TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
NOVEMBER 18, 2025

6:00 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 6:01 p.m.—selectmen in attendance: Kimberley Emberg, Melissa Bateman, Donald Alcombright (virtual)and Carl Pike

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

Mr. Crone 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 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
5. Thank you to Larry Iarossi of Iarossi Painting, who has generously donated his time to paint the two machine guns and light poles at the Island near the Library for Veterans Day.
   Last year, they provided the same service and power-washed all the stones at the memorials.
6. Ms. Emberg thanked everyone who voted at the special election.
7. Ms. Emberg made note that it is budget season

OPEN FORUM:
Mr. Will Cushman asked the Board if they will be continuing the sidewalks on Main Street in the spring of 2026. Mr. Cushman continued by saying Happy Thanksgiving to all.

<u>APPOINTMENTS:</u>

<u>Appointment of Full Time Permanent Civil Service Police Officer – Adam Roy</u>
LT. Bateman was in attendance to announce that the Police Department is recommending appointment of Adam Roy to the position of full time permanent Civil Service Police Officer. Lt. Bateman discussed the candidate successfully completing all required background checks.

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

> VOTE: I move that the Board of Selectmen appoint Adam Roy as a Full-Time Police Officer for the Town of Kingston. Starting on November 24, 2025.

<u>Review and Approve Request from 42nd Brew Co to have 5K</u>
Mr. Crone discussed that 42nd Brew is requesting approval to have a 5K Road Race along designated streets in Kingston. The plan has been reviewed by the Police Department as well as Fire and Superintendent of Streets.

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

VOTE: I move to approve the request from 42nd Brew Co to have a 5K on Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 9:15pm-12pm along the Maple Street, Landing Road, River Street, Jones River Drive, Marsh Road, back down River Street, Landing Road, Linden Street, back down Landing Road and finishing on Maple Street with the following conditions:

- Work with Kingston Police Department on the hiring of Police Officers along the route
- Notify in writing to all residents/businesses along the route.

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

VOTE: I move that the Board of Selectmen allow the use of Maple Street Fire Station and The Town House parking lot for parking on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

<u>Public Hearing for Classification of Property for Tax Purposes: A representative from the Board of Assessor's will review their recommendations and have the Board reaffirm the use of a single tax rate for all properties for the Fiscal Year 2026 tax rate.</u>
<u>Public Hearing Notice</u>

Pursuant to the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 56, the Board of Selectmen will hold its annual public hearing on the classification of property for tax purposes. The Selectmen shall first determine the percentages of the local tax levy to be borne by each class of real property and personal property for Fiscal Year 2026. During the hearing, the Board of Assessors shall provide all information relevant to making such determination and the fiscal effect of the available alternatives. Based on information provided, the Board of Selectmen shall adopt a residential factor to be used by the Board of Assessors to determine the percentages of the Fiscal Year 2026 local tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property. Said hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town House, Room 200, 26 Evergreen St., Kingston, MA.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen open the public hearing.

Board of Assessors does not recommend the exemption of Open Space, Residential and Small Commercial.

Public comment included questions regarding possible taxpayer benefits under a residential exemption; Board and Assessor explained that Kingston's limited inventory of non-owner-occupied properties makes the exemption ineffective.

Motion by Mr. Pike, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen close the public hearing.

Motion by Mr. Pike, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen vote in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 40, Section 56, as amended, the percentage of local tax levy which will be borne by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2026 tax rates and set the Residential Factor at 1.0 with a corresponding CIP shift of 1.0, pending approval of the Town's annual tax recap by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

<u>Update from Recycling Committee</u>

Jean Landis Nauman, of Wolf Pond Road and the Chair of the Recycling Committee, presented an overview of committee activities, including:

- Recycling bins installed across town facilities
- Swap Shop reopening in new shed (volunteers needed)
- Organic waste collection program; grant-funded costs currently $344/month
- Ongoing work with South Shore Recycling Cooperative
- Plastic bag ban implementation and hauler recycling requirement

- Participation in local events, public education, and social media outreach
- Anticipated increased future trash disposal costs once the SEMASS contract ends in 2029
- Exploration of food-waste co-digestion at the wastewater treatment facility

Mr. Crone thanked the entire recycling committee for all their hard work and efforts.

