

Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 17, 2026; 6:00 PM Webster Hall 38 School Street

Attendance

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

Municipal Staff: Travis Targett (Wastewater Superintendent)

Public: Claudia Diller, Susan Davis, Mary Ann Bergeron, Steve Yates, Charlie Woodworth, Renee Whitley

Via Zoom: Leanna Targett (Town Manager)., Danielle Mathieu

Absent: Hunter Lander

Vice Chairman Dunham calls the meeting to order.

The board agrees that the acceptance of meeting minutes should be tabled until the March 2nd meeting.

Old Business:

The board reviews a Social Media Policy. Selectman Rushton makes a motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Selectman Browne. All in Favor.

New Business:

Charlie Woodworth, Executive Director Greater Franklin Economic & Community Development is recognized to provide an update. Charlie says that by December of 2022, new fiber networks had reached 75% of Franklin County residents. Today, 96% of all business and residents can now connect to a fiber network for the same cost or less than DSL or cable.

Charlie says we have been successful with our work on digital skills training, childcare, and workforce housing. We are in Year 4 of our successful partnership with Franklin County and Spruce Mtn Adult Eds. Greater Franklin competes for state and federal funds which support the hiring of staff and equipment purchase to teach residents in every community how to use the internet safely and efficiently. Since January 2023, classes have been taught in thirteen libraries and community centers, including Webster Library, the Jail, HCC's Recovery Center, their Food Bank and Seniors Plus. Our work is expanding into the high school computer and robotics clubs.

Charlie says childcare has been of concern in our county, current slots meet 50% of the need. This is a significant factor in preventing parents from re-entering the workforce. We are working with towns, businesses, non-profits, and citizen leaders to create additional spaces for children and families. Childcare Center projects to be completed in 2025 are in Kingfield, Freeman, Farmington, and Rangeley. These will add 185 slots against the need of 740. This represents \$6.9M of public and private investment.

Lastly is on work with workforce housing. The town of Rangeley is working with a private developer that is building 18 single family homes. Along the Rt 27 Corridor, the town of Carrabassett Valley wants to partner on WF housing. Both projects are focused on people who work in and want to live in these communities.

Charlie Woodworth introduces Renee Whitley of Children's Task Force. Renee provides the board and public with data covering Seniors Plus, Andwell Health Partners, Franklin County Adult and

Community Education, Franklin County Children's Task Force, Sexual Assault and Prevention and Western Maine Community Action. Renee explains that she has been the Executive Director for 25 years. She explains that a new 40-slot childcare system will be opening in Farmington. Franklin County has a need for quality childcare. 50% of parents in this area travel south for work, 20% north and the rest work here locally.

The new center will be a 6,000 building with the other being for Workhouse development. We have been doing a lot with Adult Education with Bath Iron Works and CNAs to get certifications for a high paying job or as she likes to say a "living wage." We have been doing an after-school program in Kingfield that 35 kids are enrolled in, a summer program for Strong, Kingfield and Phillips that has an average of 65 kids we are in our second cycle which is year seven. We also have offered more home visiting services for anyone from parenting advice to supervised visitation services. We truly try to respond to what the community needs.

The board moves into discussing an engineering proposal for Maple Street and Cedar Street. The board reads the proposal and agrees to review and discuss it at the next board meeting. TM, Targett explains that it is for engineering plans for Maple Street, Cedar Street and Christen Road. The scope is for culvert replacements, milling, and paving. Cost is approximately \$19,900 to \$30,700 and does not include Construction administration which could be added at a later date. TM, Targett explains that she would like to have the engineering plans completed in advance of a decision of funding.

Board reviews and signs the deed for David Holmes property.

Town Manager Updates/Discussion:

TM Targett says that she is working on the culvert/lander bridge on the West Kingfield road and is looking at the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund (MIAF) which rolls out in March. She would like the board to consider a 10% match in funding instead of the mandatory 5% as it may make for a better/stronger application. TM Targett reminds the board that the cost for the concrete structure could be \$450-\$800,000. At 10% match would be \$45,000 to \$80,000.00. This is still minimal compared to the total cost. Selectman Browne asks if the lining could be considered instead of the concrete structure. TM, Targett said she would need to follow-up with that answer. Board agrees to discuss more at the first meeting in March.

TM, Targett asks the board to consider a work session in March. She suggests a Wednesday for one hour March 11, 18 or 25 to bring the TIF Grant discussions back into play. Board agrees to Wednesday the 18th at 5:30.

Selectmen Discussion:

Selectman Browne asks Travis is a suitable location has been found for the pump track. Travis says not yet, he believes the group may be waiting until the snow is gone to look at locations.

Selectman Jordan explains that the School Options committee has been real busy dealing with the 43-page 22 step process. She believes it has been or soon will be sent to the Superintendent for review. Selectman Jordan says we have started a budget, yet which will need to be sent to DOE. It really is an interesting process, and Kathy has taken on a huge workload. It truly is a lot of work in a little time.

Selectman Jordan says she also wants to remind everyone of the winter festival this Saturday at 2:00 pm.

Selectman Browne notes that the SnoWanderers breakfast this past weekend was well attended.

Public Comment/Other (not for new business):

Claudia Diller asks for clarification on the cost of engineering.

Sue Davis asks if there is already wastewater infrastructure in the area that was looked at for a pump track, which Travis Targett says yes.

Selectman Browne 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.*