

KENSINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19
WEDNESDAY January 13, 2020 – 6:30pm
Minutes - DRAFT

In attendance: Joe Pace, Vanessa Rozier, Bob Solomon

Joe called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Joe opened the public hearing at 6:32pm. There will be a second hearing on the warrant if needed on Monday January 18, 2021.

The Board reviewed Article 5.

Article 5: Add to the Established Fire and Emergency Services Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will allow \$1077.00 to be placed in the Fire and Emergency Services Capital Reserve Fund. This amount is the total of all permit fees and inspections received by Kensington Fire Rescue throughout 2020. These funds will be earmarked for the purchase, repair, upgrade, overhaul and/or retrofit of fire vehicles.

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 was discussion on whether this amount should come from the fund balance. There was brief discussion on the language of the article. The Board determined that there would be no tax impact as the funds would come from the fund balance.

The Board reviewed Article 6:

Article 6: Police Department Storage Shed

To see if the Town of Kensington will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ \$4,595.00 (four thousand five hundred ninety-five dollars). To purchase a 12-foot x 16-foot woodshed for storage needed at the Kensington Police Department for equipment needed on site. The cost of the woodshed is \$3095.00 and additional \$1500.00 for land excavation for leveling the ground where the shed will be placed.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.011 per \$1000 valuation. (one point one cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)

There were no questions or further discussion.

The Board reviewed Article 7:

Article 7: 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. This analysis would be used to estimate and describe the amount and location of potential future development in Kensington.

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 Board discussed how to communicate to the Town that this would be a tool in growth management process and would help the Town to be prepared for future development and land use. The Board discussed the wording of the article and made a subsequent change to include "tool in growth management process and would help the town be more sufficiently prepare for potential future development". There was no further discussion or questions.

The Board reviewed Article 8:

Article 8: 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 third of five annual installments, which will be used to pay the assessor's cost for the State of NH required revaluation due next in 2023.

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)

The Board noted that the State requires the Town to raise these funds in some manner. There was no further discussion.

The Board reviewed Article 9:

Article 9: Grange Hall Maintenance and Repairs

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars) for needed maintenance on the Grange Hall. The funds will be used for, but not limited to, replacing the shingles on the shed roof, doing necessary heating system maintenance, exterior painting, carpentry needed to replace rotten boards, exterior foundation work to improve pest control, and addressing items cited in Safety Committee Report dated September 23, 2019.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.038 per \$1,000 valuation. (three point eight cents per thousand dollars of valuation)

Grange Trustee Holly McCann explained that based on estimates, the \$15,000.00 would not cover everything that needs to be done at the Grange, however the Trustees would prioritize items to address the most crucial things first. There was discussion as to if fund balance should be used for this article as this is an important historical building in town and further deferred maintenance could be problematic. The Board asked that for next year, the Trustees put together an annual maintenance budget so that it can be included in the budget deliberations to ensure it can be included in the general building maintenance budget. The Board decided that given the balance of the fund balance account, and that deferred maintenance could possibly be more expensive, the article will be adjusted to come from the fund balance with no tax impact.

The Board reviewed Article 10:

Article 10: Police Department Vista Body Camera Replacement

To see if the Town of Kensington will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 17,555 (seventeen thousand five hundred fifty-five dollars) to purchase 8 (eight) WatchGuard Vista HD extended capacity body cameras that can hold the capacity of 9 (nine) hours at a price of \$1,445 (one thousand four hundred forty-five dollars) each. With an additional \$2,995 (Two thousand nine hundred ninety-five dollars) for the purpose of purchasing ballistic vest camera mounts and Wi-Fi docking station. These cameras will replace 8 (eight) WatchGuard Vista body cameras that were purchased in 2016, the serviceable life expectancies of which have expired.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.044 per \$1000 valuation. (four point four cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)

The Board felt that the multiple dollar amounts listed in the warrant can be confusing. The article will be adjusted to remove the multiple dollar amounts and additional details to be more clear and concise.

The Board reviewed Article 11:

Article 11: Fire Department Water Supply Fund

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$25,000 (twenty-five thousand Dollars) to be placed in the Fire and Emergency Services Capital Reserve Fund. These funds are earmarked to be used for upkeep, installation, and repair of hydrants and cisterns used for fire suppression activities in Kensington.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.063 per \$1000 valuation. (six point three cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)

The Board reviewed and it was explained that this account is for maintenance and the amount of maintenance that can be completed is based on the amount in the account. Vanessa suggested in the future that items like this be worked into the budget. There were no additional comments or questions.

The Board reviewed Article 12:

Article 12: Fire and Emergency Services Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) from Fund Balance to be placed in the Fire and Emergency Services Capital Reserve Fund. These funds will be earmarked for the purchase, repair, upgrade, overhaul and/or retrofit of fire vehicles.

There will be no tax impact from this appropriation.

There were no comments or questions.

The Board reviewed Article 13:

Article 13: Road Reconstruction

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$130,000 (one hundred thirty 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, 2022. This is in addition to the operating budget article.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$0.331 per \$1,000 valuation. (thirty-three point one cents per thousand dollars of valuation)

The statement "...in addition to the operating budget....." needs to be removed. There were other editorial changes made. There were no other comments or questions.

The Board reviewed Article 14:

Article 14: Social Service Request for Meals on Wheels

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250 (two hundred and fifty dollars) to Meals on Wheels for the purpose of providing meals and safety services to qualified Kensington residents. This is a special warrant article.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.0006 per \$1000 valuation. (zero point zero six cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)

There were no comments or questions.

The Board reviewed Article 15:

Article 15: Social Services Request for Rockingham Community Action

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 (fifteen hundred dollars) 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. This is a special warrant article.

The tax impact of this article will be an increase of \$.003 per \$1000 valuation. (zero point three cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)

There were no comments or questions.

The Board reviewed Article 16:

Article 16: Social Services Request for Richie McFarland Children's Center

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,100 (Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars) 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. This is a special warrant article.

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)

It was noted that this will need to be corrected to 5 children assisted this year. There were no additional comments or questions.

The Board reviewed Article 2:

Article 2: 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 \$2,144,916 (two million one hundred forty-four thousand nine hundred and sixteen dollars)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,107,121 (two million one hundred and seven thousand one hundred and twenty-one 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 \$186,751 from the budget adopted last year of \$1,958,165. The net estimated impact is \$.476 per thousand dollars of valuation. (forty-seven point six cents per thousand dollars of valuation.)

There was a brief discussion on the proposed budget versus the default budget. There were questions regarding the Recreation Committee budget. Bob explained that at the Recreation Committee meeting earlier tonight, there was a discussion of summer camp. Lili Spinosa explained that school has been going well at KES and the Recreation Committee feels they could use some of the same structure being used at the school for camp. There is concern that the camp would not break even with the added restrictions from COVID-19. Jen Macek said they hope to have a version of the middle school camp that was planned for last summer in addition to regular summer camp. There was some concern that if summer camp was cancelled for 2 summers in a row it could go away all together. The Board noted that the budget isn't dependent on a profitable summer camp as the program is profit neutral by design. The Board felt that the budget should be left as is and the Recreation Committee could engage in planning of a COVID environment summer camp. The Board is supportive of a summer camp program but does not feel adding to the budget at this point would be the best option at this time.

At 7:41pm, Joe closed the public hearing.

The Board briefly reviewed the non-money warrant articles, which will be discussed further on Monday January 18th. There was discussion on the ordering of the articles on the warrant. There are no petition articles this year. At the meeting on 1/18/2021 the Board will do a final review of the money warrant articles and there will be a vote on a recommendation.

At 8:02pm, 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