

KENSINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUDGET MEETING  
95 Amesbury Rd  
THURSDAY, November 4, 2021  
Minutes – Approved 11/15/2021  
Meeting 6:30pm

In Attendance: J. Pace, B. Gustafson, B. Solomon.

Heather Ritter, Library Trustee; Susan Gilbert, Librarian.

Frank Whittemore, Grange Trustee.

At 6:30 J. Pace called the meeting to order.

The Board discussed the Town Clerk Budget and Sarah Wiggin explained there would be an increase to election costs due to having 3 elections in 2022. Compensation had a slight 3% increase. Meeting and training items were discussed. Tax maps were discussed and will be moved into the Financial Administration budget. Sarah described and showed Annual Report options and explained that one option requests a down payment of half the cost and will be budgeted under office supplies. The Clerk's Office overall budget was discussed as there was an increase from \$54,753 to \$72,771 which was explained was largely for elections.

The Board then discussed the Building Inspector's budget with Gino Rignoli. There was a small increase for wages and supplies. The Electrical Inspector is also included in Building Inspector budget. The Board discussed encumbering funds to pay for technology needs for the Building Inspector.

The Board discussed the Highway and Streets budget with Road Manager Matthew Armstrong. There was a slight increase for police details and roadside mowing. The Board decided to discuss the Road Manager's salary at other meetings. Matthew explained that the Other Service and Miscellaneous line-item was for storm damage which he stated was difficult to predict. Road surface materials has increased slightly to extend the life of roads. He stated that salt and sand have contracts in place. The Signs line-item increased slightly for new stop signs. Winter maintenance covers plow drivers which is contracted through stipend payments. The Road Manager described payments to plow drivers which are paid biweekly if there are plowing needs. B. Solomon asked about stipend money versus possible payouts in the case of snow. Stipend payments were approximately \$69,000 and the rest of the budget would be if there is snowfall. The Salt Shed maintenance has decreased as well as road maintenance. The overall budget would have an increase of approximately 6.5%, some of which is dependent on weather and circumstances. J. Pace discussed the Road Manager creating a plan for paving. The cost of paving over the last 20 years was discussed regarding inflation.

Sanitation and Solid Waste budgets were discussed. The budget was driven largely by the Casella contract, which had decreased overall costs.

The Board discussed Welfare and General Assistance and decided to maintain the current budget. The Board spoke with Donna Carter about the Recreation Committee budget and money needed for Old Home Day and other functions. She stated that there was money in the Recreation Revolver Fund. The cost of summer

camp was discussed and Kathleen stated that the program ended with positive funds, which went into the revolver fund. J. Pace asked about the status of the fund and Donna stated it had about \$5,000.

The Board discussed the library next with Heather Ritter, Library Trustee and Susan Gilbert, Librarian. The Trustee and Librarian noted they were looking for an increase in wages of 3% for COLA, 4 more hours added to the schedule to expand weekday hours and to stay open later on Saturdays.

The Board then discussed the Grange under General Government Buildings. J. Pace noted a request from the Grange Committee and asked if the request was for capital expense for repair or for operating expenses. Frank Whittemore explained that the Grange needs a new roof and repairs. J. Pace felt that the Grange should not add maintenance expenses to the Town. He noted that capital expenses have previously been handled with warrant articles. The current warrant article for repairs was discussed, which was for \$15,000 and currently has \$10,600 left. This warrant article was paid for by Fund Balance. The Board asked Frank to split a roofing contract in half as they could encumber the \$8,500 from the current warrant article to pay for this half. The total roof repair was noted as \$13,500 by Mr. Whittemore. J. Pace described his concern placing Grange Repairs in the budget so there would be a precedent for the Town to maintain and repair the building. There was discussion about the ownership of the Grange and who is responsible for maintenance and repairs. B. Solomon was in favor of having a warrant article or to have the trustees raise funds for these repairs, and possible fundraising was discussed. The Board suggested a warrant article that would not use Fund Balance as a source of funds for the upcoming year. The Board would like a better understanding of what the Town's responsibility and relationship is to the Grange. Conditions of the Grange were discussed. This will be reviewed and investigated.

The Cemeteries Budget was discussed by the Board which had a slight increase. There was discussion about lawn mowing costs regarding the Town and the cemetery. The Board was in favor of the proposed budget.

The Board discussed notes and debt services. J. Pace stated there could be talks about a safety complex. A building and its impact on debt service was discussed. He felt that there was a conversation to be had about the value in infrastructure. Different location options were discussed, as well as having a joint or separate buildings for Fire and Police. J. Pace noted identifying location as the first item necessary for the process. The limitations of the current location of the police and fire department were discussed. The Board will review and discuss at future meetings.

These proposed budgets will be further reviewed before the Town Budget is finalized. Unspent money for the current year was discussed.

The Board discussed utility assessing regarding Until.

***At 8:36pm B. Solomon made a motion to adjourn. B. Gustafson seconded. All voted in favor.***

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Clarke