

**Kensington Town Deliberative Session**  
February 3, 2021 – 6:30pm  
Talbot Gymnasium, 30 Linden Street, Exeter NH 03833

In attendance: Selectman Joe Pace, Selectwoman Vanessa Rozier, Selectman Bob Solomon

At 6:38pm, Town Moderator Harold Bragg opened the Deliberative Session. The rules and format of the Deliberative Session were explained to the crowd.

**Article 01: Elect Officials**

**To choose all necessary Town Officials for the year ensuing.**

There was no discussion on Article 01.

**Article 02: Operating Budget**

**Shall the Town of Kensington raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$2,144,917 (two million one hundred forty-four thousand nine hundred and seventeen dollars)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,107,121 (two million one hundred and seven thousand one hundred and twenty-one dollars). The governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.**

**The Board unanimously recommends this appropriation.**

**The proposed operating budget is an increase of \$186,751 from the budget adopted last year of \$1,958,165. The net estimated impact is \$.476 per thousand dollars of valuation. (forty-seven point six cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)**

Chairman Pace explained that there is close to a 9% increase in the budget, a significant portion of which is due to items out of the Board's control including health insurance, trash and recycling, contract changes, and contributions to the state retirement system. The MS636 shows the breakouts of the numbers.

There were no questions from the public. Article 02 will move to Ballot as presented.

**Article 03: Accept Tannery Way as Town Road**

**To see if the town will vote to accept Tannery Way as a town road. The road has been inspected by the Town Engineer and Road Manager and meets the design and construction specifications in the town regulations. If accepted the road will be maintained by the town.**

**The Board unanimously recommends this article.**

**There is no tax impact for this warrant article.**

There were no questions from the public. Article 03 will move to Ballot as presented.

**Article 04: Establish Police Public Safety Revolving Fund**

**To see if the town will vote to establish a POLICE PUBLIC SAFETY REVOLVING FUND under the provisions of RSA 35-B:2 II for purchase police department items and related services. This will be funded by police operating revenue and/or appropriations of monies by warrant article. The balance of the funds will be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend.**

**The Board unanimously recommends this article.**

**There is no tax impact from this warrant article.**

There were no questions from the public. Article 04 will move to Ballot as presented.

#### **Article 05: Road Reconstruction**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$130,000 (one hundred thirty thousand dollars) for road reconstruction and maintenance of town roads. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation as per RSA 32.7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2022. This is in addition to the operating budget article.

The Board unanimously recommends this appropriation.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$0.331 per \$1,000 valuation. (thirty-three point one cents per thousand dollars of valuation)

There were no objections to David Buxton, Road Manager, speaking on this Article.

Jonathan Lavelle of 7 Palmer Drive asked for an explanation of how the funds for road reconstruction are used.

Mr. Buxton briefly explained the road reconstruction program for the upcoming year and that funds left over from his budget were used to lower the amount in the warrant article.

There were no further questions from the public. Article 05 will move to Ballot as presented.

#### **Article 06: Appropriate funds from fund balance for Fire and Emergency Services CRF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) to be placed in the Fire and Emergency Services Capital Reserve Fund. This amount is to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. These funds will be earmarked for the purchase, repair, upgrade, overhaul and/or retrofit of fire vehicles.

The Board unanimously recommends this appropriation.

There will be no tax impact from this appropriation.

Chairman Pace explained that any excess funds from the operating budget are moved to fund balance at the end of the year, but funds in the fund balance cannot be access unless by an action of the voters at the Town Meeting. The Board had decided that using fund balance for this article and the others the fund balance is used for, allows for the funds to continue to be saved for specific purpose, but without tax impact.

Taylor Florence of 3 Palmer Drive asked what the current balance of the fund balance is. Fund balance is currently approximately \$801,000.00.

There were no further questions from the public. Article 06 will move to Ballot as presented.

#### **Article 07: Appropriate to Fire and Emergency Services CRF**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$25,000 (twenty-five thousand Dollars) to be placed in the Fire and Emergency Services Capital Reserve Fund. These funds are earmarked to be used for upkeep, installation, and repair of hydrants and cisterns used for fire suppression activities in Kensington.

