



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
October 7, 2025

6:02 p.m. – CALL TO ORDER – ROOM 200

Chairman Eric Crone called to order the meeting with a roll call vote of the Board of Selectmen at 6:00 p.m.—selectmen in attendance: Kimberley Emberg, Melissa Bateman, Donald Alcombright and Carl Pike

Staff Present: George Samia, Acting 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 us at this time.
2. Financial Assistance Applications are available on the town's website or by calling the Selectmen's Office.
3. There are several Boards and Commissions with vacancies. To see a complete list of the openings, please visit our website at kingstonma.gov. If you are interested in serving, please contact the Selectmen's Office at 781 585-0501.
4. Please check our website for any additional events or notices www.kingstonma.gov
 - Fall Town Meeting – October 28, 2025, at 7pm at the Kingston Intermediate School
5. TA Screening Working Group is accepting applications until October 10th.

OPEN FORUM:

Lt. Mike Skowyra was in attendance to discuss Kingston Police Departments first annual haunted house on October 25th.

Mr. Crone introduced George Samia to everyone.

Will Cushman of 273 Main Street welcomed Mr. Samia to the Town of Kingston.

APPOINTMENTS:

Joint Meeting with Kingston School Committee

Mr. Crone mentioned that due to a resignation there is a vacancy on the Kingston School Committee, and they are requesting a joint meeting be made with the Board of Selectmen and the Kingston School Committee to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Town Election. There are four candidates interested in filling the position; William Cushman, Bryce Nelson, Timothy Fitzgibbon (Mr. Fitzgibbon withdrew on 10/7) and Jennifer Krowchun who have all been asked to attend the Board meeting to be interviewed.

The Kingston School Committee opened their meeting.

All three candidates introduced themselves to the Board and the Committee, Will Cushman, Bryce Nelson and Jennifer Krowchun each provided their experience and why they felt they would be a great candidate.

They were all asked the same questions in regard to this position.

Mr. Cushman feels he wants to run for this position in the spring election and is motivated to make the school a better place

for all who attend. He will talk to the community and inform them all of what is happening within the schools and discuss the budget and feels the budget should be spread throughout all town departments.

Mr. Cushman talked about his leadership skills and his perspective on the community to make it more of an inclusive community.

Mr. Nelson would be willing to move to the 3-year seat in the spring if he takes to the position well. His primary motivator is that he has 4 kids in the school district, and to make sure all students have the resources they need.

Mr. Nelson does not have a lot of experience, however, is willing to put in the work, his professional experience in sales over the last 20 years will help him understand the budgets.

Ms. Krowchun discussed that this is a great opportunity, she is bringing 18 years' experience as a federal lobbyist. She stated her primary motivator is her kids. Ms. Krowchun discussed that not having an override last year set the committee up this year for some hard conversations and feels communication and clear message is key.

Motion by Ms. Vaughn, seconded by Mr. Keith and a 9-0-0 vote, by roll call vote, of the Kingston School Committee and Board of Selectmen,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Jennifer Krowchun as a member of the Kingston School Committee effective immediately until the 2026 Spring Town Election

The Kingston School Committee closed their meeting.

The Board took a recess.

Request by Residents to Continue Winter Maintenance on Lantern Lane

Mr. Crone discussed that a request was received by residents of Lantern Lane to ask for continuation of winter maintenance for the 2025/2026 winter season. It was discussed at the September 23rd Board meeting that the residents would be responsible for removal of rocks and placing of snowplow stakes, and the resident is stating he will sign a release of claim against any possible damage to the property.

Mr. Alcombright asked if anything on Lantern Lane could damage the Towns' property and it was discussed there are stones on the road layout which could damage the plow if they are not marked. Mr. Crone asked if Mr. Turner has any objections. Mr. Turner discussed the conditions and his concerns that are noted in the motion.

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

VOTE: I move to approve the winter maintenance on Lantern Lane for the 2025/2026 winter season pending the resident (s) sign a release of claim from any possible damage, and the rocks are moved, and the residents clearly mark the edge of the roadways with reflective posts.

Background Checks of New Department Heads

Mr. Crone discussed that Chief Holmes is requesting that a comprehensive background check which involves a check of previous employment history military background credit check in a scan of all available databases that are not considered Cory. This includes crime tracer in any open source google search the Massachusetts department of public records and any other resources that the department has.

Chief Holmes was in attendance and said this is an additional step that could be taken only for potential hires of a department head. Ms. Bateman discussed proposed language from Town Counsel.

Mr. Pike is reluctant to add more work to the police department.

The Board discussed that the number of employees is minimal.

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

VOTE: I move that the Board adopt the practice of having the Kingston Police Department conduct comprehensive

background checks of all new or prospective department heads of the Town of Kingston contingent upon of legals proposed language.

Approval to Appoint Two (2) Full Time Police Officers from Civil Service Local Register

Mr. Crone discussed that Chief Holmes is seeking approval to appoint 2 police officers in anticipation of retirements. These positions are currently funded within the FY26 budget and there are no new positions that require additional funding. Chief Holmes discussed the fact that the Board approved the local register a few months ago.

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

VOTE: I move that the Board authorize the Police Chief to appoint, on behalf of the Board, two full time police officer appointments from the Civil Service local register, and to provide an introduction of the candidates to the Board prior to the candidates beginning employment.

Approval to Request Civil Service List for Anticipated Appointments prior to the end of the calendar year

Mr. Crone introduced Chief Holmes to who explained that this is seeking approval to pull a civil service certification list to appoint two additional police officers before the end of the calendar year for anticipated retirements. These second two will be from the standard civil service list and not the local register program. It was noted that all positions are currently funded within the FY26 budget and there are no new positions that would require additional funding.

