



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
March 25, 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: 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:

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
5. The Friends of the Boneyard are no longer Kingston residents and would like volunteers to take over the process. More information to come.

OPEN FORUM:

Jessica Fitzgerald of 145 Summer Street the Vice President of the Library Foundation was in attendance to announce that they applied for the TMobile Hometown Grant, happy share that they have received a grant. They will be announcing it this week at a celebration at the Library on Saturday.

John Wheble and Ruis Santos from the Agricultural Commission on April 30th there will be a gardening event at the Senior Center. Mr. Wheble also wanted to thank Karen Johnson who is resigning from the Agricultural Commission.

Barbara Gildea of 20 Crescent Street attended virtually to show her support for the Police Department Budget that is on the agenda this evening.

APPOINTMENTS:

6:00 PM Public Hearing: Street Acceptance for Russell's Pond Road

Mr. Crone discussed that Russell's Pond Road residents have brought forth their request for the Town to accept their road. Residents worked with Town Planner, Valerie Massard to provide all the necessary documentation for the process. Ms. Massard noted that they are aware that there are a series of brick pillar fenceposts that were installed within the road layout after the road was constructed, in the cul-de-sac, and that there will be a cost to remove those posts; and There are some large drainage structures in the cul-de-sac that will need to be inspected.

Mr. Crone read the Public Hearing Notice:

The Kingston Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing at the Kingston Town House, 26 Evergreen Street, Kingston, MA, on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss acceptance of Russell's Pond Road as shown on a plan entitled As-Built Road Plan, prepared by Vautrinot & Webby Co, Inc, dated May 18, 1995. The plan may be viewed prior to the meeting at the Board of Selectmen office during regular business hours.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Emberg and a 4-0-0 vote,
VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen open the public hearing.

Mr. Hickey briefly talked about the request along with Valerie Massard, Town Planner, who discussed there is a number of steps within this process.

Brian Tartaglione of 6 Russell's Pond Road, talked about some maintenance the residents have done on the road. Ms. Massard asked the residents to communicate with the Town prior to maintenance so work is being done to the town's standards.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 4-0-0 vote,
VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen close the public hearing.

Motion by Ms. Emberg, seconded by Mr. Alcombright and a 4-0-0 vote,
VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to approve the request from Russell's Pond Road residents to move to the next step withing the Road Acceptance Policy and Procedures.

6:15 PM Public Hearing: Aquaculture License

Mr. Crone discussed that a request was received by Jared Waitkus to request the open Aquaculture License from Lease #1. Both Mr. Waitkus and Shellfish Constable Dan Cullivan attended the meeting.

Mr. Crone read the Public Hearing Notice:

Pursuant to the provisions of MGL Chapter 130, Section 60, the Kingston Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 6:15 p.m. at the Town House, Room 200, 26 Evergreen Street, Kingston, MA to consider the application of Shellfish Aquaculture Lease - Ichabods Flat Map #1, 3 acres. #1.

The applicant is Jared Waitkus, 15 Village Path, Kingston with the application to lease Ichabods Flat Map #1. The application for lease is filed with the Board of Selectmen's office.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 4-0-0 vote,
VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen open the public hearing.

Dan Cullivan, the Shellfish Constable, stated that all requirements of the State have been made.

Ms. Emberg asked about Mr. Waitkus's previous request for sugar kelp and Mr. Waitkus discussed he will no longer be moving forward with sugar kelp grant.

Motion by Ms. Emberg, seconded by Mr. Alcombright and a 4-0-0 vote,
VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen close the public hearing.

Motion by Ms. Emberg, seconded by Mr. Alcombright and a 4-0-0 vote,
VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the request from Jared Waitkus to obtain Aquaculture Lease # 1.

Discussion of Police Department Additional FY26 Budget Request

Chief Holmes is requesting the Selectmen reconsider their March 12th vote to sponsor a Proposition 2 ½ warrant article to provide an additional \$575,000 for a Sergeant, two patrolman and related benefits to the Police Department.

Mr. Crone introduced Chief Holmes, who was in attendance and spoke to the Board about his request.

Ms. Bateman is recusing herself from the vote.

Mr. Alcombright is in favor but would like a full board if they were to vote again.

Mr. Crone discussed that at the last meeting the Board discussed potentially using funds from the tax levy, which is no longer an option at this point.

