

TOWN OF KINGSTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES  
January 30, 2007

Chairman Joseph D. Kelleher opened the meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on January 30, 2007 at 6:00p.m. in Room 200 at the Town House, 26 Evergreen Street, Kingston. Present were Paul M. Gallagher, Sandra D. MacFarlane, Jean M. Landis-Naumann and Town Administrator Kevin R. Donovan. Mr. Beaton was absent.

The Chairman announced that the State of the Town presentation would commence forthwith and invited Treasurer John LaBrache to begin. Mr. LaBrache as well as Police Chief Joseph Rebello, Fire Chief Robert Heath, Superintendent of Streets, Trees and Parks Paul Basler, Sewer Commissioner Elaine Fiore, and Town Planner Thomas Bott each gave a ten minute presentation about their respective departments.

The Chairman thanked the participants for their presentations. Mrs. Landis-Naumann thanked the participants and stated that it was very informative and asked those in attendance and people watching at home to call the Selectmen's office with some feedback as to whether the presentation was worth the effort.

At 7:00 p.m. the Board took a ten minute break.

Upon returning to the meeting, the Chairman announced the Open Forum. No one came forward to speak at Open Forum.

Mr. Gallagher announced the presentation being sponsored by Kingston Secure Energy Future Committee and Ms. MacFarlane announced that the Conservation Land Review Committee was fully staffed and would hold its first meeting on February 14, 2007.

Robert Koska, Chairman of the Water Commissioners was present for an appointment with the Board. Mr. Koska stated that his purpose in meeting with the Board was to respond to statements made at a previous Board meeting relating to the Water Department's surplus revenue (free cash). He stated that as he had explained at previous Town Meetings to the satisfaction of the tax payers that the surplus revenue would be used to reduce borrowing for future source development, system upgrades, and the I86 well site. He further stated that the surplus revenue belonged to the rate payers and not to be used to balance the budget. Mr. Koska stated that it was the Commissioners job to plan for the future and that the Board of Selectmen should stop creating a divisive atmosphere.

Mr. Gallagher stated that Mr. Koska had based his prepared comments on what others told him was said at the last meeting and that he (Mr. Koska) had not viewed the meeting himself. Mr. Gallagher further stated that there would be a tough fiscal burden placed on the tax payers and to alleviate some of the burden some of the excess money should be returned to the rate payers. He further stated that the Board did not discuss using the surplus water revenue to off-set the

deficit. Mr. Gallagher advised that it was the Boards responsibility to help lead the Town and as elected officials they were doing their job with the financial policy and procedure.

Mr. Koska stated that since the comments were made by the Board in public and he wanted to air his grievance in public on the issues of free cash and that is the reason he did not call to discuss it with any members of the Board.

Mr. Gallagher stated that at the meeting with Treasurer John LaBrache, Mr. LaBrache was asked at what amount should a cap be placed on the Water Department surplus revenue account.

Mr. Koska stated that it was the Commissioners job to manage the Water Department and that last year at the Town Meeting, they attempted to get approval for development of a well and that there was no quorum. He further stated that the money would come from the Water Department surplus revenue and that as an elected official he had a responsibility to the Water Department to do a good job.

Mr. Gallagher stated that he had not questioned whether or not they had done a good job and that the question was whether or not there should be a cap on surplus revenue. He added that no one said or implied that there had been mismanagement.

Mrs. Landis-Naumann thanked Mr. Koska for coming to the meeting to illuminate the Board on the purpose of surplus revenue and that as a former member of the Finance Committee, she and the members of the Finance Committee understood what the money is for. She added that she was most appreciative that he clarified and educated the Board on the matter in public. Mrs. Landis-Naumann also stated that she was sorry that the Water Department was not included in the State of the Town presentation.

Ms. MacFarlane stated that the issue on the surplus revenue was just a question to Mr. LaBrache and that they had not maligned the Water Department. She further stated that it was another case of the public airing of matters and questioned whether it occurred to him to call members of the Board rather than have an appointment to speak at the meeting. Ms. MacFarlane stated that they were in adversarial positions due to a misunderstanding and that it was upsetting that he had not contact anyone prior to setting up the meeting.

Mr. Gallagher thanked Mr. Koska for coming forward to respond. Mr. Koska stated that he wanted to establish a level of trust and that comments that had been made by the Board in public need a public response. He further advised that people that contacted him with an interpretation of the Boards comments asked him for an explanation. Mr. Gallagher stated that there was no issue with the use of the surplus revenue fund and that the Commissioners were certainly doing a good job. He stated that the only question was how much surplus revenue should be saved to invest in new wells.

Mr. Koska stated that a settlement that was received from Exxon went to the Town and he wanted to be sure that a precedent was not set and that he felt it necessary to defend the Water Department.

Mr. Gallagher stated that he did not appreciate comments from Mrs. Landis-Naumann which implied that he and Mr. Beaton did not understand the purpose of the Water Department surplus revenue funds. Ms. MacFarlane suggested inviting Mr. Koska back for a discussion on a future agenda because Mr. Beaton was absent. Mrs. Landis-Naumann stated she did not think it would be necessary.

The Board reviewed the Town Administrator's report. Items discussed were; Governor's state budget recommendations, request to consider policy for the sale of shellfish licenses and the status of a meeting being requested with Halifax and Plympton school representatives on the FY08 Budget.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 3 to 0 to 1 vote, it was –

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the January 16, 2007 meeting with the changes as provided in writing.

Mr. Kelleher abstained from voting because he was not present at the January 16, 2007 meeting.

The Board acknowledged the resignation of Thomas Calter from the Silver Lake Regional School Committee and declared that a vacancy exists. The Board discussed the time frame for filling the vacancy. Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 4 to 0 to 0 vote, it was –

VOTED: To advertise the vacancy and make the joint appointment at the February 13, 2007 meeting.

The Board reviewed the request from a resident to take the used playground equipment away from the Maple Street Fire Station. Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 4 to 0 to 0 vote, it was –

VOTED: To declare the equipment to be of no value and to allow Mr. Wainwright to take the equipment from the site.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 4 to 0 to 0 vote, it was –

VOTED: To appoint Fire Chief Robert T. Heath as Community Response Coordinator to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of retired Fire Chief David McKee.

The Board reviewed the list of potential candidates for the Boston Post Cane and concurred that the matter be postponed to a future meeting.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 4 to 0 to 0 vote, it was –

VOTED: To enter into executive session<sup>1</sup> for the purpose of discussing a financial assistance request.

Respectfully submitted:

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

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<sup>1</sup> The public session adjourned at 7:50 p.m. and the executive session adjourned at 8:00 p.m.