

KENSINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19

MONDAY August 24, 2020 – 6:30pm

Minutes – APPROVED SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

In attendance: Joe Pace, Vanessa Rozier, Bob Solomon

PUBLIC HEARING: COMCAST FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Joe called the meeting to order at 6:32pm and opened the Public Hearing on the Comcast Franchise Agreement. Kate Miller from DTC Lawyers addressed the Board to provide details on the franchise agreement. Attorney Miller explained that this would be a 10-year extension, retroactive to 2029. Attorney Miller explained that there have been some regulatory changes that affect the agreement which changes some of the services offered. If those regulations were to change, the fee services would be reinstated based on the terms of the agreement. There was a brief discussion on the length of the agreement and the Board felt that the longest possible agreement would solidify internet services for residents. The public hearing was closed at 6:45pm. ***At 6:46pm, Vanessa made a motion to adopt the agreement between the Town of Kensington and Comcast and to authorize Joe to sign on behalf of the Board. Bob seconded. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes. At 6:47pm, Vanessa made a motion to adopt the 2nd amendment to the July 17, 2009 Renewal Cable Television Franchise Agreement between the Town of Kensington and Comcast. Bob seconded. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.***

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- Police Department – Chief Scott Cain reported as follows:
 - On September 4, there will be an inspection on the fire alarms and elevators.
 - The Department is seeing an increase in calls including mental health concerns, elderly abuse, and drug investigations.
 - Chief Cain presented the Board with options for potential new vehicles to add to the existing fleet. He explained that the lead time is approximately 3-4 months so ideally he would like to place an order now, and another in November. The cost for a Dodge Charger would be \$31,580.00 and the cost for a Dodge Durango would be \$33,405 with a municipal lease spread across 3 years. Chief Cain would like another AWD vehicle prior to the winter months. It was explained that the last lease payments have been paid off and there is money in the budget for the vehicle. Currently officers are doing details in their own vehicles. There was concern expressed about having multiple lease payments at once and discussion ensued. The Board felt that whatever decision is made needs to fit within the existing budget, and they would not be comfortable with payments being deferred until the next year. It was suggested by the Board that Chief Cain move forward with the Durango this year, and budget for the Charger for next year. ***At 7:00pm, Bob made a motion to authorize Chief Cain to begin the purchase lease process on the Dodge Durango for this year. Vanessa seconded. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.***
- Fire Department – Chief Jon True reported as follows:
 - The Department is sad to announce the passing of retired Fire Chief Robert Upton who passed away on 8/15/2020. Chief Upton was a member of KFD for many years. Our condolences to his family and friends
 - Engines and Car 1 will be going out over the next few weeks for annual inspection and preventative maintenance. Chief True is trying to purchase hose and other items but finding some things are delayed or unavailable due to the pandemic.
 - Large burn pile permits will not be available until there is some significant rain. If you smell smoke during the day please call as most burn permits are not allowed to burn before 5pm.
 - All paperwork for a forestry grant that was awarded this spring has been completed. The KFD purchased almost \$2,000.00 of equipment and will be reimbursed almost \$1,000.00.
- Emergency Management - Chief Jon True reported as follows:
 - At this time, there are no active cases in Kensington and there have been less than 5 cases total.