Chief Holmes discussed if this passed it would reduce the need for a larger override in the future.

Ms. Emberg appreciates the 5-year plan that was provided to the Board but feels that if the override goes before the Town Meeting this year, next year when it is needed, it will be set up to fail next year to have two overrides in a row.

Mr. Crone discussed scheduling a meeting next week to tie up the warrant for this and other items.

Mr. Hickey talked to Town Counsel and no reconsider vote does not have to happen as this did not pass at the last meeting.

Mr. Hickey discussed that some warrant articles came in today that were drafted and. Counsel to provide language on 2 articles.

There was no vote taken this evening.

Wage and Personnel Board to Present Funding Recommendations

Jim Soule, Chair of Wage and Personnel, was in attendance in person and Lorraine Burgio was online to present their recommended FY26 Wage and Personnel recommendations.

Mr. Soule discussed the changes that were in the packet and provided the figures.

\$53,829 Total of Article

\$47,314 coming from General Fund

\$4,091 from Water

\$2,424 from Wastewater

Positions will be getting 2% COLA and there were a few reclassifications noted in the backup provided.

Ms. Emberg asked about the change classification of Human Resources from Manager to Director and asked about its support with the schools and asked if the schools pay into that support, which they do not.

Mr. Soule discussed that reclassifications are asked every year, the person can go before the board, after the request has been reviewed by their supervisor.

Mr. Soule stated that his opinion is to have a hiring freeze.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the Wage and Personnel Bylaw recommended by the Wage and Personnel Committee and move the supporting warrant article to the Town Meeting Warrant.

Capital Planning Committee to Present Funding Recommendations

This item was not heard this evening.

Review of Citizen Petitions Submitted for Annual Town Meeting

No citizen petitions were received.

Supplemental Budget Request from Fire Chief for FY25 Fire Department Budget

Chief Douglass was in attendance seeking to supplement the FY25 Fire Department budget in the amount of \$125,000 after finding \$35,000 in FY25 budget savings. Mr. Hickey is recommending funding the request by closing prior year appropriations in the amount of approximately \$22,000 and the \$103,000 balance funded by Free Cash. The primary reason for the additional funds is to cover unanticipated overtime costs due to shift vacancies caused by multiple long-term work-related injuries. Chief Douglass has provided a memo detailing the supplemental budget request that is in your Board materials.

Ms. Emberg asked what happens if the Board says no, Chief Douglass said he could have as little as 3 fire fighters on a shift.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen support the inclusion of a warrant article on the 2025 Annual Town Meeting seeking a supplemental appropriation for the Fire Department FY25 budget in the amount of \$125,000.

Request from Helton De Oliveria for a New Class II License (Used Card Dealer License)

Mr. Crone discussed that Helton De Oliveira of Circuit Auto Body Inc. is requesting a new Motor Vehicle Class II license. This will be located at 11 Joseph St. Rear. All departments have reviewed and signed off on this application.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the new class II license for Circuit Auto Body Inc. consistent with the Conservation Condition Cars stored within 100' buffer, long-existing condition

Resolution and Vote to Support the No Cuts to Public Education Bill

Mr. Crone read a letter from Jason Frasier

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen support the Resolution in Support of Increased Education Funding for Kingston

Whereas the Kingston Board of Selectmen acknowledges the critical importance of adequate funding for the education of our community's children; and

Whereas rising costs in education, including but not limited to special education tuition and transportation, are outpacing available funding, placing Kingston and other towns across Massachusetts in a difficult financial position; and

Whereas Massachusetts has long been a leader in providing high-quality public education, yet current funding trends threaten the ability of towns like Kingston to maintain even basic educational services; and

Whereas without sufficient funding, Kingston's public schools will face severe consequences, including the elimination of essential programs such as reading and math intervention, art, music, library, and computer education, as well as significantly larger class sizes that would diminish the quality of learning; and

Whereas Massachusetts is at a pivotal moment in determining the future of its public education system, requiring decisive action to uphold its commitment to educational excellence; and

Whereas communities like Kingston urgently need sustained support to ensure that all students receive the education they deserve;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Kingston Board of Selectmen urges our state representatives to reassess and reform the current education funding formulas, especially concerning circuit breaker funding and the existing inflation cap, to better

reflect the financial challenges faced by public schools; and

Be it further resolved that the Kingston Board of Selectmen calls on our federal legislators to advocate for and support legislation such as Senator Markey's "No Cuts to Public Schools Act" to protect and strengthen federal education funding, ensuring that our students are not harmed by inadequate investment; and

Be it further resolved that the Kingston Board of Selectmen reaffirms its commitment to advocating for sustainable education funding and calls on state and federal officials to prioritize the future of public education, recognizing that the strength and prosperity of our nation depend on the success of the next generation.

