

TOWN OF KENSINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Kensington Town Hall
95 Amesbury Road
Kensington, NH 03833

MONDAY
JANUARY 9, 2023
Meeting Minutes-APPROVED 1-30-23
6:30 pm

In Attendance: Joseph Pace, Robert Solomon, Robert Gustafson

Chairman J. Pace opened the meeting at 6:30pm and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

J. Pace asked for a motion to open the public hearing for the 2023 Budget and Money Warrant Articles.

Public Hearing for Budget and Money Warrant Articles

The Kensington Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing for the 2023 Budget and Money Warrant Articles on Monday January 9, 2023, at 6:30 pm at the Kensington Town Hall. A second Public Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 6:30 pm at the Kensington Town Hall, if deemed necessary.

J. Pace closed the public hearing on the budget and warrant articles

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- Police Department –Chief Scott Cain –Nothing to report at this time.
- Fire Department – Chief Jon True –
 - Grant Quinn, FF/EMT- Mr. Quinn addressed the board and expressed that he is a senior at UNH and is currently an EMT. J. Pace said that the town is glad to have him.
R. Gustafson made a motion to appoint Mr. Grant Quinn as Firefighter/EMT, seconded by R. Solomon, all in favor. J. Pace swore in Mr. Quinn. All congratulated him.
 - Lt Cole is now an Instructor for NH fire classes. The chief congratulated him on his achievement.
 - Engine 3 has gone out for refurbishment.
 - Ambulance proposal-
 - Total cost around \$335,000- will take 9-12 months to get. The chief is still negotiating.
 - Up to \$150,000 EMS fund, approved by town vote in March 2022
 - \$100,000 ARPA grant, not yet voted on and approved.
 - Up to \$100,000 balance-some options for the remaining funds would be the following:
 - Apply for additional state grants
 - Lease purchase of difference (\$50,000 to \$100,000) from EMS fund over 2-3 years (more than \$50,000 each purchase must be approved at TM)
 - Cannot apply for Fed grants unless we hold off ordering it for another year... it is doubtful it will pass inspection in September.

- Chief True is working on ways to obtain the remaining funds without it impacting the tax rate for this purchase.
- J. Pace explained that the ambulance revenue will help to close the gap and the EMS fund is funded from ambulance calls and will not impact the taxpayers. With the Chief doing the lease to purchase this year and using \$50k from the EMS fund for the 2023 payment and another \$50k next year means that there will be no new appropriations asked for to purchase the ambulance and is in keeping with the original warrant article stating that it would not impact taxes.
- B. Solomon asked if the EMS revolver has enough income to support two payments and Chief True explained that the fund does make enough to cover the two lease payments. He will still be looking for private grants as well.

The board is going to make sure that the purchase of the ambulance is going to be from grants and the EMS fund and will not impact the residents for the purchase of the ambulance.

- The department had a controlled burn in East Kingston on Saturday- lots of pics on social media. Chief True was very proud to see our members attending, training, networking and “doing the job”! Special thanks to East Kingston for hosting the event.
- Emergency Management - Chief Jon True –
 - He asked the board to please review online the current Hazardous Mitigation Plan, Radiological Plan and Emergency Operations Plan for any changes. He will be asking to complete a signature review of those documents at the next meeting.
 - Fireworks letter from the State- Chief True explained that a town permit will be issued through the Fire Department along with the current state permit for professional fireworks displays. He wanted to reiterate that there is no Class C fireworks or “backyard” fireworks permitted in the town.
- Road Manager – Matthew Armstrong-
 - M. Armstrong explained that the weather event on December 23 and 24th left some substantial damage throughout the town and road closures and took days to clean up.
 - New 25 MPH signs will go up this week on Stumpfield and Muddy Pond Roads.
 - He will be installing sharp corner signs on Muddy Pond Road as well by Beaver Dam Road and he asked the board if he could put an advisory speed limit sign below the sharp corner sign stating 15 MPH. They agreed.
 - The board thanked M. Armstrong for all the work during the weather event. He stated that Chief True and Chief Cain were out there helping as well.
 - R. Gustafson asked if there was a weather declaration declared and Chief True explained that the paperwork has been turned in for the town and we are waiting to hear back.
- **Recreation Committee-** Lili Spinosa explained that they will be having the Sweetheart dance on February 3, 2023, at Alnoba and the fee will be between \$20-\$25 for tickets. She asked if the board needed to approve this event or costs for the event, and J. Pace explained that there didn’t need to

be further approval from the board for the items in their budget. If there is a contract for Alnoba or the DJ it will be forwarded to the board.