- GOFERR Grant Project 1 is submitted as is FEMA Project 1. Still working on getting Project 2 submitted. An order of PPE for voting was picked up last week.
- The EMO provided a large supply of PPE to the school in anticipation of their plans to open in some way. PPE has also been provided to the Town Hall, PD and FD as requested, and will continue to do so.
- There was a brief discussion on opening of the meeting room. There are issues obtaining the equipment needed for a hybrid opening. Chief True will continue to work on the plan. Vanessa provided feedback from the Planning Board regarding returning to in person meetings.
- The public is reminded of the current drought situation and Chief True provided suggested providing recommendations to the public on how to deal with the drought.
- The Crowe's Feat Farm cancelled the concert due to heat, so there is no update on that.
- Chief True is still working on a communication plan/cell tower acquisition and radio issues for PD/FD.
- Chief True is working on a final review of the recently received Hazardous Mitigation Plan before it is submitted to FEMA.
- There was a brief discussion of additional costs for the elections due to COVID-19.
- Road Manager – David Buxton reported as follows:
 - The road reconstruction on Towle Hill and Moulton Ridge is complete. Work is still underway on Drinkwater Rd.
 - Dave has contacted tree cutting companies to address the 13 dead trees that have been identified and is waiting on bids.
 - There was discussion regarding the snow contractor. The Board wants to ensure this is competitively bid. Dave explained that there seems to be a trend of sign on bonuses/stipends. Dave said many contractors are seeking a 3-year contract. Dave will update the Board when pricing is available.
- Tax Collector- Carlene Wiggin had nothing to report.
- Building Inspector- Norman Giroux reported as follows:
 - He needs to confirm that the sheds at 4 Amesbury Rd have been moved. There have been issues finding a time that works for the homeowner for Norm to be on site. The Board encouraged Norm to continue to attempt to find a time that works for everyone to have this issue resolved.
 - There have been questions regarding unfenced swimming pools in town. The Board briefly discussed this and encouraged Norm to reach out to Julie LaBranche from the Rockingham Planning Commission.
- Treasurer- Sara Belisle was not present.
- Town Clerk – Carol Beers Witherell was not present.
- Recreation Committee- Elaine Bodwell was not present.
- Conservation Commission – Sydnee Goddard was not present.
- Sawyer Kensington Trust- Hez Mercadante reported as follows:
 - The Trust has decided to accept bricks and benches as donations, but asks that they be uniform to maintain the aesthetic of the park.
 - The Book Library for the park has been constructed and they are waiting for a stone to be placed for use as a base.
 - There are two companies coming to do estimates for wiring and video cameras for the park.
 - The next Trust meeting is September 16, 2020 at 4:30pm at the park.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cemetery Trustee Resignation- Bloomberg

- Fred Bloomberg has submitted his resignation from the Cemetery Trustees. The Board thanks him for his service.

Cemetery Trustee Interest-Benson

- Jackie Benson has expressed interest in the Cemetery Trustee position and explained to the Board why she would like to become a Cemetery Trustee. **At 7:38pm, Vanessa made a motion to appoint Jackie Benson as Cemetery Trustee with a term ending in March 2021. Bob seconded. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**

Avitar Quote for online access

- The Board reviewed a quote from Avitar for online access to tax cards and tax maps. It was explained that this would save town staff time by having this information available to the public. The 1 year online kiosk service would be \$1,000.00 per year and the Mapping Build feature would be \$500.00 per year, which would allow applicants to look up their own abutters. The Board felt that though this is an expense, it saves staff time. There was discussion of where funds to cover these costs could come from. This will be tabled until the next meeting.

Process to obtain town voted lands

- The Board is in the process of getting an estimate from legal as to the costs of obtaining the town voted lands. There was discussion as to whether these costs should come from the conservation commission or the Town.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Assessing Office
 - Solar Exemption- Map 12 Lot 16-1 – The Board reviewed the Solar Exemption request. ***At 7:54pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the Solar Exemption for Map 12 Lot 16-1. Bob seconded. Vanessa amended the motion to Map 16 Lot 16-1. Bob seconded the amendment. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.***
 - Veteran's Exemption Map 4 Lot 41-1 – The Board reviewed the Veteran's Exemption. ***At 7:55pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the Veteran's Exemption for Map 4 Lot 41-1. Bob seconded. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.***
 - Permit to use to roads- The Board Reviewed the Permit Request for Use of Town Roads for the Walk to End Alzheimer's on 9/27/2020. ***At 7:59pm, Bob made a motion to approve the Permit for the Use of Town Roads on 9/27/2020 pending approval of both Chief True and Chief Cain. Vanessa seconded. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.***

At 8:01pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the minutes from August 10, 2020. Bob seconded. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.

The Board briefly discussed the upcoming September Election.

Schedule chiefs public hearing for the fees for that.

The next meeting will be on September 14, 2020.

At 8:04pm, Vanessa made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Lalime