

**Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday October 5, 2026; 6:00 PM Webster Hall 38 School Street**

**Attendance**

**Municipal Officers:** Morgan Dunham, Chris Rushton, Dave Davol and Kim Jordan

**Municipal Staff:** Leanna Targett (Town Manager).

**Public:** Wade Browne, Kim Robinson, Tom Wiencek, Bill Swain, Sue Davis, Claudia Diller, Chris Talmage, Jeff Maget, Kate Simson, Adam Craig, Chuck LeBlanc, and Chris LeBlanc

**Zoom:** Danielle Mathieu and Marie Daigle

Chairman Dunham calls the meeting to order. Meeting minutes from September 21, 2026 are reviewed. Selectmen Rushton makes a motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. All in favor.

**PUBLIC HEARING – GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE MAXIMUMS**

Motion by Selectman Jordan to recess the Selectmen's meeting to open a public hearing for General Assistance. Second by Selectman Davol.

Chairman Dunham reads aloud: Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4305(1), the municipal officers of the Municipality of Kingfield, after notice and hearing, will hereby enact the attached 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 Dunham explains that there are income guidelines to follow. Franklin County income limits if approved will be: 1 person \$1,002.00, 2 persons \$1,109.00, 3 persons \$1,454.00, 4 persons \$1,925.00, 5 persons \$1,933.00

Chairman Dunham asks for any public comment.

Hearing no public comment, she deems the public hearing closed and the Selectmen's meeting is reopened.

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

**Old Business:**

Board agrees to change the public hearing date from Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> to Monday October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Board discusses scheduling 4–6-hour work session. Planned for Monday October 26<sup>th</sup> from 5-7.

## **New Business:**

Discuss inviting NP selectman to meeting to consider withdrawal from MSAD 74. Selectman Jordan says that this is something that has been brought up a lot over the years, and rightfully so. I do want to make it clear, though, that this is not to say that we do not support superintendent agreements, because we do support them. And how it works is, right now, we can — so superintendent agreements, we have 19. The way it works right now is we get we get to include them in our enrollment. So therefore, we get to. We do receive the State, some of the State revenue on them. The only piece that does not follow them are the towns. That is the portion of their taxes that gets paid to the town. The monies from the town do not follow the student. If New Portland were to withdraw, which this has been brought up with them a few times, if they were to withdraw from SAD 74. and basically, they would be like Lexington Highland kids. They could go through the withdrawal process with the State, and then they would just pay us the tuition. You know the State tuition rate to tuition their kids here, and the advantage of it for them is, you know, a lot of these. Families get anxious every year that their child's superintendent agreement might not be because it has to be has to be approved by the sending school, and it has to be approved by the incoming school. So, they always have that anxiety every year that they are not going to get a superintendent approval and this would eliminate that. And again, it is just to sit down, talk to their select board and have a conversation with them and try to get it. you know, to move forward. I will say, going through this whole withdrawal process for us has been very time-consuming and tedious, but that is because we have had to do, you know, a lot of negotiating. We have had to negotiate for the, you know, we had a school that would include, you know, creating the budget and all that, but they would not have to go through all of that. It would be a fairly simple process for them to do it. So again, it is just to sit down at the table and get their thoughts. Selectman Jordan says that Kim Robinson has really spearheaded it. She has done a lot of the research on, too. Kim Robinson says it is 19 kids, pre-K through 8, which would be the new school if the withdrawal passes. So, there is more. We have had just over 30 and just under 30 superintendent agreements from that Route 27 corridor from. t represents about 40% of their population, give or take. You know that is a pretty significant number of. If they chose to withdraw their money would follow their kids, so it would go to programming or whatever. It is about 20%. So, the population at the new school, if that passes, that is a pretty significant number of local dollars for Kingfield to taxpayers to absorb. I call it subsidized because that's kind of what we are going to do. So, since they do not have a school in New Portland, they would not have. How long would that take to withdraw from? I do not know, but I would. be far less than what Kingfield and Stratton did, because they are not building a budget. They are not going to try to hire teachers. The board continues to discuss the issue of superintendent agreements and proposed that New Portland should withdraw from SAD 74 to allow their funding to follow their students, similar to other towns. It was explained that this would simplify the process for New Portland families and address the current situation where they send approximately 30 students (representing about 40% of their population) to Kingfield school while losing local funding. The selectmen agreed to invite New Portland selectmen to a public meeting in November to discuss this proposal further. The whole point of this is that the money follows the kid. Right now, we get no money.

Discuss resident request for the board to reconsider public participation policy. Claudia Diller is recognized. I did not really know how to present this, but it was prompted by the trying to fill the select

board seat. And then a vote that was taken. And I felt like, um...the public, we have been sitting here listening to this after you discussed your views on whether or not to hold a special election that it would have been nice if we could have commented. Before he voted. So, I am not saying that this would happen all the time, but in situations as critical as this, and this is a big decision, because if you did not vote or had that special election, we would not have a fifth select board member for 10 months. Which is unacceptable, really, because the voters voted to have 5 select people. Uh, on top of which, you cannot break a tie. A tie always fails, which is kind of unfair. Why doesn't it pass? I never understood that. So in in special cases where there is a critical vote like this, is it possible to either. At the beginning of the meeting, say, okay, we are going to discuss this, and then we are going to let the public have something to say, and then you are going to vote, or do not vote until The public speaks at the end of the meeting. Because I really felt like it was important that we explain to you that we, you know had voted for a five-member select board. It was not happening. Town Manager Targett explains that we have tried public comment at the beginning of meetings and at the end. However, it does say in our policy that the chair of the board can decide to take public comment as... as they see fit. So, in amongst our meeting. The law is clear that we do not have to allow public comment. It is suggested that we do, and a lot of times it has done at the end of a meeting. That is part of the reason why, generally speaking, when we have new items, we do not vote on them at the first meeting, because we discuss them, we hear from the public, and then we vote on them at the next meeting. We've kind of gone back and forth for years. I mean, it has always been listed at the end. Sometimes we do hear from them while we are discussing stuff because we do want their input before we vote, but not always. Chairman Dunham explains that the board has an agenda it must get through and hearing the same thing repeated from the same people is not constructive. Following further discussion, a statement was made from the public that the board will never be able to make everyone happy. Sue Davis reminds Claudia that the chair has the decision at any point to allow public comment. No changes are being made to the policy however the Chair will continue to consider public comment during the meeting if it is beneficial.

Chairman Dunham asks the board to consider the sewer commitment covering October 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 as it was not listed on the agenda. Board reviews the commitment. Selectman Jordan makes a motion to approve. Seconded by Selectman Davol. All in favor.

**Town Manager Updates/Discussion:** None

**Selectmen Discussion:** None

**Public Comment/Other (not for new business):** None

Selectman Jordan 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.*