

KENSINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

95 Amesbury Rd

MONDAY December 13, 2021

Minutes – Approved 1/24/2022

Meeting - 6:30pm

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

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

• Police Department –Chief Scott Cain -

- The Board discussed fuel prices with Police Chief Cain. J. Pace noted that if the price of gas increases the Board would not hold the Chief responsible. It was noted that this would also affect Fire Chief True, and that the Board would be willing to help them moving forward.
- Police Chief Cain discussed with the Board his reimbursement for tuition and compensation bonus that occurs upon completion of his degree. The Board discussed encumbering funds to cover tuition for the Chief's degree which was part of his contract.

J. Pace discussed encumbering funds from this year to pay for the server needs of both the Police Department and the Town Hall. He noted that a warrant article could be another solution.

The Board discussed possible warrant articles. Kathleen described the new open-air assembly warrant. There was discussion about the number of people required. J. Pace noted that he was not yet comfortable with the open-air assembly ordinance.

The Board discussed appropriating funds to establish a wildlife mitigation fund. Kathleen stated there has to be a source for that funding. The Board discussed funding sources, and that a warrant article could be a sufficient source. Kathleen noted that donations could also be taken.

J. Pace asked about warrant article deadlines. Kathleen stated warrants had to be completed before the 18th of January and also described the hearing process. The Board discussed finishing the warrant articles for posting at the Board meeting on the 20th of December.

J. Pace noted there is a projected budget surplus. He asked what can be encumbered this year to relieve next year's budget. The Board discussed items that were one-time expenses that could be encumbered. J. Pace explained that most budget costs were personnel and stated he hoped that residents would understand that adjustments in compensation were necessary for the increase of cost of living. B. Gustafson asked if there was any debt to be paid down and about the Kimball Road Bond balance. The price was found to be about \$260,000. Kathleen explained that any budget surplus would go into the Fund Balance. J. Pace noted that hose replacement for the Fire Department was an item that could be encumbered. Kathleen will investigate and talk to the Fire Chief.

B. Solomon noted that most of the budget costs are annualized. J. Pace noted that the police vehicles could be an option for purchase but currently vehicles are unavailable. Other options were discussed such as gravestones and fences for the cemetery fund. J. Pace suggested that the fund balance could be used to help pay for a larger project in the future. B. Solomon asked about using the fund balance to lower the tax rate. J. Pace described that if it were used for that purpose, the following year the tax rate may go back up if fund balance was not used again which could be a shock to residents. J. Pace described that some of the fund balance came from emergency management grants for first responders and would be congruent with use for infrastructure. B. Gustafson noted the new federal infrastructure money may be forthcoming and that it would be good to be prepared to use those funds.

J. Pace stated the Town is projected to have approximately \$157,000 dollars in surplus, approximately \$57,000 would be unanticipated revenue. Other encumbrances possibilities that were noted by Kathleen include a traffic study, a laptop for the Building Inspector, and the stairway upkeep in the town hall. The Board will look to approve a list of encumbrances at the next meeting on the 20th of December as well as any warrant appropriations that need to be held over an additional year. These included the salary bonus for Chief Cain, the servers, hoses for the Fire Department, the buildout analysis and funds for the Grange Hall.

B. Gustafson asked about the status of the master plan. The buildout analysis and master plan were discussed and it was noted that the Planning Board would have to be involved. J. Pace noted certain chapters that may have to be updated to enable the Town to create a Capital Improvement Plan. Impact fees were also discussed. B. Solomon described prior master plans. Sources were discussed for the creation of a master plan.

The Board signed off on bills and payroll.

At 7:33pm B. Solomon made a motion to enter a nonpublic session under RSA 91A:3, II(a,I). B. Gustafson seconded. All voted in favor.

At 8:30pm B. Solomon made a motion to exit the non-public session. B. Gustafson seconded. All voted in favor.

At 8:30pm B. Gustafson made a motion to adjourn. B. Solomon seconded. All voted in favor.

• Next Meeting Dates –December 20, 2021