- J. Pace explained that they can authorize K. Felch to sign contracts of an ordinary nature for the board so that there is not a wait for 2 weeks for them to be approved.
- Ski camp is going well, and the children are having fun.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Voting- Harold Bragg, Moderator 6:55pm
 - February 8, 2023, will be the Deliberative Session at Kensington Elementary School with the town will begin at 6:45pm, and he asked if the board would have a designated spokes person for each warrant article. They will have people addressing each warrant article as needed. K. Felch will contact the school to see if there is the ability to project the warrant articles on a screen for the public to see.
 - He also wanted to make note that the election will be on March 14, 2023.
 - The protocol for the Deliberative Session will be restricted to the rules of procedure for the night. He will have the rules of procedure posted and for distribution to all attendees.
 - J. Pace explained that in reference to the paying of the Election Officials the board has the jurisdiction over the rate of pay for officials and once the official is approved to be paid the board can change the rate.
 - Tomorrow January 10, 2023, is the deadline for any petitioned warrant articles, there have been no petitions turned into the board as of today.
- **Timber Tax-** the board members signed the Timber Warrant totaling \$2,102.02.
- **Town report-** J. Pace and K. Felch will work on the Dedication and the write up for the board.
- **Software Agreement for Building Module-** to have the building permit system contract signed for the program to be installed. **R Solomon made a motion to have the chair sign the Avitar License Agreement for the Building Module, seconded by R. Gustafson, all in agreement.**
- **Letter from the State on Fireworks-** no further questions.
- **Letter from the State on Closed Town Dump-** The board received a letter stating that the town is responsible for testing the old dump/ landfill site. (off of Beaver Dam Road) K. Felch stated that the landfill was closed in 1988 at a town meeting vote and subsequently sold so she is waiting to hear back from the state on who is responsible for the required testing where the town no longer owns the property.
- **Estimate from Granite State on additional costs-** Chief Cain explained that the 3 different cameras will do facial recognition and audio for the police department lobby area. This will complete the cost associated with the new camera system. Chief True commented that these funds can come out of the ARPA funds. **R Gustafson made a motion to approve the expenditure and to use ARPA funds for the camera purchases, seconded by R. Solomon, all in favor.**

Other Departments:

Kathleen Felch:

- The board motioned to recommend or not recommend each warrant article.

- **ZBA Appointment**-Appointment of Janet Nolan Bunnell as a regular member of the board for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. **R. Gustafson made a motion to appoint Janet Nolan Bunnell to the Zoning Board of Adjustment as a full member through April 2026, R. Solomon seconded all in favor.**
 - **Electric Inspector Assistant**-
Bob Fee is away until April, he is the current Electrical Inspector for the town. A. Rignoli is the building inspector and is the head of the department for the permitting and the board does not feel that the building inspector needs to be appointed specifically to do electric inspections. His current appointment of Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer will cover him in this role. The electric inspection is \$95 and the inspector would keep \$85, A. Rignoli will be receiving the fees for the electric inspections that he does for the town. If A. Rignoli needs additional interpretation of the electrical codes, it is within his purview to outsource that.
 - **Road Manager** -additional compensation for storm event- J. Pace commented that M. Armstrong went above and beyond his normal duties instead of hiring out independent contractors to do the work and for the calculation of costs for the storm he was asked to submit a bill for what was done during the event. The board agreed to pay these additional costs through his regular payroll.
 - The board received a letter from the Department of Justice regarding the town's alleged election official misconduct. The board acknowledged receipt of the letter and that the matter was closed.
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- **Approval of Board Minutes for December 19, 2022.** R. Gustafson reviewed the minutes and had not comments. R. Solomon made a motion to approve the minutes from December 19, 2022, R. Solomon seconded all in favor.
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- Bills and payroll were signed by the board.
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- **Next Meeting Date – January 23, 2023**

R. Gustafson made a motion to adjourn at 8:02pm, seconded by R. Solomon, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen T Felch