

KENSINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
95 Amesbury Road, Kensington, NH 03833  
MONDAY January 13, 2020 – 6:30pm  
Minutes - DRAFT

In attendance: Joe Pace, Vanessa Rozier  
Absent: Peter Graves

At 6:32pm, Joe called the meeting to order.

At 6:33pm, Joe opened the Public Hearing on the 2020 Budget and Warrant Articles.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 02 Operating Budget**

*Shall the Town of Kensington raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$1,958,164 (one million nine hundred fifty eight thousand one hundred and sixty four dollars)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,828,828 (one million eight hundred twenty-eight thousand eight hundred and twenty eight dollars). The governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The proposed operating budget is an increase of \$169,749 from the budget adopted last year of \$1,788,415. The net estimated impact is \$.433 per thousand dollars of valuation. (forty-three point three cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)*

There were no comments or questions on Article 02.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 03 Police Department Radios**

*To see if the Town of Kensington will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$34,957.00 (thirty four thousand, nine hundred and fifty seven dollars) to purchase 10 (ten) Motorola portable radios, replacement/back-up batteries, charging stations, antennas, portable microphones and 1 (one) Motorola all band HP mobile in car radio. This sum will also include the upgrading of the police department's mobile car radios and the replacement of 10 (ten) Motorola portable radios, that are over the serviceable life expectancy of 15 years. The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$0.09 per \$1,000 valuation (nine cents per thousand dollars of valuation).*

There were no comments or questions on Article 03.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 04 Appropriate funds to put town owned land into Conservation**

*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 (twenty-five thousand dollars) to put the following parcel of town owned land into a permanent conservation easement, 45.610 acres more or less, and is further identified as Map 13 Lot 1; 274 North Haverhill Road, and to be subject to maintenance by the Conservation Commission and protection by the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire. The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.064 per \$1,000 valuation. (six point four cents per thousand dollars of valuation).*

Resident Donna Carter of 128 Amesbury Rd asked what the \$25,000.00 is needed for. Conservation Commission Member, Joan Skewes responded that the Conservation Commission has consulted with the Southeast Land Trust and the total cost to put this property into conservation is approximately \$50,000.00. The \$50,000.00 would cover the survey and legal fees needed to put the property into conservation. The Conservation Commission has voted to contribute \$25,000.000 and is asking the town to contribute \$25,000.00. Mrs. Carter asked if it is town owned land, why a deed restriction couldn't be put on the property to prevent development. Ms. Skewes said money would still be needed for the survey and the Conservation Commission has consulted with the NH Association of Conservation Commissions and this is what they had suggested.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 05 Accept donated land for conservation**

*To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to accept two gifts of land, 5 acres map 17 and lot 29 (wetland within the Great Meadows wetland) and 4 acres map 8 and lot 18 (backland abutting Charles Hodges Conservation Area), both owned by Mary and Paul White. The purpose of the gifts is to ensure the permanent protection of these parcels through a conservation easement which will provide protection of wildlife habitat and scenic enjoyment by the general public. There is no tax impact for this warrant article.*

There were no comments or questions on Article 05.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 06 Build Out Analysis**

*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 (six thousand dollars) for the purpose of the governing body conducting a build out analysis for the town. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.015 per \$1,000 valuation. (one point five cents per thousand dollars of valuation)*

The purpose of a Build Out Analysis was explained as a way to determine what land in town is buildable and how many buildable lots are still available in Kensington. This would be the initial step in determining whether or not it is worth the costs and efforts to work to establish impact fees for the town. In addition, a Capital Improvement Plan would need to be completed.

There were no comments or questions on Article 06.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 07 Road Reconstruction**

*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 (two hundred thousand dollars) for road reconstruction and maintenance of town roads. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation as per RSA 32.7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2021. This is in addition to the operating budget article. The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$0.511 per \$1,000 valuation. (fifty-one point one cents per thousand dollars of valuation)*

There were no comments or questions on Article 07.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 08 Establish Capital Reserve Fund, Add Funds and Name Agents**

*To see if the town will vote to establish a Fire Department Vehicle, Apparatus & Equipment Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for purchase, upgrade, repair, overhaul and/or retrofit of fire vehicles, apparatus & equipment and vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) to be placed in this fund. Income shall also include monies from the fire department including permits, fees and sale of equipment/vehicles upon approval of the Board of Selectmen. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund upon recommendation of the Fire Chief. Any single purchase over \$50,000 requires the vote of the governing body by warrant article. The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.127 per \$1,000 valuation. (one point two seven cents per thousand dollars of valuation).*

There were no comments or questions on Article 08.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 09 Appropriate funds from Fund Balance**

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8000 to be added to the Fire Department Vehicle, Apparatus & Equipment Capital Reserve Fund with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. Said monies represent the sale of the old ambulance and SUV. If Article 08 fails, this article is null and void. There will be no tax impact from this warrant article.*

There were no comments or questions on Article 09.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 10 Firefighting water supply**

*To see if the Town will create a revolving fund for the repair of firefighting water supplies, known as the FIREFIGHTING WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING FUND, to be used for the installation, repair and upkeep of any and all firefighting water supplies in Kensington. This will be funded by requests for monies by warrant article along with any grants awarded to the Town relative to firefighting water supplies. The money shall be allowed to accrue so that there will be adequate funding to install, repair, replace, upgrade, dredge, remove or fill any firefighting water supplies in town. Funds may be expended out of this account for the above purpose only and shall require the approval of the Board of Selectmen. There will be no tax impact from this warrant article.*