<u>Request from the Police Department to expend up to $66,000.00 in Opioid Settlement Funds:</u>
LT. Skowyra was in attendance to present the request that the Police Department is seeking approval to purchase, install and incur other expenses related to operationalizing a modular office trailer for use by the Police Department, primarily by the Family Services Unit (FSU), including the proposed department Clinician.
Lt. Skowyra discussed that the presentation will summarize the following three police agenda items.

The request for the opioid money is being requested for the purchase of a trailer to use as office space and a private meeting/interview space. The trailer would be installed on the police department property and is needed primarily due to the services provided by the department outgrowing the current station. The Capital Planning Committee was consulted at their last meeting regarding this purchase, and, in an advisory role, they voted unanimously to approve the purchase.

There were no questions.

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

> VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to authorize the Police Chief and his Lieutenants to expend Opioid Settlement Funds not to exceed $66,000.00 to purchase, install and operationalize a modular office trailer at the current Police Department station, as well as other related equipment and services, for the use primarily by the proposed Police Department Clinician and Family Services Unit.

<u>Request from the Police Department to Utilize a Department Mental Health Grant and to Begin the Process to Hire a Co-Response Clinician funded by the Grant</u>
The Board previously approved Chief Holmes applying for a DMH Grant to obtain a Clinician. The police department recently received approval for the grant and the position to be hired as a Kingston employee and serve Kingston, Halifax and Plympton. DMH grant is prorated and authorizes Kingston PD to spend up to $70,000.00 for the remainder of the fiscal year via a reimbursement grant. This grant covers salary and relevant expenses and should result in a net zero cost to the Town. Working with various professionals from the field, the Police Department will seek out a qualified candidate and present that candidate to the board for an official offer of employment. The grant is also expected to continue in subsequent years, if funding is available.

There were no questions, Mr. Pike feels this is a good idea and it will be considered with everything else in the police department for budgets for future years.

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

> VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen authorize the Police Chief and/or his Lieutenants to utilize the approved Department of Mental Health Master Agreement- Jail/Arrest Diversion Program Grant and spend in an amount not to exceed $70,000.00 as a reimbursement grant for the remainder of FY26 ending 6/30/26 in compliance with the DMH Statement of Work and to begin to hire a Clinician as a Town of Kingston Police Department, with final candidate being brough to the board for an official offer of employment, and shall be permitted to continue to employe the clinician and utilize the grant in subsequent fiscal years in the amount permitted for each year via the DMH Statement of Work so long as funding remains available.

<u>Request from the Police Department to enter negotiations with the Town of Halifax and the Town of Plympton to complete an Inter-Municipal Agreement for the use of the department Co-Response Clinician</u>
The Police Department is seeking approval to allow the Chief of Police and/or his Lieutenants to enter into negotiations with

the Towns of Halifax and Plympton to finalize an Intermunicipal Agreement to support the use of the proposed Kingston PD Clinician and to solicit the use of Opioid Settlement Funds from those municipalities to support the program. The DMH grant is anticipated to cover costs related to the Clinician (besides the office trailer). In the event some expenses aren't covered, or the grant is no longer available in the future, this agreement would create a framework for a fair manner to split those costs (like the Silver Lake Regional School District's split). It would be the intent that there would be no upfront costs to any of the three towns (besides the office trailer) and any expenditure not covered would likely be able to be covered via Opioid Settlement Funds of the Towns. Upon successful negotiation with both municipalities, the Police Department would return to the Kingston Board of Selectmen for final approval and signature by the Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Further, the Police Department will seek out funding from those municipalities to assist in the roll-out costs related to the office trailer in a fair amount, in the event those towns are willing/able to contribute.

