

KENSINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19

MONDAY October 5, 2020 – 6:30pm

Minutes – APPROVED OCTOBER 19, 2020

In attendance: Joe Pace, Vanessa Rozier

Absent: Bob Solomon

Joe called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. At the time the meeting was called to order, there were 9 participants on the Zoom call.

Senator Tom Sherman addressed the Board to provide a legislative update. Senator Sherman spoke about decreasing property taxes, availability of municipal grants and effects of COVID-19 and relevant legislative efforts pertaining to COVID-19. There was brief discussion between Senator Sherman and the Board relevant to potential ideas to help offset tax increases, specifically if there was a way to access the fund balance to offset the 2021 tax rate but would not affect the 2022 tax rate. Senator Sherman suggested a meeting with the Municipal Association and the DRA, which he will help coordinate with Joe. Chief True asked Senator Sherman if the GOHPERR funds would be extended into next year. Senator Sherman explained the funding will stop December 31, 2020 and isn't terribly optimistic it would be continued. There was brief discussion of emergency and unanticipated costs, particularly pertaining to education, due to COVID-19.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

• Police Department – Chief Scott Cain reported as follows

- The bill for the new firearms has been submitted totaling \$4,142.00. The original cost was about \$7,000.00 but by utilizing a trade in program, the cost was reduced by about \$3,000.00.
- There were concerns about a car off the road on Wild Pasture Rd. This was called in overnight, however State Police did not respond and it was addressed when the Kensington officers came on duty. The town may start seeing this more with state police, increasing the need for hours for Kensington officers.
- The department is currently down to one vehicle due to engine issues and a catalytic converter problem, that are being addressed.
- One of the officers will be going the police academy and fuel will be provided by the department for transportation as his own personal vehicle will be used. Chief Cain provided a summary of possible increased training options.
- There was a brief discussion regarding purchasing new cars. Chief Cain said that there is a possibility of a \$12,000.00 surplus in his budget that could potentially be used for a new vehicle.
- There was a discussion on Trick or Treat. There was some concern expressed about publicizing the date and time could attract residents from other towns. There were suggestions for Halloween events for families that choose not to participate in traditional Trick or Treat. Vanessa will work with Chief Cain and Chief True to put out a reminder to the community about social distancing and the times.

• Fire Department – Chief Jon True reported as follows:

- This week is Fire Prevention Week. The FD will be doing a virtual event at the Library and some virtual activities e will be doing a virtual event at the Library and a few virtual activities at KES. The NH Fire Marshal reports in all of the fatal fires in NH this year, none had working smoke detectors. Please test yours and have an escape plan.
- A repair was completed on Forestry 1 which cost about \$2,000.00. Chief True will try to have this covered under a service bulletin.
- Chief True will be finishing up the budget and it should be submitted tomorrow.
- To keep up with what is going on at Kensington Fire Rescue, check out their Facebook page!

• Emergency Management - Chief Jon True reported as follows:

- Chief True is working on an additional grant for a second signboard
- A letter will be completed by tomorrow referencing the water restriction providing education to the community.
- Emergency Management will continue to work with the school, Town departments, voting team and others to ensure adequate PPE for the future between now and the end of the year.

- Wireless internet will be installed upstairs of the Town Hall that will not affect the PD server or any other servers in the building.
- Road Manager – David Buxton reported as follows:
 - Tree removal bids were requested from Towle Hill Tree, Knowles Tree and Seacoast Tree. The only company that submitted a bid was Seacoast Tree who responded with a bid to remove 13 trees for \$7,350.00. The currently balance in Dave's budget is \$6,625.00, so there is a shortfall, plus the PD detail required. Dave has \$11,000.00 in his budget available for ditching that will not be fully used, so funds from the ditching budget could cover the difference in tree work and PD detail. It is not anticipated that any other bids will be submitted. **At 7:22pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$7,350.00 for Seacoast Tree Care for the removal of 13 trees, plus the additional funds required for PD details for the work to be completed. Joe seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**
 - The Board reviewed the salt bids for salt to be delivered to 211 South Road. Morton Salt's bid was \$51.33 per ton, delivered. Granite State Minerals submitted a bid of \$46.75 per ton. Dave explained that Morton Salt covers their salt, Granite State Minerals does not. Dave recommended a continuous contract with Morton Salt at \$51.33 per ton. **At 7:27pm Vanessa made a motion to accept the bid from Morton Salt at \$51.33 per ton, delivered. Joe seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**
 - There will be a walkthrough at 4:30pm tomorrow at Tannery Way.
- Tax Collector- Carlene Wiggin was not present.
- Building Inspector- Norman Giroux was not present.
- Treasurer- Sara Belisle was not present.
- Town Clerk – Interim Sarah Wiggin reported as follows:
 - Absentee ballots have been mailed to those who have requested them.
 - There was brief discussion of the election. The election needs to be posted by October 14th.
- Recreation Committee- Elaine Bodwell was not present.
- Conservation Commission – Sydnee Goddard was not present.
- Sawyer Kensington Trust- Hez Mercadante had nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

E911 Liaison Form

- The Board reviewed the form. **At 7:33pm, Vanessa made a motion to authorize Joe to sign the E911 Liaison form. Joe seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**

Sign Representation letter for Auditors

- The Board reviewed the letter. **At 7:35pm, Vanessa made a motion to authorize Joe to sign the representation letter for the auditors. Joe seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**

The Board will review the minutes at the next meeting with the full Board present.

There was a brief discussion on upgrading the Zoom subscription to an annual subscription. The Board agreed with the uncertainty of winter and spring it would be beneficial to renew as an annual subscription.

The next meeting will be on October 19, 2020.

At 7:36pm, Vanessa made a motion to adjourn. Joe seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Lalime

