



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
January 28, 2025

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, (virtual) Kimberley Emberg, Donald Alcombright, and Melissa Bateman.

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

Mr. Crone began with a roll call vote as Mr. Bouchard is virtual.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. This meeting is being recorded by The Local Seen. Anyone who intends to make an audio or video recording of this meeting should notify the Chair at this time.
2. Financial Assistance Applications are available on the town's website or by calling the Selectmen's Office.
3. For anyone interested in volunteering, there are several vacancies on various boards and committees. Please check the website for a listing.
4. Please check our website for any additional events or notices www.kingstonma.gov
 - Town Meeting April 26, 2025
 - Town Election May 17, 2025

OPEN FORUM:

Elaine Fiore of 60 Cole Street was in attendance to discuss the budget that is on the agenda for tonight and stated that some hard decisions need to be made before the budget gets to town meeting.

Carl Pike, of Shore Drive, was in attendance to discuss the budget as well, and stated he does not support a proposition 2 ½ and ended by telling the Board that they are elected to represent all the residents of Kingston.

APPOINTMENTS:

Discussion on Proposed Changes to Aquaculture Regulations Recommended by the Shellfish Constable, Dan Cullivan

Mr. Crone discussed that at the December 3rd Board Meeting it was requested to review the regulations. Mr. Cullivan was in attendance to discuss the changes to the language that were added to the regulations.

The added language is, "The Town of Kingston shall allow additional immediate family members names added to any existing or future grant for the purpose of carrying on a family business provided that the family member resides and will continue to reside in the Town of Kingston."

Ms. Emberg asked about potential changes to the shellfish regulations and is that something they are working on for a future meeting as Mr. Bouchard had requested at a previous meeting.

Mr. Bouchard discussed that he has spoken to Mr. Cullivan regarding comparing other town's regulations to compare and stated maybe a discussion for another meeting in a month or so.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen accept Aquaculture Regulations as presented.

Recommendation from Shellfish Constable for Shellfish Fees and Regulations

Mr. Crone discussed that Shellfish Constable Dan Cullivan is recommending the 2025 shellfish license fees be increased as follows: Included in the meeting packet is an updated map that Mr. Cullivan provided. Mr. Cullivan stated that he increased by \$10 across the Board.

The Board went into a conversation regarding the fees and discussed a few options on how to increase them.

It was noted in the board's information that initially the Shellfish Constable proposed no changes to the current charges. The Town Administrator asked the Constable to reconsider since it has been several years since the last price increase. The proposed rates reflect the Constable's revised recommendation.

Category	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Residents 70 years or older	Free	\$10
Residents 62-69 years old	\$15	\$25
Residents 14-61 years old	\$40	\$50
Resident Veteran 70 years or older	Free	\$10
Resident Veteran 62-69 years old	Free	\$10
Resident Veteran 14-61 years old	\$15	\$25
Non-Residents	\$100	\$110
Nonresident Veteran	Same pay schedule as residents	Same pay schedule as residents

After much discussion the board went with the recommendation of the shellfish constable.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the recommendation from the Shellfish Constable for the 2025 Shellfish Licenses as Mr. Cullivan presented this evening

Discussion of Removal/Trimming of Two Trees in the Front of the Adams Center

Mr. Crone discussed that the Facilities Manager, Robert Cuoco is requesting a discussion regarding the two large trees in front of the Adams Center. Both trees are diseased and should be taken down. Mr. Cuoco hired an arborist who is recommending the removal of the tree on the right side of the building walkway, looking at the building from the road. The arborist has suggested that the tree on the left could be significantly trimmed back and there is a 50/50 chance of the tree surviving. Included in the Board materials is additional supporting information from Mr. Cuoco and the report from the arborist. Mr. Hickey stated this is a hazard and feels that they need to be removed.

Motion by Ms. Bateman, seconded by Mr. Alcombright and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the removal of both trees and plant new saplings in the spring to replace the tree.

Mr. Hickey discussed that the pillars on the building are rotten and will need to be replaced.

Approval of Manager Change for Paisano's Restaurant

Mr. Crone discussed that an application was received from Paisano's to change the manager's name to Karla Nunes Hanert Pieper. Attorney David Lawler was in attendance and stated the prior manager who moved on, and Karla will be taking on the manager role.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the change in manager at Paisano's Restaurant to Karla Nunes Hanert Pieper.