The Board unanimously recommends this appropriation.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.063 per \$1000 valuation. (six point three cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)

There were no questions from the public. Article 07 will move to Ballot as presented.

#### **Article 08: Police Department Vista Body Camera Replacement**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,555 (seventeen thousand five hundred fifty-five dollars) to purchase 8 (eight) WatchGuard Vista HD extended capacity body cameras with ballistic vest camera mounts and Wi-Fi docking station. These cameras will replace 8 (eight) WatchGuard Vista body cameras that were purchased in 2016, the serviceable life expectancies of which have expired.

The Board unanimously recommends this appropriation.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.044 per \$1000 valuation. (four point four cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)

There were no questions from the public. Article 08 will move to Ballot as presented.

**Article 09: Grange Hall Maintenance and Repairs**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars) for needed maintenance on the Grange Hall. This amount is to come from unassigned fund balance. The funds will be used for, but not limited to, replacing the shingles on the shed roof, doing necessary heating system maintenance, exterior painting, carpentry needed to replace rotten boards, exterior foundation work to improve pest control, and addressing items cited in the Safety Committee Report dated September 23, 2019.

The Board unanimously recommends this appropriation.

There will be no tax impact for this article

There were no questions from the public. Article 09 will move to Ballot as presented.

**Article 10: Add to Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,300 (six thousand three hundred dollars) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. This is the third of five annual installments, which will be used to pay the assessor's cost for the State of NH required revaluation due next in 2023. This is in addition to the operating budget article.

The Board unanimously recommends this appropriation.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.016 per \$1,000 valuation. (one point six cents per thousand dollars of valuation)

There were no questions from the public. Article 10 will move to Ballot as presented.

**Article 11: Build Out Analysis**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 (six thousand dollars) for the purpose of the governing body conducting a build out analysis for the town. This analysis would be a tool in the growth management process and would help the Town to be sufficiently prepared for potential future development.

The Board unanimously recommends this appropriation.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.015 per \$1,000 valuation. (one point five cents per thousand dollars of valuation)

Selectwoman Rozier explained that the purpose of a Build Out Analysis is to assist in the growth management process for the Town and to understand the potential implications of growth taking current regulations into consideration and could help to advise the Town as to how to change regulations to manage the potential growth.

Andy Roberts of 5 Wild Pasture Rd asked what the analysis entails. It was explained that it is a multi-tiered process that would evaluate the open land in town using GIS maps with different overlays such as wetlands, conservation areas, and other topography.

Peter Merrill of 275 North Haverhill Rd asked if the potential for ADUs would be included in the analysis as that would also have an impact on growth. It was noted the analysis does take into consideration current regulations and ADU's are permitted by current regulations, however it was not known specifically how the ADU potential would be factored in.

Dawn Frost of 129 South Rd asked if any type of Build Out Analysis been done in the past. To the Board's knowledge, there has not been a Build Out Analysis completed in the past.

Kyle Kiaunis of 6 Weare Rd asked if a vendor has already been selected. The Board explained the \$6,000.00 was based on a December 2019 proposal from the Rockingham Planning Commission.

Bob Hall of 101 Drinkwater Rd asked if there was any dialogue or agreements between other surrounding towns for similar projects. The Board explained this is only a study that would pertain to Kensington and would not take neighboring towns into consideration.

Dan Herring of 2 Trimble Trail asked why some articles have a tax impact and others do not because funds would come from the Fund Balance. Chairman Pace explained what the Fund Balance is and that the Board had to carefully consider what to use Fund Balance for as it should be kept above a certain level to be used in the event of an emergency. The articles the Board chose to utilize fund balance to fund were mainly ongoing investments and much of the money that went to fund balance this year was due to grants from Emergency Management, so the funds were applied to related articles.

There were no further questions from the public. Article 11 will move to Ballot as presented.