There were no comments or questions on Article 10.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 11 Fire Fighting Water Supply Revolving Fund**

*To see if the Town will vote raise and appropriate \$45,091 to be placed in the FIREFIGHTING WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING FUND. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance and represent funds that were previously approved by the governing body for water supply repair and have not been expended. Should Article 10 fail, this article will be null and void. There will be no tax impact from this warrant article.*

There were no comments or questions on Article 11.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 12 Add to Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund**

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,300 (six thousand three hundred dollars) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. This is the second of five years additions which will be used to pay the assessor's cost for the State of NH required revaluation due next in 2023. This is in addition to the operating budget article. The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.016 per \$1,000 valuation. (one point six cents per thousand dollars of valuation).*

There were no comments or questions on Article 12.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 13 Heritage Fund**

*Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 674:44-d to create a Heritage Fund? Such revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the Heritage Fund, separate from the General Fund. The whole or any part of money so appropriated in any year and any gifts of money received pursuant to RSA 674:44-b shall be placed in a heritage fund and allowed to accumulate from year to year. Money may be expended from such fund by the heritage commission for its purposes without further approval of the local legislative body. The town treasurer, pursuant to RSA 41:29, shall have custody of all moneys in the heritage fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the heritage commission. The disbursement of heritage funds shall be authorized by a majority of the heritage commission. Prior to the use of such funds for the purchase of any interest in real property, the heritage commission shall hold a public hearing with notice in accordance with RSA 675:7. This article has no tax impact.*

There were no comments or questions on Article 13.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 14 Social Service Request from Meals on Wheels**

*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$717.00 (seven hundred and seventeen dollars) to Meals on Wheels for the purpose of providing meals and safety services to qualified Kensington residents. The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.002 per \$1000 valuation. (zero point two cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)*

There were no comments or questions on Article 14.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 15 Rockingham Community Action**

*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 to Rockingham Community Action for the purpose of providing financial assistance, budgeting education & support to Kensington residents in crisis to move them toward self-sufficiency. The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.004 per \$1000 valuation. (zero point four cents per thousand dollars of valuation)*

There were no comments or questions on Article 15.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 16 Richie McFarland Children's Center**

*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$2,100.00) for the Richie McFarland Children's Center's (RMCC) early intervention program that serves children from birth to three years of age and their families. This investment will support the cost of providing early childhood special education, pediatric therapies and family support services to Kensington residents. RMCC bases the request on three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per child served which is less than five percent (5%) of the annual cost for weekly home-based therapies. This past year RMCC served seven (7) Kensington children. The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.005 per \$1,000 valuation. (zero point five cents per thousand dollars of valuation)*

There were no comments or questions on Article 16.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 17 Purchase Decimeter**

*We, the undersigned legal voters of the Town of Kensington, New Hampshire, hereby petition to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Three Hundred dollars (\$4,300.00) to purchase a Sound Track LxT n/Force (decimeter) and to train the Kensington Police Department officers in its use to enable them to enforce compliance with RSA 266:59 relating to excessive motor vehicle noise levels caused by illegally modified exhaust systems (especially on motor cycles). The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.011 per \$1000 valuation. (one point one cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)*

It was determined that Article 19 should be renumbered to Article 17, renumbering the two citizen's petition articles from Article 17 to Article 18 and Article 18 to Article 19 on the final warrant.

There were no comments or questions on Article 17.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 18 Town Clerk from 1 year term to 3 year term**

*Are you in favor of changing the term of the town clerk from one year to three years, beginning with the term of the town clerk to be elected at next year's regular town meeting in 2021. There is no tax impact for this article.*

It was determined that it should clearly state that the articles currently numbered as Article 17 and Article 18 are citizen's petition articles.

There were no comments or questions on Article 18.

The following was read aloud:

- **Article 19 Municipal Financial Software**

*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$31,337.00 (thirty-one thousand three hundred and thirty seven dollars) for the purpose of purchasing Municipal Finance Software. This software will help with the day to day operational and compliance needs and to offer Kensington the ability to have a fully integrated financial management system created specifically for NH Municipal governments. The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.079 per \$1000 valuation. (seven point nine cents per thousand dollars of valuation)*

There were no comments or questions on Article 19.

**At 6:56pm, Joe closed the Public Hearing, then he reopened immediately.** Mrs. Carter asked for clarification on the tax impact if all of the warrant articles were to pass. The Board will work to be able to answer more precisely at the Deliberative Session. **At 7:05pm, Joe closed the public hearing.**

#### Summer Camp

- Representatives from the Recreation Committee were present and provided the Board with a draft budget for the Summer Camp Program. The Board reviewed the presented budget and commended the work that the committee has put into creating the budget. The Committee explained that this budget was created using at capacity numbers for both campers and for the staff. The budget shows that the program will support itself, and possibly make a bit of money to support other programs.
- **At 7:20pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the Kensington Summer Camp rate schedule as presented and to approve the salaries that were presented in the budget. Joe seconded. All voted in favor.**

The Board will wait to vote and make recommendations on the warrant articles until January 20<sup>th</sup> to maximize potential that the full board is present.

Donna Carter addressed the Board to let them know that the laptop used by the Supervisor of the Checklist is not working. The Board advised Donna to have the laptop looked at by a professional in order to get it running for the February 11<sup>th</sup> elections.

At 7:32pm, Vanessa made a motion to adjourn. Joe seconded. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Lalime