Consideration of KTEU Clerical Union Request to Establish a 4-Day Work Week at the Town House

Not discussed.

Recommendation from Recreation Commission for 2025 Beach Stickers

The Recreation Commission voted at their January 13th meeting to recommend that beach sticker rates remain the same. Beach sticker sales will begin on April 1st. Below are the fees:

Residents \$20
Non- Residents \$40
Seniors (62+) and Veterans - \$5 fee reduction

Ms. Bateman discussed that at the Recreation meeting they reviewed the prices which were updated 2 years ago. As a result of grants that had been previously received for the beach, there is a rule that sticker prices for a nonresident can be no more than double the price of a resident.

Ms. Emberg stated she is leaning more toward increasing sticker fees as she feels that people who are using the services should pay for the services, and fees should be increased so the burden is on the residents who use the service. Her recommendation is Resident \$50 and Non-Resident \$100.

Motion by Ms. Bateman, seconded by Mr. Alcombright and a 5-0-0 vote, 3-2-0, roll call vote (Ms. Emberg and Mr. Alcombright voted against)

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the 2025 beach sticker fee schedule as followed presented this evening.

Residents \$30
Non- Residents \$60
Seniors (62+) and Veterans - \$5 fee reduction

Appointment of Interim Tree Warden

Mr. Crone stated that due to the retirement of the Superintendent of Streets, Trees and Parks the position of Tree Warden is vacant. The Interim Superintendent of Streets, Trees and Parks is willing to be appointed as the Interim Tree Warden.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Shawn Turner as Interim Tree Warden effective immediately through June 30, 2026.

Appointment of Central Plymouth County Water District Commission Member

Mr. Crone discussed that currently the Kingston Seat on the Central Plymouth County Water District Commission is vacant. Sheila Vaughn was the previous member for Kingston. Commissioners are appointed by an Advisory Board, which is composed of representatives from each of the eight communities in the District: Brockton, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanson, Kingston, Pembroke, Plympton, and Whitman. The law requires that the Advisory Board consists of "a member of the board of selectmen or other person designated by the board of selectmen of each of the towns in the district, the mayor of the city of Brockton or his designee, and a member of the city council of said city to be appointed by the mayor." Advisory Board members serve without compensation. Meetings are held 2-3 times per year. Mr. Hickey stated that Mr. P

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen appoint Matt Penella as the Kingston Representative on the Central Plymouth County Water District Commission Advisory Board Member.

Appointment of Public Health Nurse

Mr. Crone discussed that due to a resignation the position of Public Health is vacant. After completing the recruitment process the Health Agent is recommending the hiring of Patricia Iafrate for the position. Wage and Personnel met on Monday, February 27th to review. The position is budgeted for 15 hours a week.

Ms. Bateman asked if this position goes into homes, Ms. Krystofolski stated currently this individual does not.

Motion by Ms. Emberg, seconded by Mr. Alcombright and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen appoint Patricia Iafrate to the position of Public Health Nurse a Grade 6 Step 10 less than part time position within Wage and Personnel with an anticipated start date of February 3, 2025, consistent with the terms in the offer letter.

Appointment of Three Civil Service Permanent Intermittent Police Officers

Mr. Crone discussed that the board is being asked to authorize the Chief to appoint three civil service part-time police officers. Kingston has historically had them in the past so there would be no need to ask the town meeting or any other governing body for authorization, other than the appointing authority [BOS]. In the most recent years, KPD has not used these positions.

Chief Holmes was in attendance who spoke to the position.

Each candidate will be presented to the Board of Selectmen for approval of the appointment.

Ms. Emberg asked where in the budget these positions live, and Laura Casey-Pupek stated it is in Health Services.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Emberg and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen authorize the Police Chief to appoint up to three civil service permanent intermittent police officers.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Board of Selectmen Recommended FY26 Operating Budget

Mr. Crone stated the municipal budget outside of schools is in front of the Board, there are some changes to additional revenues and there are some changes to the fire and the police budget.

Mr. Crone stated that there is additional Chapter 70 funds going to Kingston Schools in the amount of a half million dollars, but we don't have any school budgets as of yet, they will be having public budget hearings the first week of February.

