

**TOWN OF KENSINGTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 6, 2014  
APPROVED JANUARY 20, 2014**

**In attendance:** Russell Perry and Scott Lowell were in attendance. Russell called the meeting to order at 7:36pm.

**\*This meeting was not taped. With the change in location and equipment limitations, on April 2, 2012 the selectmen made a decision to discontinue tape recording the meetings as it is not required by state statute.**

***2014 PROPOSED BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING-***

Russell opened the public hearing at 7:36pm. He reviewed the proposed budget line by line and highlighted the changes and reported the Board tried to keep up with salaries because some employees have not had raises in several years, so they included some 2-3% increases to some office staff and full time employees and tried to cut other areas to reduce the budget to as close to last year as possible and also remain less than the default budget. The main concern was the increase in our property taxes and trying to control spending as much as possible.

**Executive-** Reduced social services and decided they should petition for warrant articles.

**Town Clerk-** There will be an increase in the number of elections this year as well as increase in office supplies needed for the new online registration software.

**Financial Administration-** dropped significantly because last year's budget included the revaluation.

**Legal expenses-** Reduced because the fees have been declining and they don't anticipate as many issues as the past few years.

**Personnel-** payroll taxes and health insurance has increased

**Planning and Zoning-** The board granted the request for the increased fees for the cost of the hearings since there's been a significant increase recently.

**Government Buildings-** Increased for trailer and office rentals. Richard Elwell asked if additional drainage and work on the town hall is included in this figure. Russell explained that it is not included in the budget and that it would need to be a separate warrant article.

**Cemetery-** Denied their request for increases.

**Insurance-** increased costs for worker's compensation insurance.

**General Government Operations-** The separate line item for utilities for trailers was moved to the standard utilities line item.

**Police Department-** Increases for cruiser maintenance and officers raises to try and be comparable to other towns. Russell asked Chief Sielicki if the use of part timers has been declining since they want to reduce the line item. Chief responded that since they don't have many part timers, that line was reduced, however the overtime line was overspent to compensate. He suggested moving \$5k more from part time salaries to the overtime line.

**Fire Department-** Chief's requested increase was reduced to \$2k. He suggested reducing pagers to \$1k and increasing new equipment and turnout equipment by \$2k each.

**Building Inspection-** no change as far as budget but another warrant article is needed to change the fee structure.

**Emergency Management-** Since they've never had a budget, they trimmed other areas to compensate. They added \$2200 to increase the phone line item since it wasn't considered.

**Highway and Streets-** This budget was reduced by \$15k since there's been a surplus in the past couple of years. Dave stated his budget was originally \$209k and that he was denied completing some projects. He's concerned there won't be enough funds next December if there's a bad winter.

**Lighting-** no change

**Solid Waste Administration-** no change

**Solid Waste Collection** – reflects the new 3 year contract

**Health officer-** no change

**Pest Control-** contract for larviciding, trapping and testing

**Welfare-** no change

**Parks and Recreation-** no change

**Library-** slight increase of \$1500

**Conservation Commission-** no change

**Debt Service-** for Kimball Farm bond, the interest decreases each year

A discussion ensued about the need to include trailer costs in the budget in the event the warrant article does not pass for a new police department. The board thought William Scottsman's quote was high and they are awaiting a quote from another trailer company. The cost for two double wide trailers is \$97k for two years. The selectmen budgeted \$45k for the year.

Russell explained the Town is obligated to provide a police department and it would be included in both the budget and default because it's a contractual agreement. Russell will wait to sign any agreements until he receives a second quote. Russell also would like to submit a warrant article to use the surplus to offset costs of a new police department. There could be over \$100k in the surplus because they froze spending in the final few months of the year. Chief Sielicki let the Board know if the article passes for a new police department, the trailer rentals won't be necessary and they would stay in the current trailers during construction.

The fire truck warrant article will be included again this year for the 3<sup>rd</sup> payment of \$60,740.

The Board plans to submit a warrant article for the proposed police department and a bond hearing is scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Any warrant articles for work on the town hall would be on top of this operating budget.

Russell closed the hearing at 8:22pm.

### ***CITIZEN'S FORUM-***

Richard Elwell inquired if the Board would investigate if the intersection of Route 150 and 108 could be plowed in the wintertime. He stated it's almost impossible to turn there. Chief Sielicki suggested the Board write a letter to the State. The Board agreed. Dave will also investigate options.

### ***DEPARTMENT HEADS:***

**Police Department-** Chief Sielicki submitted Bill Hart's renewal for prosecutor services for the town with the same rate as the past several years. Russell made a motion to accept the prosecutor agreement, seconded by Scott with both in favor. The Board expressed their appreciation for his service and significant cost savings to our town.

**Fire Department-** Chief Leblanc thanked Lynne for helping resolve the ambulance relicensing glitch.

**Building Inspector-** Mark Sikorski submitted the following:

- KLCT Holdings, 267 South Road, solar panels. Russell made a motion to approve the permit as presented, seconded by Scott with both in favor.

**Road Manager-** Dave Buxton didn't have anything to report.

**Emergency Management-** Robert Gustafson reported:

- He's working on the annual report.
- Upcoming meetings: Seacoast preparedness group and quarterly meetings.

**Assessing Clerk-** Kathleen Felch reported:

- Update on the Memo of Understanding. The Rockingham Planning Commission suggested including our driveway regulations in the agreement. Russell also wanted to include the RPC's email explanation in the agreement.
- Russell asked Peter Merrill to clarify the two upcoming public hearings on the building inspector fees. One hearing is to remove the building inspector fees from the zoning book and one is to update the fees which would be done by the selectmen in the future if the warrant article passes. Russell explained the suggested fees from Mark Sikorski were not finalized since we already have fees set for electrical and oil/gas burners. Kathleen will confirm if changes to the fees can be made during their public hearing with the planning board. Russell didn't think it would be an issue since those two fees are not currently in the document anyway.
- Lynne advised Peter and the Board there is a new proposed bill that would eliminate the planning commissions in the state.

**Tax Collector-** Carlene Wiggin was not in attendance.

**Town Clerk-** Pamela Kehoe was not in attendance.

**Recreation Department-** Members were not in attendance.

**Conservation Commission-** Members were not in attendance.

**Sawyer Kensington Trust-** Bruce Cilley was not in attendance.

***NEW BUSINESS:***

***OLD BUSINESS***

**Administrative Assistant:**

- **Auditor Contract-** The Board signed the paperwork
- **Code Enforcement Letter-** submitted for signatures. Scott didn't think it was necessary to enforce the defect. Russell explained he wants to cover the town in case someone was to fall on the deck. Scott relented.
- **2014 Deliberative Session-** The date has been changed to Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 7:30pm at the Kensington Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room. The school's session is at 6:00pm.

**Bills & Mail-** Bills were approved and signed.

**Next Meeting Date-** January 20, 2014 **7:00pm** in the Kensington Elementary School Library. The bond hearing will begin at 7:00 and the budget hearing will follow. The school is holding their budget hearing on Wednesday night at 6:00pm.

**Approval of Minutes** – Russell made a motion to approve the December 16, 2013 minutes, seconded by Scott with both in favor.

Russell Perry moved to adjourn at 9:20pm, seconded by Scott with both in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Bonitatibus  
Administrative Assistant