

KENSINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
95 Amesbury Road
MONDAY February 21, 2022 – 6:30pm
Minutes – Approved 3/7/2022

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

Public Comment - There was no public comment.

Senator Dr. Tom Sherman of New Hampshire District 24 spoke before the Board and noted that he makes an effort to stop by towns once or twice a year, and welcomes phone calls or mail with residents' issues. He stated he wanted to highlight new pieces of legislation and other issues affecting the district. Senator Sherman described bills regarding health and human services and transportation. He then went on to explain that he had met with former Secretary of State Bill Gardner about election issues and felt the machines were secure. He noted that Senator Gray has put forth a bill that is currently in a Study Committee to allow for 2 audits of the Accuvote machines, and further went on to describe the machines, stating they are ballot counting machines that use paper ballots that can always be recounted. He felt that hand counting was less accurate than the voting machines.

Senator Sherman stated that Kensington would soon likely be part of District 23 with South Hampton and Seabrook, and that Bill Gannon is the senator for this district. He stated that although there were districts, he felt that he was a Senator for the State of New Hampshire that is available for peoples' needs around the state. He then went on to describe new legislation, SB 249 that would take away the Town's ability to deny short term rentals, such as Airbnb, currently in their jurisdiction. He also emphasized that local ordinances should match decisions made by land use boards as there is a House Appeals Board that streamlines the process of appeals to do with land use regulations, and is mostly in favor of the applicant, not the town.

B. Solomon asked what benefit the short-term rental legislation had for the state. Senator Sherman noted there was a large amount of revenue in tourism in the State if this was allowed. He also stated that this could affect affordable housing.

AGENDA:

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- Police Department –Chief Scott Cain –
 - Ordered 2 new cruisers that will take at least 10 months to arrive, possibly in January or February of 2023. The Department is also looking at rotating in the current Durango and ordering another Durango that would be pursuit ready. This would take approximately 3 months and the cruiser fund would cover it. The Chief described the struggle with obtaining new cruisers. J. Pace asked the Chief to price out a regular Durango so the Board can review costs.
- Fire Department – Chief Jon True

- Chief True stated that Jason Green had stepped down as Deputy due to personal time, however is remaining with the Fire Department as a Firefighter and EMT.
- The Chief noted that he recommended promotions for Scott MacDougall from Captain to Deputy Chief and John Lebel from Lieutenant to Captain.

At 6:58pm B. Gustafson made a motion to appoint John Lebel as Fire Captain and appoint Scott MacDougall as Deputy Chief. B. Solomon seconded. All voted in favor.

- The RFP for the engine 3 refurbishment has been sent out. The Chief is working on one for the ambulance now.
- The Chief is working on strategic plan update and ISO rating update for board.
- There is legislation dealing with many different fire and building code issues. The Chief is waiting for further updates from NHFMO on:
 - SB 223- recovery houses
 - HB 1068- Building codes for tiny houses
 - SB 249- prohibiting ordinances relative to short term rentals
 - SB 398- statewide building and fire code enforcement
 - SB 443-municipal authority for the state building code
- Chris Hammel has passed testing for EMT.
- Emergency Management - Chief Jon True –
 - Chief True noted that recent storms have not had a significant impact on infrastructure in Town. No major incidents were noted.
 - The first two Seabrook Station drills went well, and minor changes will be made before the final drill on April 6th.
 - The Chief noted that there was reimbursement money from writing last year's Emergency Operations (LEOP) plan that he would like to use for Continuation of Operations Plan, which is to reconstitute town government in an emergency. J. Pace noted the amount of unanticipated funds fell beneath the threshold for a hearing.

At 7:08pm B. Gustafson made a motion accept the EMPG reimbursement for \$4000 dollars. B. Solomon seconded. All voted in favor.

- The Chief noted that covid numbers are going down, although we are still at 60% with 2 vaccines. Kensington Fire Rescue and the East Kingston Fire Department had a free vaccination clinic at the EKF and about 43 people including some Kensington residents were vaccinated.
- The Chief noted that reporting has changed due to at home testing and that Kensington currently shows zero active cases. This could be due to individuals not reporting their at home results.
- The Chief recommended waiting another two weeks before considering any changes to town policies.
- Road Manager – Matthew Armstrong-
 - Taking care of potholes in town including Kimball Road.
 - Ordered street signs for Dow and for Olivia Lane.

- B. Solomon asked about the road budget. Matt responded that a good portion had been used, and that he was keeping an eye on the upcoming storm.
- Tax Collector- Carlene Wiggin
 - Will be sending out certified letters to approximately 25 parcels who have not been able to pay their 2021 taxes.
- Building Inspector- Gino Rignoli was not present.
- Treasurer- Sara Belisle was not present.
- Town Clerk – Sarah Wiggin was not present.
- Recreation Committee – Lili Spinosa explained the committee is busy working on summer camp activities and would like to ask the board accept Sarah Hoffmaster as Coordinator. She noted that Sarah has worked at the high school and elementary school.

At 7:12pm B. Solomon made a motion to approve the hiring of Sarah Hoffmaster as Camp Coordinator. B. Gustafson seconded.

- Conservation Commission – Sydnee Goddard was not present.
- Sawyer Kensington Trust-
- Other Department Heads-
 - Kensington School Board
 - Trail Committee- B. Gustafson noted that the Chair of Trails Committee had given a letter noting that he is moving. He will reach out for interest from other members.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Jackie Benson of the Cemetery Trust stated that she had done research into trash removal for the Dearborn property. She stated that currently it is being removed by a volunteer, however they are not always available. She added that she would like to have the removal of trash added to the landscaping scope of services. B. Solomon asked where the trash should be placed. Kathy suggested that the trash from the bin could go in the Town dumpster. The RFP will ask for submission by March 18th. Ms. Benson noted that there were funds encumbered from 2021 that would be used for gravestone services.
- Kathleen noted the Welfare Guidelines need to be updated. B. Gustafson asked if the Town values were consistent with the state. The guidelines will be reviewed to make them congruent with state guidelines with policy and thresholds, and discussed at a future meeting.
- Two parcels of land are being offered as a gift to the town, Map 14 Lot 23 and Map 14 Lot 16. J. Pace asked what the cost would be for deed and title work and asked Kathleen to investigate. This would have to be added to a warrant article next year if accepted.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Assessing Office – Kathleen Felch-

Kathleen distributed forms for the yearly exemptions for residential properties in the commercial district.

At 7:31pm B. Solomon made motion to approve the 9 commercial property exemptions currently received. B. Gustafson seconded. All voted in favor.

At 7:32pm B. Solomon made a motion to approve the veteran's exemption for Map 2 lot 22. B. Gustafson seconded. All voted in favor.

At 7:33pm B. Solomon made a motion to approve the intent to excavate for Map 3 Lot 17-22. B. Gustafson seconded. All voted in favor.

The Board signed off on bills and payroll.

At 7:37pm B. Gustafson made a motion to accept the minutes of February 7th. B. Solomon seconded. All voted in favor.

At 7:38pm B. Gustafson made a motion to adjourn. B. Solomon seconded. All voted in favor.

- **Next Meeting Dates –March 7, 2022**