

TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES
October 25, 2011

Chairman Richard J. Arruda opened the meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on October 25, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 200 at the Town House, 26 Evergreen Street, Kingston. Present were Vice Chairman Joseph F. Casna, Jr., Mark S. Beaton, Ronald A. Gleason and Sandra D. MacFarlane.

The Chairman announced the Open Forum and no one came forward to speak.

Tom Bolus, Deputy Shellfish Constable was present to request that the Board amend the Shellfish Regulations as follows;

- To extend the amount of rainfall to ½ inch before closing
- To close due to rain for three days instead of five days

Mr. Bolus stated that the Board would have to inform the Division of Marine Fisheries if they change the regulation so that additional monitoring and testing can be conducted.

Upon motion made by Mr. Beaton and seconded by Mr. Casna, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To request the Division of Marine Fisheries to conduct more testing and amend the amount of rainfall to ½ inch before closing and to close for three days instead of five due to rain.

Mr. Gleason stated that he had a meeting with NStar regarding the pole relocations proposed for the Elm Street Bridge Replacement. He stated that moving the poles was necessary during construction and that after the construction; the Town could locate the wires under the bridge rather than on the poles. The Board reviewed the request submitted jointly by Verizon and NStar for approval for the relocation of the poles. Mr. Arruda stated that this action was not a public hearing. Upon motion made by Mr. Beaton and seconded by Mr. Gleason, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To approve the relocation of facilities and poles-13/9, 13/9S, 13/10 and 13/11 on Elm Street.

Mr. Beaton stated he attended the groundbreaking at the MBTA Overlay Yard for the 1.3 MW Wind Turbine being constructed at the site. He stated that he spoke with Secretary Davies about the installation of the EV Charging Station at the Commuter Parking Lot. He requested that the Board support sending a letter to Mr. Davies reiterating the Board's desire to have the Charging Station at the Commuter Parking Lot.

Mr. Beaton also updated the Board on the status of the efforts to transport Kingston's Wind Turbine to the landfill site.

Dennis Randall came forward and express his interest in filling the vacancy on the Council on Aging. The other candidate Janet King was enroute to the meeting. Linda Felix spoke on her behalf and stated that

she was a volunteer who worked at the front desk at the Senior Center and that both candidates would be great assets. Mr. Gleason suggested waiting to make a decision until Ms. King could speak for herself.

The Board reviewed the letter from the COA Board recommending the appointment of Mr. Randall.

Upon motion made by Ms. MacFarlane and seconded by Mr. Gleason, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To appoint Ed Tamulionis as the Citizen at Large on the Renewable Energy Grant and Loan Committee.

Upon motion made by Mr. Beaton and seconded by Mr. Gleason, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To waive the ambulance fee as requested in the amount of \$340.92 due to a financial hardship.

The Board review the Staff Report. Items discussed were;

NSTAR Meeting

Ms. Howlett along with Chief Rebello, Chief Heath, Supt. of Streets, Trees and Parks; Paul Basler, Water Supt. Matt Darsch, and Sewer Supt. Ken Vandal, and Building Inspector Paul Armstrong met with NStar Executives to discuss the Town's concerns with NStar's response during and after Hurricane Irene. Chief Rebello and Chief Heath advised the group of their departments' experiences during the storm and lack of response by NStar to calls for assistance. During the discussion it was determined that the central dispatchers utilize a pre-programmed number on the dispatch console to contact NStar during emergencies. Due to the large call volume, messages left at that location were not effectively being handled by NStar. NStar had provided a hurricane disaster number to the Town, via email, over several days up until the storm. Due to the nature of the storm, staffing, the use of the pre-programmed number, and lack of power, that number to reach the Community Relations Department was not utilized by emergency personnel when contacting NStar. It is unknown whether using the hurricane disaster number would have changed the outcome of the impact to Kingston. But through a very productive meeting, many options were discussed including; the possibility of an NStar liaison being assigned to the Town when a major storm or condition is predicted, training for dispatcher during their E911 recertification every two years, training for Fire Personnel in identifying live wires, the enhancement of tree and vegetation trimming on an on-going basis. A follow-up meeting will be planned at a date in the future.

Budget Planning

Departments are busy completing their FY2013 Budget Requests, due to the Town Administrator on November 3rd. The Budget Advisory Committee voted to request that all departments submit level service budgets for personal services and departmental expenses. (taking into consideration contractual obligations). Any request for new additional items are listed separately and not made part of the budget request. Following review of the budget submittals, the Board and Finance Committee will be reviewing budgets with Departments. A schedule for the Board's meetings with Departments will be formulated by Mr. Thomas.

New Town Administrator James Thomas

Ms. Howlett stated the following; “that during the time period between Ms. Goldsmith’s departure and Mr. Thomas’ arrival, I assumed additional duties authorized by the Board of Selectmen. We all anticipated this interim time period would be a relatively quiet time but then there was Hurricane Irene. At times, combining the additional duties with my own seemed a little overwhelming and I admit, I was a bit challenged. But in the end, with the help of staff and wonderful department heads I am very grateful to have had the experience. While I feel I am at the end of one path, I am also looking forward to the next and the new challenges and experiences it will bring. Mr. Thomas commences employment with the Town next Monday and he will be the fourth Town Administrator during my nearly 20 year tenure. I look forward to his arrival and working with him in serving the residents of Kingston”.

Mr. Gleason provided an update of work being done at the Faunce School.

Janet King arrived and advised the Board of her interest in serving on the COA Board.

Ms. MacFarlane stated that both were very good candidates and that at the last appointment, when Mr. Randall was not appointed, she stated she would support him for the next vacancy. Mr. Casna nominated Mr. Randall, seconded by Ms. MacFarlane and Mr. Gleason nominated Ms. King, seconded by Mr. Beaton. Upon roll-call vote; Mr. Gleason and Mr. Beaton voted for Ms. King and Mr. Casna, Ms. MacFarlane and Mr. Arruda voted for Mr. Randall. Mr. Randall was voted to fill the vacancy on the Council on Aging Board.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gleason and seconded by Ms. MacFarlane, it was—

VOTED: To adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Nancy M. Howlett
Assistant to the Town Administrator/
Board of Selectmen