

TOWN OF KENSINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Kensington Town Hall
95 Amesbury Road
Kensington, NH 03833
MONDAY
February 26, 2018
Meeting Minutes-Draft
6:30pm

In Attendance: Norman DeBoisbriand, Robert Wadleigh, Linda Blood via speaker phone

Others in attendance: Dana Donovan, Cindy Heal, Frank Whittemore, Elaine Kaczmarek, Tim Galitski, Harold Bragg, John Sargent, Ms. Leonard, Bob Hall, Glenn Greenwood, Holly McCann, Keith , Bruce Cilley, Donna Carter.

Linda Blood called into the meeting on speaker phone.

Norman called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30pm, Bob seconded, all in favor.

Public Hearing- Rescinding SB2

Norman read the article to all those in attendance and explained that this public hearing is required per RSA 40:14 to rescind SB2. The petitioners have the opportunity to express their reasons for wanting this action, and it is open to the public for their comments.

Mr. Whittemore explained that this is a great idea, everyone can go to the meeting and get informed and vote. Mr. Galitski asked if the questions about warrant articles would be limited to a specific time like the current deliberative session, where the current system is open for people to vote throughout the day, and voters would have to be at the town hall at a specific time to vote on the warrant articles. Norman confirmed. Ms. Carter expressed that another fact would be that there would not be any absentee ballots with the traditional town meeting. Mr. Galitski asked if there would be secret ballots allowed, it was explained that there could be. Mr. Bragg explained that a secret ballot can be requested on any warrant article by 5 or more registered voters. Mr. Greenwood asked if the length of the time for the secret ballot would be limited to 60 minutes, and Mr. Bragg explained that it is up to the moderator. There can be three different ways to vote, hand count, spit the room or a secret ballot. It was asked how the selectmen feel on this article, there were two that voted to support the article and one against.

Ms. Heal asked that if only a few people show up to vote will the article pass, and it was discussed that would be the case. Mr. Sargent explained that the room could be packed with those for or against the articles on the ballot. Mr. Cole explained that there is a benefit for having a small group of people to deliberate, but he personally believes that it is not worth the exclusion of the people that can't attend. In March at the deliberative session the attendance is about 60-70. Ms. Donovan agrees with Mr. Cole and wishes that more people would go to the deliberative session and get informed. Ms. Carter explained that there were approximately 500 voters, and if this passed where would the town fit 500 voters at one time. Norman explained that the school might be able to accommodate that number of voters. He is not sure that many people would show up due to schedule conflicts.

Mr. Greenwood commented that he has done both sessions, and there are more people that vote when the poles are open, but that leads to more uninformed voters. The town used to use the VFW for the vote and he understands why people may feel that it is not efficient, but he disagrees and appreciates the amount of knowledge that comes from the traditional town meeting. Ms. Leonard expressed that she has never lived in a town that has done this, but feels it is discriminatory. Is there any way to cast an absentee ballot by calling in? If you can't physically make the session you can't vote?

Cindy Heal expressed that it is not fair to say that voters are uninformed. She feels that the right for everyone to vote will be taken away if this passes.

Ms. Donovan feels that if people want to be informed then they could attend the deliberative session or find out what the articles are about. She hopes that people understand what this warrant article is and what they are voting on. Holly McCann stated that after listening to the reasoning, is there anything that we can do as a town so that people don't leave from the deliberative session not knowing what the article is about. Mr. Greenwood explained that he has never left the deliberative session without understanding the articles, in the times that he has missed them is when he was unsure. Mr. Hall stated that he liked the town meetings and liked the way things were explained. He is disappointed that no one goes to the deliberative sessions. Less than 100 people came from the surrounding towns to the Cooperative Deliberative session. Ms. Carter explained that this year it was due to the deliberative session night being changed. Mr. Hall continued that the ones that are best attended are the ones that have something controversial on the ballot. He explained that you can stack the meeting, but he is open to either way of voting.

Ms. Carter asked if the warrant article stated what day it would be on. It was not stated what day the town meeting would be held on. Mr. Cole wondered if there was a way of organizing the deliberative sessions so that there was a social time between the school and town's meetings for further explanation of the articles. Ms. Leonard asked if there was a way for people that are behind certain warrant articles to be able to access the town website to put articles on there for discussion back and forth or possibly hosting a facebook page or something like that, for the people that can't get to the deliberative sessions. Ms. McCann asked is there a prohibition against recording deliberative sessions, would it be able to be recorded for the local access program. She asked if the new system could record the deliberative session and post the recording? Yes, it could.

