Waterview Lane	Off Second Brook

Mr. Crone continued that two roads have fences on the Right of Way. As a compromise, if the Board would like to allow the homeowners on Post Court and Cobb Ave. another season of winter maintenance with the understanding that if the fence isn't moved out of the Right of Way by the October 1, 2025, there will be no winter main on those roads for the season, staff would be supportive. Meadowbrook Road, Podbury Lane, and Bradford Road are dirt roads that need potholes filled. In the past, the Town would deliver surplus dirt to a location on the side of the road so that residents could move to fill the holes. The discussion with the Board will be to see if they are willing to allow materials to be delivered this year and the potholes filled, the road could be maintained this winter.

The four remaining roads; Country Club Way, Cedar Street, Russell Pond Road and Stagecoach Drive are paved roads that are either in poor condition or have raised manholes that need to be addressed for winter maintenance plowing to occur. The owner of Country Club Way has spoken to Mr. Basler and has indicated he intends to make the necessary repairs. Residents of Stagecoach Drive cannot reach an agreement to address the road deficiencies. Residents of Russell Pond Road have been communicating with the Town Planner and Streets Superintendent. They believe the Town owns the road and should be maintaining it. There has been no communication with the property owners on Cedar Street this year. In past years, Cedar Street residents believe the Town caused the issue with the condition of the road by the Zoning Board approving a request to allow a house to be built on a vacant lot. Currently staff continue to recommend no winter maintenance occurs without necessary road improvements.

Mr. Crone opened it up to the Board for questions.

Mr. Bouchard stated that the private road issues have been around for several years, and the roads have deteriorated.

Ms. Emberg mentioned when this was discussed in August 2023 and the Board discussed a bylaw to help with this issue and the bylaw request wasn't accepted by the Town Meeting. Mr. Bouchard added that this would be the process of having these roads accepted.

John Perry of Meadowbrook Road asked if the town would be providing the materials to fix the road and Ms. Emberg mentioned that the highway department is suggesting that, and the Board will review and vote this evening.

Ms. Emberg read the following:

Post Court and Cobe Avenue will be plowed during the 2024/24 winter season but must move the fences in the Right of Way by October 1, 2025, or forfeit winter maintenance in the future.

Meadowbrook Road, Podbury Lane and Bradford be delivered material to be spread by the property owners. Once the material is spread, an owner will contact Streets, Trees, and Parks who will inspect the roadway to determine, in his sole discretion, the road is in the condition to maintain this winter. Material will not be provided for these roads in the future.

Country Club Way, Cedar Street, Russell Pond Road and Stagecoach Drive will not be maintained this winter if the necessary repairs are not completed by November 1, 2024.

Mr. Crone asked discussed that he would separate the roads for discussion, he started with Post Court and Cobb Ave. Bill Torcaso 28 Cobb Avenue stated he senses great deal of goodwill with Cobb Ave residents, and the concerns are with the short notice, believe the issues can be resolved for this year.

Mr. Crone continued and asked if anyone had to speak about Meadowbrook Road, Podbury Lane and Bradford Road.

Scott Bishop of 158 Main Street stated he uses Meadowbrook Road for access to his home. Mr. Bishop is thankful to Mr. Basler for helping the residents and finds it unsettling that the Board is worried about the equipment vs the wellbeing of the residents.

Ms. Emberg stated the goal is to get to everyone safely.

Mr. Crone asked for discussion on Country Club Way, Cedar Street, Russell Pond Road and Stagecoach Drive.

Brian Tartaglione of 6 Russell's Pond Road just got notice through the mail, he is a resident of 10 years. He stated that none of the residents of Russell Pond Road had any idea their road was a private road. There has been maintenance to the road since he has lived there. The issues on the road are due to work done by the town and has now deteriorated.

Richard Loring of 30 Tremont Street stated his driveway is on Randall Road, it is important to maintain access to these roads. Mr. Loring stated that the Sewer Department has an easement and that the potholes and the catch basin are because the sewer department dug the road under an easement, why are the residents being asked to fix issues that were created by the Town. Why is the Sewer Department not included and not working with the Town.