**Article 12: Purchase Police Department Storage Shed**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,595 (four thousand five hundred ninety-five dollars). To purchase a 12-foot x 16-foot woodshed for storage needed at the Kensington Police Department for equipment needed on site. The cost of the woodshed is \$3095.00 and additional \$1500.00 for land excavation for leveling the ground where the shed will be placed.

The Board unanimously recommends this appropriation.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.011 per \$1000 valuation. (one point one cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)

Cindy Heal of 47 Osgood Rd asked about the location of the shed. Chief Cain addressed the question, with permission from the voters, and explained this would be a prefabricated shed and the ground it is placed on would need to be leveled. He explained why the additional storage is needed and that the Heritage Commission had been consulted

Bob Hall of 101 Drinkwater Rd stated that as the Kensington representative to the Cooperative School Board, he suggests that Chief Cain look into having the Seacoast School of Technology students built the shed.

Jackie Benson of 156 Amesbury Rd asked that the Cemetery Trustees be kept informed as the location is very close to the cemetery.

*Bob Hall of 101 Drinkwater Rd made a motion to amend the article to include the following language, "The Town of Kensington would consult with The Seacoast School of Technology for construction of the storage shed by students for the Town of Kensington Police." Jen Macek of 8 Hidden Pasture Rd seconded. Moderator Bragg called a vote. The amendment passes and Article 12 will move to ballot as follows: **To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,595 (four thousand five hundred ninety-five dollars). To purchase a 12-foot x 16-foot woodshed for storage needed at the Kensington Police Department for equipment needed on site. The cost of the woodshed is \$3095.00 and additional \$1500.00 for land excavation for leveling the ground where the shed will be placed. The Town of Kensington would consult with The Seacoast School of Technology for construction of the storage shed by students for the Town of Kensington Police.***

There were no further questions from the public. Article 12 will move to Ballot as amended.

**Article 13: Appropriation to Fire and Emergency Services CRF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1077 (one thousand seventy-seven dollars) to be placed in the Fire and Emergency Services Capital Reserve Fund. This amount is to come from Unassigned Fund Balance and represents the total of all permit fees and inspections received by Kensington Fire Rescue throughout 2020. These funds will be earmarked for the purchase, repair, upgrade, overhaul and/or retrofit of fire vehicles.

The Board unanimously recommends this appropriation.

There is no tax impact on this article.

There were no questions from the public. Article 13 will move to Ballot as presented.

**Article 14: Social Services Request for Richie McFarland Child**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,100 (Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars) for the Richie McFarland Children's Center's (RMCC) early intervention program that serves children from birth to three years of age and their families. This investment will support the cost of providing early childhood special education, pediatric therapies and family support services to Kensington residents. RMCC bases the request on three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per child served which is less than five percent (5%) of the annual cost for weekly home-based therapies. This past year RMCC served five (5) Kensington children. This is a special warrant article.

The Board unanimously recommends this appropriation.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.005 per \$1,000 valuation. (zero point five cents per thousand dollars of valuation)

There were no questions from the public. Article 14 will move to Ballot as presented.

**Article 15: Social Services Request for Rockingham Community Action**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 (one thousand five hundred dollars) to Rockingham Community Action for the purpose of providing financial assistance, budgeting education & support to Kensington residents in crisis to move them toward self-sufficiency. This is a special warrant article.

The Board unanimously recommends this appropriation.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.003 per \$1000 valuation. (zero point three cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)

There were no questions from the public. Article 15 will move to Ballot as presented.

**Article 16: Social Service Request for Meals on Wheels**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250 (two hundred and fifty dollars) to Meals on Wheels for the purpose of providing meals and safety services to qualified Kensington residents. This is a special warrant article.

The Board unanimously recommends this appropriation.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.0006 per \$1000 valuation. (zero point zero six cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)

There were no questions from the public. Article 16 will move to Ballot as presented.

Chief Jon True noted that if anyone had questions pertaining to COVID-19 or COVID-19 vaccines, please contact Emergency Management or the Fire Department.

No additional business was brought forward and the meeting was dismissed at 7:28pm by Moderator Harold Bragg.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chelsea Lalime

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chelsea Lalime", with a stylized flourish at the end.

