



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
July 29, 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 began the meeting virtually and joined in person at 5:46pm, Melissa Bateman and Carl Pike.

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

The Board began with a roll call vote.

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 is a continuation of the public hearing regarding the discussion of creating a Department of Public Works. This is a continuation of June 17, 2025, public hearing.

Mr. Crone discussed that a Kingston resident who is currently a DPW Director at another Town is willing to help with this process.

The Board discussed that the DPW Director will also serve as a Superintendent to the Highway Department. A lot of feedback has come into account saying that the Highway Department needs a dedicated Superintendent which will affect the budget.

Additional costs could go up with possible support positions if necessary.

There are concerns regarding the day-to-day operations being removed from the water and sewer commissioners.

Ms. Emberg discussed creating a Q&A document with all the questions that are being asked by the Board.

Elaine Fiore, Sewer Commissioner, was in attendance to share her thoughts by stating that the Sewer Commissioners are not involved in day-to-day operations and that is the job of the superintendent.

Ms. Fiore is not aware of any communication issues within the departments as has been mentioned previously. Ms. Fiore discussed that the sewer department will help with plowing if needed if there is not a need for them at the sewer plant.

Chris Veracka, Superintendent of Water, discussed sharing equipment and resources with the highway department. Mr. Veracka agrees with what Ms. Fiore and the thoughts on sharing employees as individuals within each department have specific licenses.

At the last meeting it was discussed that a meeting between the superintendents and the Selectmen and Mr. Veracka stated that there has been no communication to date.

Mr. Hickey stated that he will set up a meeting in August.

Mr. Veracka would like that meeting in a public setting for full transparency.

Ms. Emberg stated that this was brought forward because feedback from employees and residents would like to see a DPW Director.

Marsha Meekins, 141 Lake Street, was in attendance on how you reach out to the Board, and it was addressed that all the board's email addresses are available on the town's website. Ms. Meekins would rather call than use email and is in favor of transparency. Ms. Meekins asked the Board how this idea came forward.

Mr. Crone discussed that he wanted to bring this forward from what he has seen.

Ms. Meekins asked if this would be at the Fall Town Meeting, and the Board discussed that this would take more time so it will not be at the fall town meeting.

The meeting continued straight in to the 6pm open session and those meeting minute will be separate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "P. L.", with a stylized flourish at the end.