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

VOTE: I move that the Board authorizes the Police Chief to request a candidate certification list from civil service in order to begin the selection and background investigation process to backfill anticipated retirements, and report back to the Board for conditional offers of employment.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Request The Town Clerk to Set Special Town Election Date for Debt Exclusion and Vote Ballot Question Wording

Mr. Crone discussed that Town Clerk is asking the Board to request him to set a Special Town Election Day for Debt Exclusion. There must be 35 days' notice for a special election. The clerk's office is looking for Saturday, November 15th as the date.

Mr. Crone asked Mr. Samia if the MSBA article passes at Town Meeting then this would move forward, if it fails there will be no special election. Mr. Samia confirmed that it would be the process.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen request the Town Clerk to set a Special Town Election for Debt Exclusion.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen set the ballot question for the debt exclusion as "Shall the Town of Kingston be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to fund a partial roof replacement for the Kingston Elementary School? Yes / No."

Reopen Special Town Meeting Warrant, Review and Possibly Add Any New Warrant Articles

Mr. Crone discussed that this item was placed on the agenda in case the Board of Selectmen had any changes to the Special Town Meeting Warrant

Police Chief, Brian Holmes is requesting the addition of an article for to appropriate \$32,000 (to adjust at town meeting) from the Waterways Improvement Fund to expend for the purpose of purchasing a new boat engine for the Harbormaster's 2014 24' Parker boat; or take any other action relative thereto. The draft article is in the meeting packet.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen reopen the Special Town Meeting Warrant”.

Chief Holmes explained the need for the following addition of a warrant article to appropriate \$32,000 (to adjust at town meeting) from the Waterways Improvement Fund to expend for the purpose of purchasing a new boat engine for the Harbormaster’s 2014 24’Parker boat; or take any other action relative thereto.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen add the article as presented for \$32,000 to be expended from the Waterways Improvement Fund for a replacement for a boat to the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Samia discussed that he spoke with Chief Holmes and researched that Article 5 Supplement FY26 Operating Budget does not require to raise and appropriate. Town Counsel stated that it is not needed, so the Board.

Mr. Pike doesn’t feel it needs to be on the warrant if the money does not need to be raised and appropriate.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen Removed Article 5 Supplement FY26 Operating Budget – Police from the Special Town Meeting Warrant”.

The Board discussed Article 6 – Supplement FY26 Operating Budget – Police.

Chief Holmes asked for this item to remain on the warrant as this is to vote for a new position for the family services unit.

Motion by Mr. Pike seconded by Ms. Emberg and a 3-2-0 vote, (Mr. Crone and Ms. Bateman voted against)

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen Remove Article 6 Supplement FY26 Operating Budget – Police from the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Ms. Emberg discussed the Finance Committee by law, shall have 7 members asked to be changed it to up to, The Board discussed that the Finance Committee didn’t request so this will not be added.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen close the Special Town Meeting Warrant

Review Special Town Meeting Warrant – Vote on Articles and Approve Clerk to Post Warrant

Mr. Crone discussed that in the Board Materials is the draft Special Town Meeting warrant. At this time the Board should review and deliberate the articles and be prepared to make motions on each. Finance Committee is meeting on Wednesday, October 8th to review.

The warrant must be posted fourteen (14) days prior to Town Meeting, which is Tuesday, October 14th.

Heath Emberg discussed Article (5) Capital Purchase of a Roadside Mower/Sidewalk Plow.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen recommend approval of Article 1 Partial Replacement of the Kingston Elementary School Roof

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen recommend approval of Article 2 Supplement FY26 Operating Budget- Planning

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen recommend approval of Article 3 Supplement FY26 Operating Budget-

Assessing

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen recommend approval of Article 4 Supplement FY26 Operating Budget- Veterans

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen recommend approval of Article 5 FY26 Capital Equipment/Project Funding – Roadside Mower/Sidewalk Plow

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen recommend approval of Article 6 Establish a Police Revolving Fund Abandoned, or Taken Property

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Bateman, and a 4-1-0 vote, (Ms. Emberg voted against)

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen recommend approval of Article 7 Supplement FY26 Operating Budget – Wastewater

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Mr. Pike and a 4-1-0 vote, (Mr. Pike voted against)

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen recommend approval of Article 8 Amend Hawkers, Peddlers, and Transient Vendors Bylaw – Establish a No Solicitation Registry

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Mr. Pike and a 4-1-0 vote, (Mr. Pike voted against)

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen recommend approval of Article 9 Change Town Clerk Position from Elected to Appointed

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen recommend approval of Article 10 Replace Harbormaster Boat Engine

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Clerk to post the October 28, 2025, Special Town Meeting warrant.”

Review and Possible Approval of Financial Assistance Application

Mr. Crone discussed that a resident has submitted a Financial Assistance Application asking for help with their mortgage. Jennifer Styers, Outreach Coordinator, reviewed the paperwork and provided feedback that is within the board materials. The requested amount is \$8,000. (as of 8/31/2025 – Expendable balance of Thomas Prince Fund is \$80,787)

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the Financial Assistance Application submitted in the amount of \$8,000 from the Thomas Prince Benevolent Fund.

Updated on the Status of Establishing a Department of Public Works

No updates

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Samia had no comments.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Ms. Bateman stated that the Regionalization Committee voted in favor of moving forward with the Collins Center

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

VOTE: I move to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker

Assistant to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen

Documents used at the meeting:

Agenda

Agenda Addendum

Draft Warrant

Candidate Letters

Recommendation for Financial Assistance