

December 15th, 2025

The Town of Kingsbury held its Town Board Meeting on Monday December 15th, 2025 at the Town of Kingsbury Town Hall located at 6 Michigan Street.

Present: Supervisor Hogan
Councilman Akins
Councilman Lindsay

Absent: Councilman Washburn
Councilman Haessly

Also Present: Jeffrey Meyer, Town Attorney
Mason Leonard, Highway Superintendent
Todd Humiston, DCO/CEO
Ross Cortese, CEO
Scott Lindsay
Mike LaRose
David Meager
Dustn Hall
Ron Atkinson

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Supervisor Hogan and opened for business with the Pledge of Allegiance by Councilman Akins.

I. Budget Transfers

GF/WT	FROM:	CLERK - PERSONAL SERVICES	1.1410.1	\$	300.00
	TO:	CLERK - CONTRACTUAL	1.1410.4	\$	300.00
	PURPOSE:	ANTICIPATED YEAR-END NEEDS			
GF/PT	FROM:	ZONING - PERSONAL SERVICES	2.8010.1	\$	50.00
	TO:	ZONING - CONTRACTUAL	2.8010.4	\$	50.00
	PURPOSE:	ANTICIPATED YEAR-END NEEDS			
HWY/PT	FROM:	CHIPS-EQUIPMENT	4.5112.2	\$	4,000.00
	TO:	GENERAL REPAIRS - PERSONAL SERVICES	4.5110.1	\$	4,000.00
	PURPOSE:	ANTICIPATED YEAR-END NEEDS			
WATER	FROM:	ADMINISTRATION - PERSONAL SERVICES	7.8310.1	\$	4,000.00
	TO:	ADMINISTRATION - CONTRACTUAL	7.8320.4	\$	4,000.00
	PURPOSE:	ANTICIPATED YEAR-END NEEDS			

A motion by Councilman Lindsay and seconded by Councilman Akins and carried by a vote of 3 ayes to approve the budget transfers.

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Comprehensive Plan Amendment: The board authorized signing an amendment for the comprehensive plan to finalize state reimbursement, including identified Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) goals.

Draft Fund Balance Policies: Two draft policies (Fund Balance and Reserve Fund Balance) were presented for review and will be voted on in January as a follow-up to a state audit.

December 1st Minutes: The minutes for the December 1st meeting were not yet available and will be addressed at the next meeting.

II. Municipal Insurance Review Dave Meager from Amsure Insurance provided an annual review of the town's insurance coverage with the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR).

NYMIR Overview:

NYMIR is an insurance company owned by its member towns and villages (Kingsbury is a part-owner).

It's not self-insurance but uses reinsurance for backup and pays smaller claims from member contributions.

NYMIR has insured 900 towns and villages for 30 years, specializing in upstate New York.

NYMIR's Strengths:

It covers replacement costs for dump trucks over 10 years old, a benefit not typically offered by other carriers (e.g., 20-year-old trucks covered at \$300,000 replacement cost). Other carriers limit this to 10 years, then switch to depreciated value.

Lower deductibles for medical payments, public officials' liability, flood/earthquake, and mutual aid.

Offers a "disappearing deductible" for property claims over \$50,000.

Provides extensive free training and webinars (e.g., sexual harassment, new annual computer training as of Jan 1st).

NYMIR's "Achilles' Heel": Potable Water Coverage:

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NYMIR's potable water coverage is limited, requiring an event to start at an identified time and place and end within 48 hours. It's capped at \$1 million and not covered by the umbrella policy, making it not broad coverage.

Exploration of Alternatives:

Selective: Quote was "completely out of the ballpark" (too expensive).

Another Municipal Carrier: Initial quote looked good, but their potable water coverage was also limited (7 days, not broad).

Houston Casualty: Offers broad potable water coverage, including umbrella.

Board's Dilemma & Direction: The board must weigh the benefits of NYMIR's comprehensive coverage (especially on older equipment and services) against its limited potable water coverage. They will consult with the town attorney and decide by January for their April policy renewal, acknowledging a potential 8% increase from NYMIR regardless. The consensus leans against losing valuable existing coverages.

III. Legal Update

Sewer District Map Planning Report:

The town is starting a map planning report process for a new sewer district.

The discussion revolved around the scope: whether to keep the broad, shaded area from a previous study or shrink it to only existing sewer areas (red-hatched).

Shrinking the scope would reduce study costs and potential objections, but a larger district could offer economies of scale.

The board decided to proceed with the broader map for the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to keep the process moving, noting that adjustments can be made later.

Zoning Amendments (Local Law 2):

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A Type 1 SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) environmental assessment form was completed.

The board issued a negative declaration, indicating no significant environmental impact.

The county's comments included a suggestion to create a map for the zoning changes, which the board agreed to do.

The proposed Local Law 2 was formally adopted with a motion by Councilman Akins and seconded by Councilman Lindsay and carried by a vote of 3 ayes.

IV. Department Reports & Public Comment

Dog Control: Todd Humiston, the current Dog Control Officer, is transitioning to Town Justice effective January 1st/2nd. A new Dog Control Officer has been approved, and a replacement for Todd is being interviewed.

Highway: Mason presented a 284 agreement for \$536,500 for capital improvements and general repairs across 52.75 miles of town roads, requiring board signatures.

Public Comment (Ron - Biosolids Moratorium):

Ron provided an update on his efforts to secure a moratorium on spreading biosolids in Kingsbury at the Washington County Board of Supervisors.

He reported initial support at the Board of Supervisors, but pushback from the Washington County Sewer District Director, Kevin Gorman.

Gorman's claims: PFAS levels in compost are low (based on a test 1.5 years ago), the Kingsbury composting facility continues to process sludge (from Fort Edward, Hudson Falls, Lake George), and \$20,000 worth of composted sludge has been given to local farmers.

Ron has initiated FOIL requests for lab results, as Gorman did not provide specific figures. He states the DEC report indicates more compost is given away than sold.

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Ron expressed concern about the lack of regular testing (e.g., quarterly) at the facility and the surrounding wetlands, and the potential for increased costs if sludge cannot be composted/applied locally (Gorman estimated triple the cost for landfill disposal).

The Supervisor and board members raised concerns about the financial impact of a moratorium on county taxpayers (ratepayers) and the ubiquitous nature of PFAS (citing findings in "penguins in Antarctica"). They questioned if any Kingsbury farms are actually using the compost.

Ron emphasized the health risks associated with PFAS and requested the town's support for a state-level resolution for a five-year moratorium on biosolid land application. The Supervisor indicated he would consider Ron's request for privilege of the floor at the upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting.

V. Executive Session

The meeting concluded with a motion to enter executive session to discuss a legal matter at 7:46pm by Councilman Lindsay and seconded by Councilman Akins and followed by a vote of 3 ayes, with no further action anticipated afterward.

A motion by Councilman Akins and seconded by Councilman Lindsay and followed by a vote of 3 ayes to exit Executive session and adjourn at 7:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Paige Zahaba, Town Clerk