Adopted this 25th day of March 2025, by the Kingston Board of Selectmen

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Close Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Hickey discussed there are some articles that are not complete and suggested keeping the warrant open until these are finalized.

The Board discussed having a special meeting on Tuesday, April 1st.

Acceptance of Donation to the Fire Department

Mr. Crone discussed that the Fire Department received a donation in the amount of \$16,183 from Priolo Concrete Forms for the purchase of fire hose. The Fire Chief is requesting the Board of Selectmen accept this donation.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen accept a \$16,183 donation made to the Kingston Fire Department for the purchase of fire hose from Priolo Concrete Forms.

Acceptance of Resignation from COA Advisory Board and Agricultural Commission

Mr. Crone discussed the office received letters from Mary Hayes of the COA Advisory Board as well as Karen Johnson of the Agricultural Commission resigning from their respected Boards immediately.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen accept the following resignations effective immediately, Mary Hayes from the COA Advisory Committee and Karen Johnson from the Agricultural Commission

Appointment to Kingston's 300th Committee and COA Advisory Board

Mr. Crone stated the Kingston 300th Committee has vacancies, Joseph Cunningham III is requesting appointment to the 300th Committee. The 300th Committee reviewed his request at their February 19th meeting and is recommending his appointment. There are currently nine members of the committee. No maximum number of members was set.

The COA Advisory Board has a vacancy and at their March 11th meeting the COA Advisory Board voted to recommend associate member Lucy Colletta to the committee.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Joseph Cunningham III to the Kingston 300th Committee effectively immediately through the duration of the project.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen appoint Lucy Colleta to the COA Advisory Board effective immediately through June 30, 2027.

Reappointment of Animal Inspector

Mr. Crone discussed that the Town is required to appoint an Animal Inspector annually. Kingston's current Animal Inspector is Debra Mueller, is willing to serve for the upcoming year. Included in your Board materials is the nomination form, along with the Police Chief's recommendation.

Suggested Motion

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

VOTE: I move to reappoint Debra Mueller as Animal Inspector through April 30, 2026.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hickey read from his report:

Financial Updates

Project Updates

- Business View Magazine contacted me to include Kingston in a TV series they are currently working on called the Best of Massachusetts, A Talent for Building Innovation. The show would be 25-30 minutes and would focus on your growth, milestones, challenges/adaptations/pivots of Kingston in the last few years. Development and what it means for the community, notable housing/infrastructure projects and what it means for growth, *what makes Kingston unique from an investment/business development/tourism perspective, notable success stories of local businesses, and the future of the town.

I have asked the Kingston Business Association to participate in the show as well. There is no cost to Kingston. The magazine generates via third party advertising. I expect the show to be taped in early May.

- The Water Superintendent, Police Chief and I will be meeting with MassDOT and the contractor who installed the new water line on Main Street last summer to finalize plans to install the final coat of asphalt. The paving is planned for the week of April 21st, the same week as April school vacation. Once the plans are finalized, they will be posted on the Town website.

Personnel Update

- Joe Barkas has resigned as a COA van driver effective March 19th.
- Kevin Carlson was hired as a police officer. He will be attending the Police Academy in April.

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 must be obtained by Wednesday, March 26th and are due back by Friday, March 28th

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Ms. Emberg asked about the regionalization study and provided an update.

Mr. Hickey provided a brief update to which Mr. Hickey is in the process of getting Plympton and Halifax representatives. Ms. Emberg asked about the grant that was received by Halifax and Mr. Hickey stated that they will work together as a committee to provide information to the public for them to make an informed decision on how they want to move forward.

Next Meeting April 1st at 6pm

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

VOTE: I move to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker

Assistant to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen

Documents used at the meeting:

Agenda

Addendum

Town Administrator Report

Public Hearing Information

Budget Information

Recommendations for Articles

License Application

Resolution

Donation

Resignation

Appointment/Reappointment