



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
June 17, 2025

5:30 p.m. – CALL TO ORDER – ROOM 200

Chairman Eric Crone called to order the meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 5:30 p.m.—selectmen in attendance: Kimberley Emberg, Donald Alcombright attended virtually, Melissa Bateman and Carl Pike.

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.

OPEN FORUM:

APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Crone discussed that this discussion of creating a Department of Public Works was brought before Town Meeting and individuals had questions, so this meeting is to have a discussion to answer the questions.

Due to Retirement of long-time Streets, Trees and Parks Superintendent Paul Basler. Leadership change = opportunity to evaluate effectiveness

Formed a working group:

- Selectman Eric Crone
- Town Administrator Keith Hickey
- Fire Chief Mark Douglass
- Former STP Superintendent Paul Basler
- Water Commissioners Richard Loring, Bob Erlandson and Bob Kostka
- Sewer Commissioner Brian Donahoe

Mr. Crone went through the PowerPoint Presentation that was in the meeting packet as well as shown Town Meeting in April. Within the presentation was the proposed organizational structure.

Adam Sherman of 215 Main Street stated that after looking at this presentation, asked how the Public Works Department can pull employees from one department to another, and he asked about hiring and firing employees, the DPW Director would work with the superintendent of each department to recruit.

Mr. Sherman asked if there would be Union issues and Ms. Emberg discussed that there would be. Mr. Hickey stated that job descriptions may not change, an example would be that it would be negotiated that employees could be requested.

Mr. Sherman feels this would change the responsibility of the commissioners. Ms. Emberg stated the day-to-day oversight of the Superintendent.

Bob Erlandson of the Water Department stated the Water Department hires the superintendent to follow the guidelines, he is concerned that the DPW Director would not have the interest of the Department and how will that work.

Mr. Erlandson would like a lot more detail.

Matt Sawicki of 26 Cedar Lane discussed that times are changing, and the structure needs to be different, it is the right thing for the town to do just some things need to change.

Marsha Meekins of 141 Lake Street asked the Board to do more due diligence and would like numbers and failures of communications and that information.

Ms. Meekins would like the data of the issues that have occurred.

Chris Veracka of 52 Evergreen Street and also the Water Superintendent asked for the examples of issues, Mr. Veracka made a comment that as a department head and a superintendent he was never asked for feedback. Mr. Erlandson stated that he as the chair of the Water Department did not include the superintendent.

Elaine Fiore asked the Board if they could continue to another date. She also mentioned she feels that Streets, Trees, and Parks has always worked with Wastewater.

Susan Sherman of Main Street stated she disagrees with Mr. Crone, this is a small town, she does not feel it is appropriate to bring this back so soon.

Mr. Pike stated that he was not on the Board when this discussion began, he is leaning for not in favor of adding this to the Fall Town Meeting, he feels the cost will be higher than anticipated, he likes the independence that the departments have.

David Sapir, an employee of the Water Department, spoke to his thoughts on the cooperation of departments as he has 25 years of service, and there is a rapid response leadership.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Motion by Ms. Emberg, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call
VOTE: I move to continue the public hearing until July 29th at 5:30

Motion by Ms. Emberg, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call
VOTE: I move to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker
Assistant to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen

Documents used at the meeting:

Agenda
Presentation