

Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 15th, 2025; 6:00 PM Webster Hall 38 School Street

Attendance

Municipal Officers: Hunter Lander, Wade Browne, Chris Rushton, Morgan Dunham, Kim Jordan

Municipal Staff: Leanna Targett (Town Manager), Travis Targett (Wastewater Superintendent)

Public: Susan Davis, Jeff Maget, Julie Swain,

Via Zoom: Penny Hall

Absent:

Chairman Lander calls the meeting to order.

The board reviews meeting minutes from August 18, 2025 . Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Selectmen Browne. All in Favor.

The next item is to open a Public Hearing for the new General Assistance Ordinance Maximums.

Motion by Selectman Browne to recess Selectmen's meeting to open a public hearing for General Assistance. Second by Selectman Dunham. All in Favor.

Chairman Lander states that pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4305(1), the municipal officers of the Municipality of Kingfield, after notice and hearing, will hereby enact the provided General Assistance Ordinance with appendices in its entirety. This Ordinance shall supersede and replace all previous Ordinance versions. A copy of this Ordinance will be filed with the Maine Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4305(4) and shall be available for public inspection at the municipal office along with a copy of 22 M.R.S. chapter 1161. Chairman Lander explains that there are income guidelines to follow.

Chairman Lander asks for any public comment.

Mary Ann Bergeron asks who establishes the rates. TM, Targett states that it is done by the state provided by DHHS.

Hearing no additional public comment Selectman Dunham makes a motion to close the public hearing and to return to the selectman meeting. Seconded by Selectman Browne. All in Favor.

Selectmen Browne makes a motion to approve and sign the new General Assistance Ordinance with appendices in its entirety as provided. Seconded by Selectman Dunham. All in favor.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Chairman Lander moves into reviewing a supplemental tax bill for tree growth penalty. Selectman Browne makes a motion to accept and sign as presented. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. All in favor.

Board then reviews a accept tax abatement for duplicate account. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept and sign as presented. Seconded by Selectman Rushton. All in favor.

Board reviews two tax abatements that were billed in error. Selectman Browne makes a motion to accept and sign as presented. Seconded by Selectman Dunham. All in favor.

Board reviews a supplemental commitment for a sewer account that was not billed. Selectman Browne makes a motion to accept and sign as presented. Seconded by Selectman Rushton. All in favor.

Board reviews a new RFP for realtor services. Selectman Browne makes a motion to accept and sign as presented. Seconded by Selectman Dunham. All in favor.

Board reviews new RFP for revaluation of real property. Selectman Browne makes a motion to accept and sign as presented. Seconded by Selectman Dunham. All in favor.

Board reviews the changes provided by the planning board on a newly created sign ordinance. TM, Targett explains that she needs to know how the board wishes to handle the changes. Selectman Browne states that it was created by our lawyer and he feels the due diligence was already done. He does not feel that we need extras added in and suggests that we run with how she has it. He asks if the changes are defensible. TM, Targett says we will not know that unless we send it back to her. Selectman Jordan feels that the planning board may have overstepped their bounds again. Selectman Dunham states that she feels it is unnecessary as we already paid the town attorney and her assistant for this. TM, Targett suggests that Clay, the planning board chair is requested to attend an upcoming meeting to explain the changes. Board agrees that this would be a good idea.

Town Manager Updates/Discussion:

TM, Targett states she has an item that should be discussed tonight due to timing. She states that if the vote passes on Tuesday the following will need to happen: Step 5: If residents of the municipality vote favorably on the petition for withdrawal, the town clerk shall immediately give written notices, by registered mail, to the secretary of the regional school unit (in a regional school unit the Superintendent of Schools serves as the secretary per Title 20-A MRS §1055) and to the Commissioner of Education, which shall include: A. The petition (article) adopted by the voters, including the affirmative and negative votes cast; and B. An explanation by the municipal officers, stating to the best of their knowledge the reason or reasons why the municipality seeks to withdraw from the regional school unit. TM Targett says my concern is the "immediately give notice." We do not have another meeting scheduled until October 6th which is 19 days after the vote. In an effort to be on top of this and not schedule another meeting in September I suggest we discuss this tonight I have drafted a letter on behalf on the board for review. TM Targett says if the vote does not pass this letter can be tossed. TM Targett says the next step will then be Step 6: The Commissioner shall direct the municipal officers of the petitioning municipality to establish a Withdrawal Committee to develop a Withdrawal Agreement per Title 20-A MRS §1466(4.A). The Four Member Withdrawal Committee shall include members appointed as follows: A. One member from the municipal officers. B. One member from the general public. C. One member from the group filing the petition. D. One member of the regional school unit board who represents that municipality. TM Targett says Step 6 will be done

after we hear from the commissioner which will hopefully be in October. Board reviews letter. Selectman Browne makes a motion to sign and directs the town manager to hold until a yes vote is confirmed. Seconded by Selectman Dunham. All in Favor.

Selectmen Discussion:

The board takes note that Selectman Browne and Selectman Dunham will be away during the boards next scheduled meeting October 6th.

Public Comment/Other (not for new business):

John Goldfrank is recognized. John says what he hopes will happen on 10/6, before we get more rain, at the boards convenience he asks that they each park and walk down along the lawn area and check out the damage created by the December 2023 storm. John says you could save unanswered questions if you take a look there. John says the town took ownership of the dam in 1991 and a rock wall that wiped out Mill Street. John suggests that the board look from the bridge at all the sod/loam that has been undermined. Chairman Browne asks John who owns the property. Chairman Browne states that abutting owners own to the center of the river. John says with the Mill Pond there have been documented damages over the years what was a wood structure dam became a concrete dam. The retaining wall was built by the town and there is a history of the town maintain that area in the past. The sluice wall is the towns; my deed is just the lawn area. Selectman Browne asks who owns the damaged area. Selectman Browne says the town owns the dam. John says it is not the middle; it specifies the embankment. Selectman Browne asks again who owns the property in question. John says it is irrelevant now. John states that it will take three board members to make a change and on October 6th he only needs three minutes of the board's time. He says that he plans to touch on other areas that need repair. Selectman Rushton asks John how he feels if the State comes in and rips the dam out. John says he does not care.

John notes that under work in progress he sees that there is mention of the culvert on West Kingfield Road. He asks if the state is forcing us to repair it. Selectman Browne states that we have had two engineers look at it, we have reviewed the states reports and we do not have the funding to repair it at this time. It is not that bad. John says he just wants to be certain we are not forced to do something without pushing back as maybe we could get grant funds.

John says next is a touchy subject, the board discussed the sign ordinance and how there are no funds in budget, he does not agree to the way to come up with those dollars in budget but wants to point out that the board will need to prove how they made the cuts. Certain things are being cut, and he is concerned about the future generation of town not being passive.

Sue Davis questions the planters as there is a frost expected and wonders if the town will empty the barrels. The board states that it would be best if the volunteers that put them in emptied them back out. Sue states that Polly MacMichael has offered to store them for the winter. Board directs Sue to return them to the caretaker garage as they are town property.

Selectman Browne makes a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6) A - personnel matter. Discussion with Town Manager on hiring protocols. No motion is made following executive session.

Selectman Dunham makes a motion to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Selectman Rushton. All in Favor.

**The minutes provided above are a summary. The Town meets record management requirements and retention schedules by maintaining permanent records of electronic recordings of meetings to satisfy the requirements of §403-A. Minutes by Leanna Targett.*