The Board had no questions or comments.

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

> VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen authorize the Police Chief and/or his Lieutenants to enter into negotiations with the Town of Halifax and the Town of Plympton to complete an Inter-Municipal Agreement for the use of the department Co-Response Clinician as a tri-town resource and to return to the Kingston Board of Selectmen for final approval as well as to seek out funding from those towns to assist in the initial roll-out costs relative to the office trailer.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Appointment Interim Building Commissioner – William Horrocks

Mr. Crone discussed due to the vacancy of the Building Commissioner an interim need to be appointed.
Mr. Samia discussed this whether it could end or continue if needed depending on the hiring of a full till building commissioner.

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

> VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint William Horrocks as the Interim Building Inspector effective November 24, 2025, through February 24, 2026.

Appointment of Plumbing and Gas Inspector, Alternate – George Greenwood

Mr. Crone stated that at the time of annual renewals Mr. Greenwood did not respond and is now requesting to be reappointed. The Board had no discussion.

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

> VOTE: I move to appoint George Greenwood as Plumbing and Gas Inspector – Alternate effective immediately through June 30, 2026.

Appointment of Public Health Nurse – Ann Marie Stasianos

Mr. Crone read that due to a resignation the position of Public Health Nurse is vacant. After the recruitment process, Health Agent, Joyce Krystofolski is requesting the hiring of Ann Marie Stasinos.

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

> VOTE: I move to appoint Ann Marie Stasinos to the position of Public Health Nurse a less than part time, Grade 6, Step7, position within Wage and Personnel Bylaw with the Health Department with an anticipated start date of November 24, 2025, contingent with the terms in the offer letter.

Appointment to Waterfront Committee – Sean Hagan

Mr. Crone stated there is a vacancy on the committee. At their last meeting on November 4th the committee voted to recommend the appointment to the Board.

Motion by Ms. Bateman, seconded by Mr. Pike and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call

VOTE: I move to appoint Sean Hagan to the Waterfront Committee effectively immediately through June 30, 2027.

Acceptance of Donation

Mr. Crone read that the Fire Department received the following donation and is requesting the Board accept.
2005 Cadillac Escalade from Kathleen Hildebrandt

Motion by Mr. Pike, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call

VOTE: I move to accept the donation of a 2005 Cadillac Escalade from Kathleen Hildebrandt to be used for auto extrication and stabilization training.

Appointment of COA Van Driver – Cindy Mace

Mr. Crone read that currently, there is a vacancy for a COA van driver. Upon completion of the recruitment process, COA Director Holly Nighelli is recommending Cindy Mace to fill the position.

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

VOTE: I move to appoint Cindy Mace to the position of COA Van Driver a Grade 3, Step 3, nonexempt position within KTEU Labor with the Council on Aging Department with an anticipated start date of November 24, 2025, contingent with the terms in the offer letter.

Update on Department of Public Works/MOU

Mr. Crone stated that they are no longer going to pursue a DPW and are moving forward with MOU, the Sewer Department reviewed it at their meeting this evening, minor changes were made but nothing substantial.

Approval of Open Session Meeting Minutes — September 9, 2025, and November 4, 2025

There was no discussion.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the Open Session Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2025, and November 4, 2025, as presented.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Samia commented on trying to budget projections with the Finance Director, as a start. Mr. Pike is meeting with Mr. Samia this week.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Ms. Emberg EV Charging Station following up with the up the Facilities Director and the topic may come before
New sign on the front of the Town House

Ms. Bateman Silver Lake Regionalization meeting has been moved to early January, approval until 2026 with the Grant, moving forward with sub committees.

Motion by Mr. Pike by Ms. Bateman a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call

VOTE: I move to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker
Assistant to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen

<u>Documents used at the meeting:</u>
Agenda
Agenda Addendum
Presentation and Public Hearing Notice – Classification of Tax Purposes
5K request
Appointment Information
Donation
Minutes