Dan Amaybruck of 240 Country Club Way stated his is the worst road, he stated that if Mr. Tonsberg fixes the roads by November 1st and as soon as the plow hits it, it will fall apart and there is nothing we can do about it. Mr. Amaybruck asked what Tonsberg you as the Board as there has over is nothing is being done to these roads.

Mr. Bouchard stated that Country Club Way is owned by High Pines and the Town is in litigation against High Pines. Mr. Amaybruck stated that the trucks for the leaching fields are tearing up the road. Mr. Crone mentioned that it will cost approximately 2.5 – 3 million dollars to fix Country Club Way.

Mr. Hickey stated that the Town is currently in court and Mr. Tonsberg appealed to the town is waiting for the appeal hearing. Mr. Hickey stated that the Town is pushing him to get the work done, he encourages the residents to pursue litigation against Mr. Tonsberg. Mr. Hickey feels confident the court will rule in the Town's favor. Mr. Hickey met with some resident's groups of Indian Pond as they find themselves in a challenging situation. Mr. Hickey is happy to meet with the residents to talk about options again.

Bob Mullen of 8 Adams Ave met with Mr. Basler who was very accommodated in the process, the Nook is the most populated of the town and it's slowing progress, and the whole dynamic has changed.

Wylder Hult of 25 Stage Coach Drive, stated he has worst road in town, half is reprocessed half is paved, they had a watermain break at the top of the road, left unsolved for months, the water leaked created erosion and they emailed the Water Department took months, for them to respond and now there is a massive sink holes and access is horrible.

Mr. Loring of the Water Commissioner brought up the issue of Stage Coach to the Water Superintendent and they will work to resolve the issues to the best they can.

Sean Hatcher of 3 Russell's Pond Road stated none of them had any idea it was private. It is not on the deed.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to provide the following exceptions to the existing policy for the 2024/2025 winter season as follows:

Post Court and Cobe Avenue will be plowed during the 2024/24 winter season but must move the fences in the Right of Way by October 1, 2025, or forfeit winter maintenance in the future.

Meadowbrook Road, Podbury Lane and Bradford Lane be delivered material to be spread by the property owners. Once the material is spread, an owner will contact Streets, Trees, and Parks who will inspect the roadway to determine, in his sole discretion, the road is in the condition to maintain this winter. Material will not be provided for these roads in the future.

Country Club Way, Cedar Street, Russell Pond Road and Stagecoach Drive will not be maintained this winter if the necessary repairs are not completed by November 1, 2024.

The Board took a short recess.

Presentation by John Guilfoil Public Relations to Provide Public Relations Services for the Town of Kingston

Mr. Crone introduced Mr. Benjamin Paulin, and he provided the background of the company, which services Towns with PR content for press releases.

Mr. Hickey stated that utilizing Guilfoil would provide Kingston with a more significant electronic presence by proactively posting newsworthy information about Town projects and departmental activities. Department heads are in support of teaming with a resource to enhance current and upcoming information shared with the public. Mr. Hickey was introduced to this public relations firm who is interested in providing public relations services for Kingston. Guilfoil provides public relations services for dozens of local governments across Massachusetts.

If the Board is interested in contracting with Guilfoil, the Town Administrator is recommending Option 1 at a base price of \$1,499 per month, with a one-year commitment.

Mr. Alcombright asked what 16 hours that is in the contract are before they get for the town. Mr. Hickey stated that the department head will draft the information that will then be sent to Guilfoil for review and release.

Mr. Paulin stated they help with strategy and help with how best to get to the media. It all depends on what happens with the month.

Ms. Emberg asked what other communities use this service and Mr. Paulin stated Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Plymouth Fire to name a few.

Mr. Hickey stated that this would have a budget transfer, and it will be out of the Selectmen's budget.

Ms. Emberg stated that she is not in favor with the budget. Mr. Bouchard thinks it is a great proposal, more of a yes if this was a line item within a town meeting.

Motion by Mr. Bouchard, seconded by Mr. Alcombright and a 1-4-0 vote, (Ms. Bateman was the only favorable vote)

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve entering a one-year contract with John Guilfoil Public Relations at a monthly cost of \$1,499 per month.