Norman made a motion to close the public hearing. Bob seconded, all in favor.

Norman made a motion to open the public session, Bob seconded, all in favor.

Citizen's Forum:

Bob Hall explained that he was filling out the last few months for Jim Webber as the SAU16 representative, and he would appreciate the votes. Tim Galitski is running for the Kensington School Board and would appreciate the votes.

Mr. Sargent was curious why there are 3 police cruisers in town and none of them say police on them. Norman explained that there is an emblem on the side of the cruiser.

He stated that you are supposed to letter a vehicle to be visible from 50 feet away. What is the reasoning for not lettering them. He believes that if the department wants to slow vehicles down, to give people a chance, it should be a vehicle that at least looks like a police vehicle. He would like to know what the decision to not letter them was, was it cost? Norman explained that there are multiple reasons why, some being that the cars are exposed to the elements and not garaged and cost, he will

get back to him on the reasoning behind not lettering the vehicles. Mr. Sargent has no issues with this or the police department, he just wants to know what the reasoning was. The board will get back to Mr. Sargent on the reasoning, and the board would be more than happy to debate the issues at a later time.

Sawyer Park Bids and Town Mowing Bid Awarding-

Norman asked if there was any discussion on this subject.

Norman stated that the Trust had some questions and the board would be happy to answer them. One of the questions was the insurance binder, and one of the bidders didn't have the required bonding amount, and K&B did not have the town as an additional insured. He explained that K&B has not worked for the town before and would provide that if the bid was awarded to them. The board looked at the references provided and the board was satisfied with the references. Bidders participated in a site walk, both other bidders along with Harold, walked the park and bidders asked questions on the mulch. The specifications for the maintenance were all received and reviewed. The board has the understanding that the other bidders get bark mulch from the same place that the town was getting it from and this is the first year that the town is requiring the bidders to provide the bark mulch. Do the other bidders have the staff and equipment to provide the services in a timely manner, yes. In previous years the mowing was scheduled on Wednesdays, the board will work with whoever gets the contract on what day they will mow.

Mr. Cilley explained that the Trust's #1 observation was the K&B didn't have a bond, and it was explained that K&B has a commitment to a bond. Norman explained that the bond does not kick in until the bid has been awarded and the bond is provided to make sure that if the individual walks away from the job after two weeks the town is protected. Mr. Cilley explained that for clarification on the mowing day on Wednesday was for all leagues and sporting events, and around school times so that the children were not on the fields while they were being mowed, and to coordinate with the other contractors doing work there.

Norman asked if there was a recommendation from the trust. Mr. Cilley explained that they had 4 members and 3 voted one way and one voted another way, and based on the information that they were given, they voted 3-1 to recommend Down to Earth. Bob read the following bid amounts to the public in attendance.

Bid costs: K&B \$36,025; Down to Earth\$ 38,900 and Lahey Landscaping \$58,900.

Bob made a motion to award the bid to K&B Landscaping, Linda seconded, all in favor.

The bid was awarded to K&B for \$36,025.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- Police Department –Sergeant Scott Cain- He explained that there was a dog that was shot and that NH Fish and Game is investigating, and any questions should be directed to the NH Fish and Game.
- Fire Department – Chief Jon True, reported:
 - Training on the Flu
 - Participated in the wellness fair
 - He presented the Exeter Hospital Contract for them to be our medical resource hospital, no change to current contract, the board will review and sign and get back to Jon.
 - New fan installed that was donated to the association
- Emergency Management - Chief Jon True
 - Drill on February 14, went well.

- Earthquake and if anyone has any questions please get in touch with him.
 - April 4th will be the next drill, and wants to make sure that the Sound system crew is not in the room for April 4th during the drill.
 - He is working with homeland security on the antenna.
- Road Manager – David Buxton
 - Osgood Road is going to be paved first from last year's funds and R&D has Kensington first on their list. If the Road Reconstruction warrant article passes this year he would like to top Trundlebed Lane to soften the speed bumps. There will need to be restriping done, and there is a \$700 minimum charge, and he would like them to do the whole town at the same time.
 - Fire pond is supposed to be started sometime this week.
 - Unitil is starting the tree trimming project. They took down the Beech tree on Osgood Road. They are moving through town and getting land owner permissions. Norman expressed that the board has received a list trees on Town owned property and the Trustees of the Cemetery and the Grange should be involved and sign off.
 - Trying to run tight on the sand salt and there is some moisture at the salt shed that he is looking to fix.

