

Kensington Board of Selectman
Minutes
November 21, 2022

Date: November 21, 2022

Place: Kensington Town Hall

Members Present: Joe Pace- Chairman, Bob Gustafson, Bob Solomon

Opening:

Mr. Pace opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

State Representative Susan M Porcelli:

Newly elected State Representative Susan M Porcelli of District 19 (Kensington and Hampton Falls) was present at tonight's meeting to introduce herself to the board and residents of Kensington. She shared that she is a long-time resident of Hampton Falls and looks forward to working with both towns. She added that once she receives her committee assignments and works with her schedule, she is hoping to do office hours at least once a month or by appointment.

Department Heads:

Police Chief Scott Cain

Chief Cain shared that he is looking to increase the rate of the details. The public hearing for that rate change will be on December 5, 2022. He shared that he does have the results of the speed study, sharing that the busiest town road was Wild Pasture Road which saw an average of 1,000 cars a day with an average speed of 36 Miles per Hour and a top speed of 57 Miles and Hour. He added that the least busy road of those surveyed was Muddy Pond which saw an average of 265 cars a day and an average speed of 32 Miles an Hour. He added that in response to the speed study, they have put out speed trailers and have officers out patrolling and issuing tickets.

Chief Cain shared that the department got approved for a DWI Grant for \$2,600 as well as a Mobilization Grant for \$1,700.

Mr. Pace shared with the board that they could look into reducing the speed limits based on the speed study per RSA 265:63. He also noted that the board could petition the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limits on the state-maintained roads.

Mr. Pace announced that they will hold a public hearing on December 5, 2022 for the reduction of speed limits based on the findings of the speed study conducted by the Kensington Police Department.

Road Manager Matt Armstrong noted that new speed limit signs are \$27 per sign and would like to replace the poles at the same time so that would be an additional cost.

46 Fire Chief Jon True:

47 Chief True announced that retired Assistant Chief Buzzy Felch passed away and sends
48 his condolences to family. He added that Engine 3 has gone out to be refurbished. He
49 added that the company is reviewing various issues so he is hoping to have a better idea
50 on the price. He added that they have received new hoses that they had ordered and will
51 be testing the hoses within the next few weeks prior to putting them on the engines. He
52 added that they are still waiting on information back on the grant and will discuss more
53 when the board talks about warrant articles.

54
55 Chief True noted that there is a permitted private firework display on November 24
56 between 6 and 7:30 p.m. He added that the Fire Department will also be helping with the
57 holiday stroll on Sunday.

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59 Emergency Management:

60 Chief True continued that he is looking to encumber funds to do a tabletop exercise in
61 January of 2023 as well as completing the COOP plan draft. He noted that he is working
62 with homeland security to get a quote on costs so that there is an actual amount of funds
63 needed to be encumbered.

64
65 Chief True said that they are working on upgrading the communication system got the
66 Town in hopes to increase communication between Fire, Police, Road Manager as well as
67 the public. He added that they are working with surrounding towns to resolve similar
68 issues. He noted that there is an approved cell tower on Mr. Rosencrantz property to help
69 with the cell and communication service in town but noted that it still will not be enough.
70 He noted that the town may need to look into putting a separate tower on town property
71 to increase cell service and communication.

72
73 Road Manager Matthew Armstrong:

74 Mr. Armstrong shared that he received three quotes for tree work that needs to be done
75 on Muddy Pond Road, Drinkwater Road as well as at the corner of Osgood and Wild
76 Pasture Road. The first quote from Pace's Tree Service was \$10,500, the second quote
77 from Doug's Tree Service was \$6,300 and the third quote from Seacoast Tree Care was
78 \$7,200. He noted that he has \$5,750 in his line item to cover most of the costs and noted
79 money can be taken from other line items to help cover costs. He added that Doug's Tree
80 Service did the work last year so he was comfortable accepting their quote.

81
82 **MOTION:**

83 Mr. Solomon made a motion to accept the bid from Doug's Tree Service for \$6,300.00.
84 Mr. Gustafson seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

85
86 Mr. Armstrong shared that he had also received an inquiry about the asphalt hot box
87 trailer that is parked outside of the Town Shed. He noted that he has never used it and
88 was unsure if it even worked. Mrs. Felch said that she would look into the process of
89 putting the item out for bid.

Mr. Armstrong added that he ordered two tons of salt for the salt shed and has put out bins for the Library and Town Hall parking lots.

Building Inspector Gino Rignoli:

Mr. Rignoli shared that his department has been busy with permits. He added that he is also looking to update the fees for the building permits.

Fee Schedule:

Mr. Rignoli said that he is looking to up the base fee for the building permit from \$50 to \$75 and will leave the price per square foot the same. He noted that this is comparable to surrounding towns that has a base fee of up to \$100. He added that he hopes this new base fees will help the department pay for itself.

Right to Know Request Policy:

The board reviewed the proposed Right to Know Request policy and associated fees on the fee schedule. The board discussed the various rates associated with different tasks. It was noted that the right to know request policy governs all town departments including Police and Fire. Mrs. Felch noted that there are different fees associated with the right to know requests for the Police Department.

The board agreed to move both the fee schedule and the Right to Know Request Policy to public hearing on December 5, 2022.

Proposed Warrant Articles:

The board discussed the various different warrant articles that are being put before the town. There are still changes that need to be made to the list of warrant articles before they move to public hearing.

Fire Chief Jon True noted that he was told that ambulances aren't available until next year. He added that if the town doesn't get the grant to cover the costs of the ambulance then it could be funded with either ARPA, the Block Grant, a warrant article or could be taken out of the unanticipated fund balance. He added that some costs can be taken out of the ambulance account but doesn't wait to use all the funds in this account. He noted that they should hear back by the end of the year whether or not the town received the grant.

Chief True also noted that the fire station needs new servers and computers. He shared that the ARPA funds could cover this but the cost could be put to warrant.

New Business:

Kathy presented contract from Carlene's title search company. The board had no issues with the contract

MOTION:

Mr. Gustafson made a motion to approve the contract from Sanders Searches LLC. Mr. Solomon seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

The board signed the contract.

Town Administration Organizational Changes:

Board would like to make a formal nomination for Mrs. Felch to be the Town Administrator on December 5, 2022.

Perambulations – Spring of 2023

This was tabled until the December 5, 2022 meeting.

Estimate for Camera and Servers:

The board discussed a new estimate for new cameras and servers. The quote came to \$7,600 from Granite State Security and Surveillance. The board agreed to wait to approve the estimate.

Bills and Payroll:

The board reviewed and signed all bills and payroll presented to them.

Review of Minutes:

The board had no issues with the minutes.

MOTION

Mr. Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes of November 7, November 14 and November 15 as written. Mr. Solomon seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Pace announced that the next meeting is December 5, 2022

MOTION:

Mr. Gustafson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Solomon seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting ADJOURNED at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Olsen