Annual Presentation from Old Colony Planning Council

There was nobody from Old Colony Planning Council at the meeting to discuss.

Discussion of Narrowing Traffic Lanes on a Portion of Main Street

Mr. Crone presented that in the Board packet is a memo from the Town's engineering consultant, Environmental Partners, regarding reducing the lane width on a section of Main Street. Environmental Partners are recommending a holistic approach when considering a change in the profile of Main Street.

Mr. Hickey stated that OCPC studied the traffic study, and the engineering firm discussed narrowing the street and engineering wise is that supportable.

Mr. Hickey addressed a concern from a resident and their concern is crossing the street.

The Board discussed they have the benefit of time, and Chief Holmes challenged the residents on Main Street and there are other parts of town that also need to be considered.

The report suggests that a study be done, to see what the Board would like Main Street to look like with roads, sidewalks and such.

Mr. Hickey is asking the Board what information they need to bring this forth, and the Board has decided to move this to a future meeting.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Discussion and Possible Vote to Establish a School Zone for the Silver Lake Middle and High School Campus

Mr. Hickey discussed that Silver Lake School Committee requested the Selectmen establish a School Zone for the Silver Lake campus. Recently, the school zone legislation was expanded to include high school campuses, now allowing a School Zone for Silver Lake.

Mr. Hickey stated that representatives from Planning, Streets, Trees, and Parks, Fire and the Town Administrator met to discuss the appropriate area. Town Planner Valerie Massard took the information received and developed the School Zone proposal presented this evening. One of the Town's traffic consultants reviewed the proposal for compliance with state law. Any recommendations have been incorporated into this proposal.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the establishment of a School Zone on Route 27, Station Road and Lake Street as presented this evening. The hours of the School Zone will be 6:30 AM – 8:30 AM and from 1:30 to 4:30 PM., Monday through Friday.

School Zones are not enforced when school is not in session.

Request to Use ARPA Funds for Costs Associated with the Purchase of School Zone Sign Costs

Mr. Crone stated that the Town Administrator is requesting authorization to expand ARPA funds to offset the cost of the School Zone signs in the amount of \$52,902.72

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the use of ARPA Funds for costs associated with the purchase of school zone sign costs in the amount of \$52,902.72.

Close Special Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Crone stated that the Sewer Department would like an article on the Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Hickey had conversations with Town Counsel and The Special Town Meeting Warrant needs to be closed. A draft warrant is included in the Board materials.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen close the November 19, 2024, Special Town Meeting Warrant

Discussion and Possible Establishment of a Working Group for Available Options for the Replacement of Streets, Trees, and Parks Superintendent

Mr. Crone explained that as discussed at the September 10th Board meeting, the Board voted to explore the available organizational options prior to beginning the search process for a Streets, Trees, and Parks Superintendent.

The Board will discuss appointing a working group to study the options. Mr. Hickey suggests that the Board may want to consider appointing a Water Commissioner, Sewer Commissioner, a Selectman, Paul Basler and the Town Administrator to the Working Group.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen appoint the following positions to the Working Group to study and recommend an available option to fill the Streets, Trees and Parks, Superintendent to include a Water Commissioner, Sewer Commissioner, a Selectman, Paul Basler and the Town Administrator and the Fire Chief and further appoint Selectmen Eric Crone to the Working Group as the Selectmen representative.

Appointment of Maintenance Mechanic with Streets, Trees and Parks

Due to retirement the position of Maintenance Mechanic is vacant. After the recruitment process the Superintendent of Streets, Trees and Parks is requesting the lateral transfer of Alan Raasch to the position.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen appoint Alan Raasch to the position of Maintenance Mechanic with the Streets, Trees and Parks Department. This is a FY25 Grade 8, Step 4 nonexempt position, part of the Kingston Town Employee Union – Labor with an anticipated start date of November 4, 2024, consistent with the terms in the offer letter.