Linda Blood terminated the call at 7:15pm.

- Recreation Committee- Ms. McCann reported the following for the group:
 - She asked if the board would appoint Ms. Bodwell to the committee. **Norman made a motion to appoint Elaine Bodwell to be a Recreation Committee member, Bob seconded, both in favor.**
 - The Town festival information- Ms. McCann explained that there was money spent on Fireworks and various vendors last year and the group has discussed having a musical entertainment for the Friday night. Does the committee have the approval of the board to go forward with the planning? Norman explained that there is one other function that will be done this year, and if the expenses for the festival are around the same as last year then the board is okay with the funds being expanded.
 - Meeting with the selectmen on March 5, 2018 at 9am at the Town Hall. This will be for Summer Camp information.
- Sawyer Kensington Trust- Norman does not have the agreement document back from legal yet, due to a delay at legal firm. The board will forward to them once it is received. Bruce asked where the board was on the turf care bids, and Norman stated that was on the list.

NEW BUSINESS:

Recycling Contract-

- Norman explained that there will be a meeting tomorrow with the vendor to try to finalize the contract and they are relatively close to getting the recycling back. It has been a long process and they are hopeful for a resolution soon.

Air Testing of Town Hall-

- Norman explained that when the addition was completed the board committed to doing an air test quarterly for the first year and then bi-annually. They have received good test results so far, but are continuing with the committed testing. The testing will be scheduled in June.

Schedule Water Testing for Park- Kathy explained that this is for the annual water testing at the park and has to be done annually and reported to the state. Bruce will see if March 6, 2018 will work and get back to the board.

Tree Cutting on Amesbury Road-Until- Town Property

- They are requesting to cut and trim trees on Amesbury Road, the board will review the list but let the Grange, School and Cemetery Trustees know what trees will be on those properties and have them sign off on the project.
- There are samples of the door hanger that will be left at the residential properties.

Schedule meeting with Avitar and DRA for revaluation:

Kathy explained that there is a request by the DRA and the Assessing company to take about 15 minutes each to meet with the board and discuss the process. The board will meet with them on Monday March 5, 2018 at 10am.

Kuegel Pit Closure-

- Kathy explained that this a follow up to the Planning Boards decision that the Kuegel pit is closed. Norman explained that according to the planning board the pit has been reclaimed. The board has no problem with that, after the review of the engineers' report. There needs to be a letter formulated to Mr. Kuegel and the assessing company needs one to do the inspection and change from commercial to residential/agricultural. Kathy will work on the letter to Mr. Kuegel.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Assessing Office – Kathleen Felch-
 - Email was received about interest in the trail committee and wanted to know if the board wanted to appoint Mr. Hickey to the committee. The board will review Monday.
 - Request from RPC about a violation, the board has not made a decision yet.
 - Social Services request from Senior Guidance to add their website link to the town site for assistance.
 - Park Applications- are these okay to post? Ms. McCann stated that there was one suggestion from the trust to add the terms requested or required onto the discount area. Kathy will post the new ones.
 - Interview times for the Camp Director position- this will be discussed more on Monday's meeting with the recreation committee.
 - Helicopters will be flying over the town to check wires this week.
 - Untiil- The email will be sent to Trustees so they are aware and can sign off on tree removals or trimming.
 - Recreation Committee members are okay to sign off on the reimbursement sheets.
- Bills were reviewed and signed.

There was a brief intermission in the meeting.

- Non Public Session- RSA91A:3, II (a,b,c,d,e,i.l) if needed

Norman made a motion nonpublic at 7:39pm, Bob seconded, both in favor. The board discussed a legal matter and one personnel matter. Norman made a motion to close the nonpublic and seal, Bob seconded, both in favor.

Town Mowing Bid-

Norman and Bob discussed the need to award the bid for the Town and town cemetery mowing. K&B Landscaping was the only bid received for \$15,400. **Norman made a motion to award the town mowing bid to K&B Landscaping, Bob seconded, both in favor.**

- Next Meeting Date –March 5, 2018 9:00am and 6:30pm Regular Meeting

Norman made a motion to adjourn at 8:05pm, Bob seconded, both in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen T Felch