

KENSINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19
MONDAY January 4, 2021 – 6:30pm
Minutes - DRAFT

In attendance: Joe Pace, Vanessa Rozier, Bob Solomon

At 6:34pm, Joe called the meeting to order. There were 14 participants on the meeting at the start.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- Police Department –Chief Scott Cain reported as follows:
 - Yesterday there was a tree accident at 6 Amesbury Rd that took out all the power lines and cable lines. Power was restored at about 1am this morning.
 - Officer Von Haden started at the Police Academy.
- Fire Department – Chief Jon True reported as follows:
 - Fireworks went off without a hitch, and people appeared to be socially separate. Congrats to the Recreation Department.
 - Fire gear has been ordered for 5 firefighters and will get 2020 pricing, despite purchasing in 2021.
 - There was a minor accident with the fire truck- vs. the overhead door. The door will be inspected on Wednesday, and the FD is fixing the engine in-house (minor paint and a plastic part). As a result, Chief True will be looking into installing some safety features on the doors.
 - Two of our members will be taking advanced EMT training in the next few months. This allows them to start IVs, give lifesaving medications and other advanced treatments.
 - The FD is being “audited” by federal Medicare. This is a nationwide exercise to see if we are being paid adequately for responses. It is a large amount of work. In addition, the next round of grants (our radios) is open as of today- for about three weeks.
- Emergency Management - Chief Jon True reported as follows:
 - First responders are starting to get their vaccines. This is a pre-cursor to getting it out to the public. Stay tuned, we will be rolling out information for essential workers next.
 - The new internet connection is installed at the Town Hall, but the network and tablet equipment have not arrived. As soon as it does, I will reach out to Lars to get it installed. This will allow internet access for the public in the parking lot- (in other words, your cell phone will work there). I have found someone to build a desk/counter for the downstairs door, and then we can adjust the access to the building.
 - If any department needs PPE, please reach out to me before you run out. Supply chains are working, but slow.
- Road Manager – David Buxton reported as follows:
 - The signage for PD parking and Caution Slippery signs for the parking lot will be installed this week.
- Tax Collector- Carlene Wiggin was not present.
- Building Inspector- Norman Giroux:
 - Viking Welding submitted a quote for the handrail project at the Town Hall in the amount of \$2,650.00 to include fabricating handrails to match the existing ones, painting and installation. The Board discussed funds and the timeframe for the project. **At 6:49pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the bid from Viking Welding for fabrication and installation of the handrails at the Town Hall in the amount of \$2,650.00. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**
- Treasurer- Sara Belisle was not present
- Town Clerk – Interim Sarah Wiggin reported as follows:
 - There will be a Supervisors of the Checklist meeting January 19th at 7pm. Please call the Town Clerk with questions about voting.
 - The Supervisors of the Checklist have requested town email accounts for town business. The Board supports this and will look into it. Additionally, they have requested a page on the town website. Sarah will work with the Supervisors to get the web page going.
- Recreation Committee- Elaine Bodwell was not present.
- Conservation Commission – Sydnee Goddard was not present.

- Sawyer Kensington Trust- Hez Mercadante reported as follows:
 - The next Trustee meeting will be January 20th 5:30pm via Zoom.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election/Deliberative Session Process- Harold Bragg reported as follows:

- The Talbot Gym in Exeter has been confirmed for February 3rd as a location for a real-time Deliberative Session. The Board agreed that an in-person Deliberative Session would be best. The Board discussed the size of the space and it was noted that there are additional logistics that will need to be addressed such as use of the microphone. Vanessa asked if there will be a way for those who have concerns about attending in person to write in or have the session broadcast live for access. Because the format is a discussion, debate, and action, there would not be a mechanism for comment during the meeting for those who do not attend in-person, as there would be no rebuttable or opportunity for them to hear discussion about their comment. The possibility of recording the session and then posting for online viewing was discussed. Questions could possibly be submitted ahead of time, however there would be no way to participate in the legislative action if not attending in-person. The Election Committee will be working on getting information out to the public. **At 7:13pm, Bob made a motion to commit to holding an in-person Deliberative Session on February 3, 2021 at a time TBD at the Talbot Gym in Exeter. Vanessa seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**

Warrant Discussion

- January 8th is the last day for voter petitions.
- The Board reviewed and discussed the current draft warrant articles including establishing a Kensington Police Service Capital Reserve Fund, encumbering funds for the Kensington Police Service Capital Reserve Fund, the hiring of a FT Police Officer, Add to the Established Fire and Emergency Services Capital Reserve Fund, Police Department Storage Shed, Add to Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund, Build Out Analysis, Police Department Vista Body Camera Replacement, Fire Department Water Supply Fund, and Fire and Emergency Services Capital Reserve Fund. There was discussion between the Board and Chief Cain regarding the approach of putting the hiring of an officer on the warrant and it was agreed to remove this from the warrant. There was general discussion by the Board on adding funds to Capital Reserve Funds this year and if the goal is to keep the tax rate down given a particularly challenging year or stay the course and continue to save. It was discussed that strong fiscal planning is important and by putting these items on the warrant, it allows the legislative body to make the decisions. It was also suggested and then decided by the Board that fund balance could be utilized to offset cost to taxpayers while still adding to the reserve funds. Kathy will make the changes to the draft warrant as discussed.

Land Use Clerk

- Kathy and Vanessa have been working on the job posting for the Planning and Zoning Board Clerk.
- This will be posted publicly tomorrow.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Assessing Office – Kathleen Felch reported as follows:
 - The audit will be a remote process completed at the end of March and into April.
- Approval of Board Minutes December 21
 - **At 8:30pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the minutes from December 21, 2020. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**
- Filing Period
 - The filing period to run for elected positions is January 20th – January 29th.

At 8:31pm, Vanessa made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA91A:3, II (c). Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes and the Board entered non-public.

At 8:59pm, Bob made a motion to exit non-public session. Vanessa seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.

At 9:00pm, Vanessa made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Lalime