



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
March 11, 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, Kimberley Emberg, Donald Alcombright, and Melissa Bateman.

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

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:

There was no one in attendance for open forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

MEETING MINUTES: Approval of Open Session Meeting Minutes

Mr. Crone stated that they have the approval of January 28, 2025, February 18, 2025, and February 25, 2025, Open Session Meeting Minutes

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen accept the open session meeting minutes of January 28, 2025, February 18, 2025, and February 25, 2025, as presented

Acceptance of Resignation on Agricultural Commission

Mr. Crone said that the office received a letter from Barry Mathias resigning from the Agricultural Commission effective February 27, 2025.

Mr. Crone introduced Mr. Ruis Santos from the Agricultural Commission to acknowledge the resignation of Barry Mathias. Mr. Santos spoke about Mr. Mathias's contribution to the town over the years.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen accept the resignation from J. Barry Mathias from the Agricultural Commission effective immediately

Appointment to Agricultural Commission

Mr. Crone stated that the office received a letter from John Mathias requesting an appointment with the Agricultural Commission. The Agricultural Commission met on February 26th and discussed this application and are recommending the appointment of Mr.

Mathias.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint John Mathias to the Agricultural Commission effective immediately through June 30, 2026.

Recognition of Police Officers

Police Chief Brian Holmes was in attendance would like to recognize three police officers recognized for their efforts on two separate calls for service.

Officers Erik Dowd and Michael Gallo were recognized for their courageous efforts when they responded to a motor vehicle crash where they located a female party trapped in her vehicle, with the vehicle on fire. The officers were able to extract the trapped woman from the vehicle, preventing further injury. These quick decisive actions by the officers and citizens, at great risk to themselves, doing everything in their power to protect our citizens, potentially saved this woman's life and resulted in the Letters of Merit.

Additionally, Officer Timothy Arnold was recognized for his above-and-beyond efforts in connecting with and mentoring local youth. Officer Tim is the elementary level SRO and recently spent time at the Sacred Heart Schools and noticed a student very upset over a spill at lunch and spoke with her to calm her down. Recognizing this may be about more than just the spill, Officer Tim sought out the student's older sister and asked her to watch out for her little sister and check on her. The conversation was impactful. So much so, they later recalled it at the dinner table with their parents, who later expressed extreme gratitude for reinforcing the type of behaviors their daughters are learning at home. The parents helped present Officer Tim's Letter of Merit for doing more than "the status quo" and showing true care for his community, above-and-beyond expectations.

During the meeting, Chief Holmes expressed his extreme gratitude for the work of these officers and everyone's work, day in and day out, that made him proud to wear the Kingston PD patch.

These actions, in two significantly different incidents and roles, display the flexibility of our department and exemplify the core values of Kingston PD: Integrity - Community - Professionalism - Service.

Approval of Update to Paisano's Existing Liquor License and New Entertainment License

Mr. Crone stated when Paisano's first requested their liquor license it was to serve until 10pm. Manager Silvio Pieper is requesting to extend the time to 11pm, Monday through Sunday. Also requesting an entertainment license for Sunday mornings, before 1pm.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the request from Paisano's Restaurant to extend their license time until 11:00pm and have a Sunday Entertainment License before 1pm.

Update from Water Commissioner regarding Water Moratorium

Mr. Crone introduced Water Commissioner Bob Kostka will be in attendance to provide the Board with an update on the water moratorium.

Mr. Kostka read from his handout which has been added to the meeting packet.

Mr. Alcombright asked what the process is to ask for more water usage; Mr. Kostka said they are addressing lost water, and they are in the process of having a leak review now.

Mr. Alcombright asked if the leak is sorted, is there a possibility of requesting more from the State and Mr. Kostka is not sure they will allow.

Ms. Emberg asked do wells at individual homes affect the water table and it was answered that private wells do not.

Mr. Crone asked about developments, and it was answered that they can build a well.

Chris Veracka, Superintendent of Water stated the application process is long and allowable pumpage to increase could be 2-3 years away. A new Permit for a new well to allow pumpage will take 5-7 years.

There is no water capacity at this time for new construction.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Accept the Release of From Leaseholder of Aquaculture Lease #1 and Accept Removal of Name on the Aquaculture Waitlist

Mr. Crone explained that the current lease holder for Aquaculture Lease #1 William VanDuzer sent in an email the Office stating he is giving up his grant. The next individual on the waitlist is Matthew Wheble. Mr. Wheble stated that upon his name being added to the existing license #3 (completed February 25, 2025) he will remove himself from the waitlist. Shellfish Constable Dan Cullivan contacted the Department of Marine Fisheries (DMF) regarding the process of releasing the license as well as removing a name on the waitlist. DMF responded: The email clearly states his intentions, and it is up to the Kingston Selectboard and Shellfish Constable to make a determination. DMF is not involved in this process. Likewise, the town can also decide on removing Matt from the waiting list.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to accept the email notification from William VanDuzer voluntarily surrendering Aquaculture License #1 effective March 11, 2025.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen accept the email notification from Matthew Wheble requesting to be removed from the Aquaculture Waitlist effective March 11, 2025.