Mr. Hickey discussed changes which were provided to the Board on the consolidated revenue page. Mr. Hickey discussed the changes that the Board wanted to see regarding the Police and Fire budgets are provided in the board materials.

Mr. Crone asked Chief Holmes if he wanted to speak, Chief Holmes mentioned something he may propose to the Board is possibly using some Chapter 70 funding for the full-time School Resource Officer. Mr. Crone asked if there is any talk state funding to fund officers, Chief Holmes said there is currently not.

Mr. Hickey addressed the discussion of the transfer station fees as well as the increase in ambulance fees that can be discussed at the next meeting.

Ms. Emberg discussed that she would like the transfer station to pay for itself, if possible, with user fees.

The Board discussed the budget in length.

Mr. Hickey stated that Chief Holmes found a file server that is on its last leg and will cost \$15,000 and he is asking the Board to increase the IT budget.

Laura Casey-Pupek stated the server is at the end of life, LT Kelley came to visit and stated that it will need to be replaced soon. The Board discussed the server and Mr. Alcombright asked if there are any other servers that will need to be addressed. Mr. Hickey discussed there are a few on the capital plan.

Mr. Crone stated that the Police Chief asked for new positions. Chief Holmes addressed this by stating he p Prioritized cops on the street, Deputy chief and then a dispatcher. Mr. Crone asked the Board about how the Board feels and an override and does the Board want to recommend an override.

Ms. Emberg does not support an override, but she will not prevent the residents from voting for one.

Mr. Bouchard discussed he does not support an override and continued to say that if we don't have the revenue coming in, it is fiscally irresponsible to bring forward something that the Town cannot afford.

Analysis of Transfer Station Fees									
Current Fees vs. Fees to Fund Transfer Station Operations									
	Current Fees			Proposed Fees			Included in FY26 Local Receipts		
	Permits Issued	Permit Fee	Annual Revenue	Permits Issued	Permit Fee	Annual Revenue	Permits Issued	Permit Fee	Annual Revenue
Regular Decal	1,355	\$ 240	\$ 325,200	1,355	\$ 350	\$ 474,250	1,355	\$ 260	\$ 352,300
Second Decal	1,201	\$ 20	\$ 24,020	1,201	\$ 80	\$ 96,080	1,201	\$ 20	\$ 24,020
Replacement Decal	108	\$ 20	\$ 2,160	108	\$ 40	\$ 4,320	108	\$ 20	\$ 2,160
Recycling Only Decal	78	\$ 40	\$ 3,120	78	\$ 150	\$ 11,700	78	\$ 60	\$ 4,680
One Day Permit	95	\$ 20	\$ 1,900	95	\$ 80	\$ 7,600	95	\$ 20	\$ 1,900
Senior Decal 62-65	343	\$ 120	\$ 41,160	343	\$ 120	\$ 41,160	343	\$ 120	\$ 41,160
Senior Decal 66+	1,138	\$ 100	\$ 113,800	1,138	\$ 100	\$ 113,800	1,138	\$ 100	\$ 113,800
Veteran	154	\$ 120	\$ 18,480	154	\$ 120	\$ 18,480	154	\$ 120	\$ 18,480
Estimated Revenue			\$ 529,840			\$ 767,390			\$ 558,500
FY26 Budget									
	Dept. Proposed Budget			TA Recommended Budget					
Total Budget			\$ 833,145			\$ 802,543			\$ 802,543
Less Revenues			\$ (46,464)			\$ (46,464)			\$ (46,464)
Net Budget Amount			\$ 786,681			\$ 756,079			\$ 756,079
Cost to be Raised in Taxes			\$ 256,841			\$ (11,311)			\$ 197,579

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Emberg and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve The Town Administrator's recommended FY26 budget as amended to \$61,475,194

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hickey discussed the Department Head Team has been working on budgets.

Mr. Hickey thanked department heads and everyone supporting them in the budget process.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Mr. Crone, the new mall owners, had an open house on Monday, it was a good meeting that was an open house, they talked briefly about their other locations. Ms. Emberg added that they seem interested in what the residents want.

Mr. Alcombright will work with Mr. Hickey on utilizing the websites newsletter.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call

VOTE: I move to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker

