

Kensington Board of Selectman  
Minutes  
August 8, 2022

**Date:** August 8, 2022

**Place:** Kensington Town Hall

**Members Present:** Joe Pace- Chair, Bob Solomon, Bob Gustafson

**Opening:**

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

**Public Comment:**

No public came before the board.

**Department Head Report:**

Police Chief Scott Cain:

Chief Cain explained that he is looking to create a new account for money that the police department will be receiving from the Drug Task Force. He added that he was unsure of the amount and noted that Epping received \$95,000.00. He noted that the money can be used for training, purchasing new equipment and cars and many other things. Mrs. Felch said that this money can be put into the revolving revenue account.

Chief Cain also noted that the town's prosecutor, Bill Hart, has announced his retirement and has been working with the town of Londonderry's prosecutor to work towards taking over for Kensington. He noted that Toni Gorski will be retiring effective September 2, 2022. Chief Cain noted that he has a new admin assistant ready to take over the position. He noted that she will be starting the first week of September.

Chief Cain shared that the new police cruisers he had ordered have been cancelled so he has to order new cruisers. He noted that the new cruisers will not be pursuit grade cars and instead will be regular Dodge Chargers, noting that the only difference between the cars is that they will not have the heavier duty breaks. He added that he is also looking to purchase a Dodge Durango out of the cruiser revolving fund so there will be no new burden to the tax payers. The Durango will also not be a pursuit grade cruiser as Dodge is not taking orders until mid-2023 and then a year wait after that to receive the cruiser. The board had no issue with the purchasing of the new police cars.

Chief Cain wrapped up by noting that there have been several gun related crimes around Southern New Hampshire so residents should be aware and alert.

41 Fire Chief Jonathan True:

42 Chief True shared that three members (Mingella, Zani-Conklin and Estey) have recently  
43 taken the EMT basic class have passed their final exams for the class. They are preparing  
44 to take the national registry exams, which will earn their national licenses as EMTs.

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46 Chief True added that FF/EMT Chris Hamel has started his FF recruit school. Over the  
47 next few months, he will be earning his NH certified FF 1 and 2. This was a low cost for  
48 our department due to a grant that was received by NH Fire Standards and Training.

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50 Chief True said that they are working on getting some final numbers and addressing some  
51 more concerns on Engine 3 in our refurb proposal. Hopefully it will be ready to sign for  
52 next meeting.

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54 Chief True also noted that there have been some changes made to the ambulance  
55 proposal, and we are almost done with the RFP. He added that the AFG grants are being  
56 awarded last week and over the next five weeks. The Fire Department is looking for  
57 \$200,000 for the ambulance and about \$190,000 for radios.

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59 Chief True also noted that he is looking to have his deputy wardens reappointed.

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61 **MOTION:**

62 Mr. Gustafson made a motion to reappoint John Andrews, John Lebel, Scott MacDougall,  
63 James Farley, and Jonathan True. Mr. Solomon seconded, all in favor, the motion passed  
64 3-0-0.

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66 Chief True noted that that 152 Drinkwater Road has donated a house for trainings with  
67 fire safety. He added that he would like to give the opportunity to any Kensington Public  
68 Official the opportunity to come and/or participate in the training and be able to see  
69 firsthand how a fire burns and what we do to as firefighters.

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71 Fire Chief Cain- Emergency Management Report:

72 Chief True shared that Kensington is in a severe drought. He said that he was aware of  
73 one well failing and one having issues. He noted that if anyone from the public has any  
74 issues with their well failing, to contact him as he has grant resources to help assist home  
75 owners who need their well fixed or replaced. He noted that he has also been monitoring  
76 the cisterns and other natural water bodies as the levels of these effect the normal fire  
77 suppression and forest fire risk.

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79 He noted that the town could do a voluntary water restriction to help with keeping the  
80 water table levels up. He added that the State is allowed to put mandatory bans

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82 Chief True wrapped up by saying that he is putting together projects for use of the ARPA  
83 money. He is hesitant to buy anything right away and would like to see if costs go down  
84 and supplied increase. He did note that the town has until 2024 to expend the funds.

Building Inspector Gino Rignoli:

Mr. Rignoli said that there has been lots of permits being pulled through the building department.

He noted that he drives by Mr. Lloyd's property at Map 9 Lot 13 on a regular basis to check on progress. He presented some photos to the board showing the site's progress.

Town Clerk Sarah Wiggin:

Mrs. Wiggin shared that she has received a letter from the New Hampshire Democratic Party that had six name suggestions for the Inspectors of Elections.

Mr. Pace recused himself at 7:00 p.m. for this section of the meeting.

Mrs. Wiggin added that one person no longer lived in town rest are registered voters in town. She noted that the board will have to appoint some Republicans to be inspectors as well. She is looking to have an equal number or Republicans and Democrats Inspectors so it's easy to make teams. Mrs. Wiggins added that she has created a list of possible candidates.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Gustafson made a motion to accept the 5 listed democrats, 2 addition democrats and 7 republicans to be named. Mr. Solomon seconded, all in favor, the motion passed 2-0-0.

Mrs. Wiggin agreed to reach out to the people on the list to confirm interest.