Discussion and Possible Vote on a FY26 Proposition 2 ½ Override for the Police Department

Mr. Crone discussed that schools no longer need to have a proposition 2 ½. Mr. Crone introduced the Police Chief Brian Holmes as he is requesting the Board of Selectmen consider sponsoring a Proposition 2 ½ warrant article on the 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant in the amount of \$500,000, plus an additional \$75,000 for fringe benefits. Within the meeting packet is an email from Chief Holmes outlining his request.

Chief Holmes discussed the hiring process for hiring an officer and the length of time it would take to hire which is 18-24 months.

Mr. Crone stated that he had 1 person reach out regarding the police override who discussed the tax increase the residents have already incurred. This override of an average home around \$600,000 is about \$100 year.

Ms. Emberg asked does the operating budget in front of the board include a patrolman and a dispatcher; Chief explained to keep the existing people and not including new people.

One Sergeant and two patrolman is included in the request for a proposition 2 ½.

Mr. Crone discussed the process; the Board needs to vote in favor of putting on the warrant and then it would require an affirmative vote at the town meeting as well as the election.

Ms. Emberg appreciates Chief Holmes' dedication to his department, regardless of what happens, Chief Holmes has stepped up for this community and she thanked him.

Mr. Alcombright is in favor of putting this on the warrant.

Mr. Bouchard is not in favor of putting this on the warrant.

Ms. Bateman recused herself.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Mr. Crone and 2-2-0 vote, (Ms. Batmen recused herself, Mr. Bouchard and Ms. Emberg voted against)

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen support including a Proposition 2 ½ warrant article on the 2025 Annual Town Meeting warrant in the amount of \$575,000.

Appointment Wastewater Pump Station Operator and Maintenance Technician

Mr. Crone stated that due to a vacancy in the Wastewater Department the position of Wastewater Pump Station Operator and Maintenance Technician is vacant. After the recruitment process the Superintendent recommends the promotional hiring of David Wilson to the position.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen appoint David Wilson to the position of Wastewater Pump Station Operator and Maintenance Technician a Grade 6, Step 4 nonexempt position as part of the Kingston Town Employee Union – Labor with and anticipated start date of March 12, 2025, consistent with the terms in the offer letter.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Crone read from Mr. Hickey's report:

Financial Updates

- The Board of Assessors and Veterans Agent will meet Tuesday, March 11th to discuss the HERO Act legislation that was approved that expands the property tax exemptions for veterans. Below is a table of the three current exemptions and the exemption amounts and the new exemption limits. Additionally, the new exemption limits can be increased annually by the annual cost of living.

<u>Exemption Type</u>	<u>Current Exemption</u>	<u>New Exemption Limit</u>
Less than 100% disabled	\$400	\$800
100% disabled	\$1,000	\$2,000
100% disabled living in adapted housing	\$1,500	\$3,000

The current exemptions are funded through Overlay in the amount of \$99,100. The Board of Assessors can recommend no change in the current exemptions, or any amount up to the new exemption limits. Any recommended change in the exemption amount would be placed on the 2025 Annual Town Meeting warrant for Town Meeting approval.

Project Updates

- The two trees in front of the Adams Center have been removed. Staff are exploring the options available to provide parking for the building.
- Town Planner Valerie Massard was awarded a grant to fund Phase II contamination testing at the former Fire Department on Maple Street. Old Colony Planning is overseeing the project for the Town. Below is a summary of the project timeline.

Dates	Task	Details
Week of March 17 th	Contact Dig safe	Verdantas will premark site and obtain Dig safe #
March 24	Geophysical survey	Verdantas will oversee its subcontractor to pre-clear new soil boring locations and identify current and historic subsurface site features.
March 26	Drilling and Monitoring Well Installation	
March 27	Monitoring well development/survey	Verdantas will oversee its subcontractor driller to advance soil borings and install groundwater monitoring wells. Verdantas will develop new and select existing groundwater monitoring wells.
March 31	Groundwater Sampling	Verdantas will collect groundwater samples and a sample of the standing water from the building's basement.
April/May 2025	Phase II ESA Report	Verdantas will prepare a report summarizing site history and recent activities, along with an estimated range of costs for site cleanup. We will participate in a meeting to discuss.

- The first of the five small Welcome to Kingston signs with the Town seal has been delivered. Below is a picture of the sign. The sign is currently at the bottom of the Town House center staircase. The sign will be installed this spring when the ground thaws.



Additional signs will be installed near the McDonald's on Route 3A on Sewer property, Enterprise drive near Kingston Collection, Loring Street near the Duxbury town line and Elm Street on the Plympton town line.

Personnel Update

- There are no personnel updates this week.

Miscellaneous Updates

- Nomination papers are currently available for candidates interested in running for town elected positions. A list of those positions is available on the Town website. Nomination papers are due back by Friday, March 28th

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Ms. Emberg thanked everyone for their hard work during the budget season.

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

VOTE: I move to recess executive session to not return to executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares - O'Donnell Family Realty Trust

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker

Assistant to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen

DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING:

Water Memo

Paisano's application

Resignation from Agricultural Commission

Appointment for Agricultural Commission

Email from Police Chief regarding Override

Aquaculture Paperwork

Offer Letter Wastewater
Minutes
Report of the Town Administrator
Agenda Addendum