Acceptance of Donation and Grant for the COA

The Council on Aging is requesting the Board approve some donations. In addition to the donations the COA was awarded a \$5,800 Grant Hannaford. The COA is asking the Board to accept.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen accept the donations of:

- \$25 from Robert and Melodie Tassinari
- \$25 from Jeanne Duffy
- \$5,800 Hannaford Corporation CHEF (Connection, Health, and Equity Through Good) Grant

Appoint a Selectmen to Serve as a Signatory Member on the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Council

Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) is seeking a Select Board Member from a community with a population less than 15,000 to serve as a Signatory Member on the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The Old Colony MPO is the organization of officials that are charged with making and prioritizing transportation policy and funding decisions. The Old Colony MPO is the mechanism from which federal transportation funds are allocated throughout the region.

Motion by Ms. Emberg, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen recommend Tyler Bouchard as the Kingston Board of Selectmen Nomination for the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization effective November 1, 2024, to October 31, 2026.

Recommendation from Town Clerk to Approve and Post Warrant for State and Presidential Election for November 5, 2024

The Town Clerk is seeking the Board's approval to post the State and Presidential Warrant for the November 5, 2024, election. The Board is required to approve the posting prior to the warrant being posted.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Clerk to post the November 5, 2024, State and Presidential Election.

Appointment Kingston 300th Committee

The Kingston 300th Committee has vacancies. Michelle Ballinger reached out to the Selectmen's office to be appointed. The Kingston 300th committee reviewed and voted to approve the application at their September 18th meeting and are requesting the Board appoint Ms. Ballinger.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen appoint Michelle Ballinger to the Kingston 300th Committee effectively immediately through the duration of events.

Approval of New Common Victualler License

We received a new common victualler license for a location at Kingston Collection – Trainreck Taco's.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the common victualler licenses for Trainreck Taco, contingent on

final approval from the Board of Health.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hickeys read from his report:

Financial Updates

- The Sewer Commissioners met Wednesday, October 2nd to revise the existing sewer rates to balance the FY25 Sewer budget. to discuss and possibly approve rate increases. The Sewer Department needs to increase rates to support their annual budget. Below is an example of the rate change based on using 6,000 gallons of water in a quarter.

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Consumption Fee	\$10.40 per 1,000 gallons used	\$14.03 per 1,000 gallons used
Quarterly Fee	\$15.00 per quarter	\$42.50 per quarter
Average Quarterly Bill Current vs. Approved		
Consumption Fee	\$62.40	\$84.18
Quarterly Fee	\$15.00	\$42.50
Total Ave. Quartley Bill	\$77.40	\$126.68

The Sewer Commissioners voted to use \$200,000 of their Free Cash as a one-time revenue to minimize the rate increase. The revised rate will need to be reviewed again during the FY26 budget process.

- The Finance Committee will begin meeting to review the Special Town Meeting warrant on Wednesday, October 9th.
- Kingston participates in a regional winter sand and salt bid. The bids were opened recently, and the results are as follows:

Salt	Morton Salt	\$ 62.38 per ton	\$7 less per ton than last year
Sand	G Lopes	\$ 18.03 per ton	\$ 00.10 less per ton than last year
Mag. Chloride	GB & Sons	\$ 1.60 per gallon	\$ 00.12 more per gallon than last year

- Kingston received a \$35,000 Community Compact Grant for the creation of a baseline needs assessment and creation of an action plan to begin the process of having Kingston designated an age and dementia friendly community.

Project Updates

- The Water Department expects the Main Street water main is finally expected to complete subsurface work by the end of this week. Clean up and repaving the asphalt patch in the road will occur sometime in October.
- Streets, Trees, and Parks has begun preparing their equipment for the winter season.
- The Opachinski well project continues to progress. Well 1 has been developed and proves to be very productive. Well 2 is in development this week, and hopefully complete by the end of the week. Next week the existing pumps will be connected to the new wells. Finally, the existing water line and electrical lines will be extended from the current to the new well locations.

During the third week of October, work will be completed, and the system will be activated the Irrigation Contactor, Well Contractor, and Electrical Contractor who manages the VFD's (Variable Frequency Drives).

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Mr. Alcombright discussed looking at the website to better utilize for media relations.

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

VOTE: I move to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker

Assistant to the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen