

KENSINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19

MONDAY March 1, 2021 – 6:30pm

Minutes - DRAFT

In attendance: Bob Solomon, Joe Pace, Vanessa Rozier

Joe called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. There were 21 participants on the meeting at the start of the call.

It was acknowledged that this will be Vanessa's last meeting as Selectwoman. Joe, Bob, and Department Heads all thanked Vanessa for her service over the last several years. Thank you, Vanessa!

Casella- Discussion on automated trash proposal and contract review:

- The Board reviewed the proposal from Casella for automated trash pickup. The new contract would expire in 2026. The Board is considering the automated trash removal because this is the direction the industry is moving toward and there is an opportunity to obtain the trash and recycling carts free of charge to residents due to a grant. Brian Groshon from Casella explained that due to the size of the town, the cart size could be customized per resident as there are a variety of needs and demographics in town. There was discussion on the Casella logo on every cart. This is industry standard and the Casella logo would indeed be on each cart. That was not ideal to the Board. Mr. Groshon explained how the grant funds would be awarded and used. There would be an addendum to the current contract to reflect the changes. The Board discussed the size of the carts. They have been on display at town hall. There was some concern offering the largest size as default as many residents are not using a container that large, there could be an increase to trash produced. Additionally, there was concern that the Town would lose residual income of approximately \$7-8K per year from extra trash stickers purchased. Logistics and messaging around the potential transition were explained by Mr. Groshon and discussed by the Board.

Tina Favara of 8 North Rd asked if the Board did not move forward today and did in the future, is the big difference that residents would have to pay for the cost of the carts, versus now they would not due to the grant. It is unknown if residents would have to pay for carts in the future, but right now they would definitely be covered with the grant.

Dorothy DiBona of 4 Laurel Lane asked if other companies had been considered. It was explained that Kensington is currently under contract with Casella and this is 2 years early to approach other contractors.

Jon Andrews of 14 French's Lane asked if residents could exchange their bin size if after the first few weeks it wasn't meeting needs. It was explained that there would need to be a program in place for this but there would be flexibility to accommodate residents' needs.

Jen Macek of 8 Hidden Pasture Rd asked who would be responsible if carts are damaged or stolen. Mr. Groshon explained that part of the agreement is that Casella manages the carts from top to bottom and there is no responsibility of the Town.

Bill Ford 23 Osgood Rd asked about the maintenance of the carts. The carts are designed for significant wear and come with a 10 year warranty. The resident would need to call Casella or the Town for the direct line local operations team.

Therese Wallaga of 1 North Rd spoke in support of the idea.

Mrs. DiBona expressed concern regarding the elderly folks in town who may be opposed to this.

Mrs. Macek asked what the procedure would be for winter storms. It wouldn't be much different than clearing snow for the mailman.

There was discussion on why this proposal has come about. Mr. Groshon explained that the industry is moving to automated pickup and a neighboring town has recently moved to the automated pickup with Casella. There are no promises as to what would be offered with regard to automated pickup in the future. Casella would definitely remain interested in servicing Kensington in the future, but any cost savings are unknown. The Board discussed taking into consideration all feedback and comments. **At 7:36pm, Vanessa made a motion to move forward with the automated pickup proposal from Casella. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- Police Department –Chief Scott Cain reported as follows:
 - Foss Motors has reported that the 2 new vehicles have been shipped from Buffalo. It will still be several months for them to be delivered and then outfitted.
 - There will be officers present for the election on March 9. There was brief discussion of where officers will be stationed and a “game-plan” for election day.
- Fire Department – Chief Jon True reported as follows:
 - He has been working on preparations for the election
 - There has been a grant submitted for new radios
- Emergency Management - Chief Jon True
 - There is a draft of the Emergency Operations Plan. The EOC will continue to make changes and there will be more working sessions. The EOC plans to have a final plan by late March.
- Road Manager – David Buxton was not present.
- Tax Collector- Carlene Wiggin was not present.
- Building Inspector- Norman Giroux was not present.
- Treasurer- Sara Belisle was not present.
- Town Clerk – Interim Sarah Wiggin was not present.
- Recreation Committee- Jen Macek reported as follows:
 - The Recreation Committee has been working on a plan for a modified summer camp. There is uncertainty on the availability of bathrooms at the town park. The Rec Committee hopes to open registrations for a shortened summer camp (4-6 weeks) this week.
- Conservation Commission – Sydnee Goddard was not present.
- Sawyer Kensington Trust- Hez Mercadante reported as follows:
 - The Trust has met with Chief True to develop a plan for an April 15th park opening. There is ongoing concern of how to handle the bathrooms as it is out of budget for the Trust to hire staff to clean the bathrooms as frequently as COVID-19 protocols would require. The Trust is doing their best to open the park while maintaining safety for the public.
 - The Trust is working on updating forms that will go on the website.
- Kensington Public Library
 - The Tomato Plant sale is scheduled for May 15, 2021. This will not include the book sale as it has in past years. Masks and exact change will be required. Chief True is working with the KPL to ensure this is done safely.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fraud Mitigation Proposal

- The Board discussed a Fraud Mitigation proposal from the bank. Additional protection for written checks is being offered adding an additional layer of security for the Town. After brief discussion and input from Department Heads, the Board determined that this was not necessary as there is already some levels of protection in place.

Avitar Mapping Agreement

- Kathy explained that the town typically goes with a 1-year deferral at \$500.00 per year, so that when the full set is updated it does not cost as much. The Town allotted for the \$500.00 in the budget. There are other options offered that include more services. The Board felt that 5 years is a long time to not have updated tax maps online, but that there should be discussion on this when the budget for next year is created. The Board agreed

to proceed with the 1-year deferral program. **At 8:00pm, Bob made a motion for Joe to sign on behalf of the Board. Vanessa seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Purchasing Policy for town employees

- The Board reviewed and discussed the Purchasing Policy for employees. Department Heads have all reviewed this policy prior to the meeting and there were no questions. This policy was removed and separated from the Employee Handbook. **At 8:02pm, Bob made a motion to approve the Purchasing Policy as presented. Vanessa seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**

OTHER BUSINESS:

Intent to Excavate- Wiggin Map 3 Lot 17-2

- **At 8:03pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the Intent to Excavate for Map 3 Lot 17-2. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**

Cyber Security

- There is an ongoing development of a Cyber Security policy for the Town. This is required by the insurance company. This will need to be submitted by March 30th, and there will be training on this policy once it goes into effect.

Approval of Board Minutes February 15 & 23, 2021

- **At 8:05pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve meeting minutes from February 23, 2021. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**
- **At 8:05pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve meeting minutes from February 15, 2021. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**

The next meeting will be March 15, 2021 at 6:30pm.

At 8:09pm, Vanessa made a motion to enter into non-public session under RSA91A:3 (c). Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.

At 8:37pm, 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 8:38pm, 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