Mr. Pace entered back into the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Mrs. Wiggin said that the supervisors of the checklist will be holding one or two meetings prior to the election day where the public can register to vote

Mrs. Wiggin notified the board that the postage has had a significant increase. May need to offset with convenience fees to help eliminate the burden on the town

Recreation Committee:

Donna Carter was present to give an update on Old Home Day. She said that she believed that all committees and organizations in town will be present at Old Home Days. She noted that there was an issue regarding the bouncy houses noting that they will be delivered Saturday Morning but will not be picked up until Sunday Morning. She said that the town will be liable for the bouncy houses overnight and suggested that the board allow someone from the Rec Committee to camp out and watch the bouncy houses.

The board had no issue with someone or a few people camping out to keep an eye on the bouncy houses. Chief Cain noted that he can also have officers drive by at night a few extra times as well.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Solomon made a motion to allow one or more members of the rec committee to camp out on the rec fields. Mr. Gustafson seconded.

Discussion: modify to say that not more than 3 people including at least one member of the rec committee.

Mr. Solomon revised his motion and Mr. Gustafson seconded, all in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

**Grange Building Quotes:**

Frank Whittemore was present at tonight's meeting and presented two new proposals for work to be done on the Grange Building. The proposals presented were for painting and carpentry work to be done by Northern Ridge Painting

**MOTION:**

Mr. Gustafson made a motion to rescind previous contracts for work on Grange Building and to accept the contract from Northern Ridge Painting, not to exceed \$11,760.00. Mr. Solomon seconded the motion, all in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Gustafson made a motion to allow Mr. Pace to sign the contracts on behalf of the board. Mr. Solomon seconded. All in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0

Mr. Whittemore also wanted to note that the historical society yard sale is also taking place on Saturday.

**Intent to Cut:**

A draft of the Intent to Cut Ordinance was sent to Town Counsel and are awaiting a response. The discussion will be pushed until next meeting.

**Library Water Testing:**

The library has requested that their water be tested. The library was unsure who's budget the cost would come out of. Mr. Gustafson asked if they were on a separate well from the school? Mrs. Felch said that it was separate from the school. Chief True noted that the well for the library was also the well for the Fire Station and the Grange Building. Mr. Pace suggested that the well be tested prior to filtration and the money should come out of the Fire Station operational budget.

**Discretionary Barn Easement:**

Mr. Pace noted that Mrs. Felch had prepared a list of barn easements in town and their percentage of exceptions. The board reviewed the list and current request for 178 Drinkwater Road. The board began discussing what percentage of exception they would allow for this barn easement. Mrs. Felch noted that in the letter from Avitar, that was reviewed at last meeting, said that there was no public appeal to this easement as the barn was not easily visible from the road.

Mr. Pace suggested that a procedure be put in place and that there should be 3 criteria and each criterion would be worth 25%. Mr. Solomon said that square footage may be a part of the decision/calculation of what Avitar uses.

Mr. Pace said that he would like to develop criteria off of the Heritage Commissions letter and the statute that allows the town to do these easements (RSA 79-D). RSA 79-D:3 gives 3 criteria:

(a) There is scenic enjoyment of the structure by the general public from a public way or from public waters.

(b) The structure is historically important on a local, regional, state, or national level, either independently or within an historic district.

(c) The structure's physical or aesthetic features contribute to the historic or cultural integrity of a property listed on or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, state register of historic places, or locally designated historic district.

The RSA also states that there must be a duly noticed public hearing for approval and denial. Mr. Pace requested that the Mrs. Felch post for a public hearing on this easement for August 22, 2022.

#### **Avitar Abatement recommendation:**

Mrs. Felch shared that she received two abatement requests and they have both been given to Avitar for review. The first was for a home at 224 South Road, Kensington Tax Map 2, Lot 19. The home is currently unfinished and it is listed as finished on the property card. The total assessment was at \$321,00 and Avitar has revised the assessment to be \$312,500.

#### **MOTION:**

Mr. Gustafson made a motion to approve the abatement recommendation for Map 2, Lot 19 for \$8,500.00 Mr. Solomon seconded, all in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0

The second abatement request was for Eversource. The board did not review as Avitar hasn't given an opinion on the abatement request yet.

#### **Trash Cart Sticker Quotes:**

Only one quote has come in for the stickers so this has been continued to the next meeting.

#### **Check Request:**

Mrs. Felch noted that there was a check request from the Police Association. She noted that there is a new Kensington Police Association after the previous one was dissolved in 2021. The prior association had given money back to the town when it was dissolved and is now requesting for the previous funds to be returned. The board had no issue with returning the funds to the new association.

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221 **MOTION:**

222 Mr. Gustafson made a motion to authorize the check in the amount of \$602.59 be sent  
223 back to the Kensington Police Association. Mr. Solomon seconded, all in favor, the  
224 motion passed 3-0-0.

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226 The board reviewed and signed bills and payroll

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228 **New Business:**

229 Mrs. Felch shared that the door downstairs is sticking again and will be asking Mr.  
230 Rignoli to look at it. When the company who installed the door came out and adjust the  
231 door, it cost \$450.00.

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233 **Review of Minutes of July 25, 2022:**

234 No corrections were made to the minutes.

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236 **MOTION:**

237 Mr. Solomon made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Gustafson seconded the motion,  
238 all in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

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240 Mr. Pace noted that the next meeting is August 22, 2022

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242 **MOTION:**

243 Mr. G made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Solomon seconded the motion, all in favor, the  
244 motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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247

248 Respectfully Submitted,

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250 Colleen Olsen