

TOWN OF KENSINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Kensington Town Hall
95 Amesbury Road
Kensington, NH 03833

MONDAY
DECEMBER 19, 2022
MINUTES
Meeting 6:30 pm

IN ATTENDANCE: Joseph Pace, Robert Solomon, Robert Gustafson

Public Comment: Skip Heal addressed the board on a number of items of concern:

- Lighting is bad in the parking lot across the street from the town hall, he asked if the board could investigate better lighting.
- The sign the town hall office uses to post things is always overturned, is there a way to fix that?
- Congratulations to Kathleen T Felch on her appointment to Town Administrator.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- Police Department –Chief Scott Cain -nothing to report
- Fire Department – Chief Jon True
 - ENGINE 3 is out for refurbishment- will have an update for next meeting.
 - AMB 2 was out of service for a few days but is back and operating properly.
 - As of today, we still have not been awarded or denied the amb grant. I attended an online update, and we should know before the end of the year. I am working on a contingent plan for you should we not get it that will be ready for next meeting.
 - Same with regional grant for radios.
 - Working on Medicare report that is due in March.
 - We will be doing a large social media campaign over the next couple of months for 988 the national hotline for suicide.
- Emergency Management - Chief Jon True –
 - Working on COOP template for Town although delayed, will be working in January to draft.
 - Watch for possible severe weather on Friday/Sat. Briefings are sent out by EM Office. If you are not getting them but want them- or if you do not want them, please send me an email.
 - We will be doing a media release on NH Alerts a public notification system for serious emergencies
 - There is a lot of flu, RSV, cold and Covid going around. I will be sending a briefing to Kathleen to forward to all departments/employees on updated signs, symptoms, treatment, and PPE. Most important for the public and employees- if an altered level of consciousness or severe difficulty breathing- call 911. Don't wait.

Safety related issues:

- Safety committee will be forming again- expect notice of a meeting in January.
- We will be doing a CPR and FA class for PD, Town Hall, Library and any other employee that wishes to attend. Plan for early February.
- Road Manager – Matthew Armstrong-
 - Matrix paving took care of patching on Kimball Road, Muddy Pond, Stumpfield and Cottage Road.
 - Stop sign installed at the Drinkwater Road end of North Road.
 - 2 more loads of salt delivered from Morton, satisfying our contractual obligations to take 40% of the reserves by year end.
 - Looked into solar speed awareness signs, smaller 12in digital numeral \$3500 per set, 18-inch digital numeral ones are \$5500 each.
 - B Gustafson stated that on Muddy Pond Road the culvert is full of the sand that comes off the state road, Route 107. He is making him aware due to the driving issues that it can cause in that area. Matt will investigate that.
- Tax Collector- Carlene Wiggin-
 - She explained that the only thing that she has is an Abatement for Map 12 Lot 17-1. In the amount of \$33 which is the balance of the exemption for that property.
B. Gustafson motioned approve the abatement for \$33 for 38 Osgood Road, seconded by B. Solomon, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Church/Union Meetinghouse- Ben Cole-
Mr. Cole explained that the Union Meetinghouse has received the grant and they are hoping to start the construction in April 2023.
 - He is hoping to sign an agreement with the town to use the bathrooms in the townhall.
 - Contractors will be using the driveway between the two buildings during construction, and they want to work with the town during the construction.
 - J. Pace stated that Kathy will have broad responsibility for the grounds of the town hall to coordinate things.
 - B. Solomon asked if the building inspector has been contacted, Mr. Cole will talk to the building inspector. J. Pace asked what the permits would be for the work, and he would like him to contact G. Rignoli to discuss what will be needed as far as permits.
 - The board congratulated Mr. Cole on this award and acknowledged his work on the project.
- Library Lease signing- J. Pace explained that the board and the Library Social Trustees have been working on this lease agreement for the past year and all parties have reviewed and approved it. The towns legal has reviewed the lease and created the Notice of Lease to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds. J. Pace explained that the purpose of the lease being amended is for the library to potentially request a bond from the town for the renovations to be done on the

existing building. This amended lease allows the town to have a more substantial role in the building and in the project.

B. Gustafson made a motion to allow the chairman to sign the Notice of Lease on behalf of the board, B. Solomon seconded all in favor.

- **Alteration of Road Speed Limits as allowed in RSA 265-information –**

Amend Speed Limit for Muddy Pond Road and Stumpfield Road from 30 MPH to 25 MPH

The board did not feel that all the roads needed to be reduced to 25 mph.

Cindy Heal 47 Osgood Road asked why this was on the agenda. J. Pace explained that there have been several meetings where concerns about the speeds on the roads in town were voiced. J. Pace further explained that they had begun the process on looking at this over a year ago. C. Heal asked what roads the studies were done on.

Chief Cain explained that they did all the cut through roads in town and the study was done for a week at a time and that gave them the information on the average speeds on the road as well as the number of vehicles traveling the roads.

Stumpfield Road had 421 vehicles and the average high speed was 57 mph with Muddy Pond Road had an average high speed of 32.2 mph.

Chief Cain explained that there have been complaints by people on the speed limits which prompted the traffic study. C. Heal asked if the roads that they plan to reduce will there be any patrols there and the town will be patrolling more to raise awareness of the speed limit change. C. Heal would like the board to consider why they are making this decision and if it will work. J. Pace explained that by making the change hopefully the speed limits will be followed. The board did determine that some of the roads did not need to be reduced.

C. Heal would like to see the sign back up that states that the Kensington Police Department will strongly enforce the speed limits.

Skip Heal Osgood Road- he suggested that the board of selectmen get with the police department and increase the patrols in the problem areas. Chief Cain explained that they are out doing the directive patrols and that 900 tickets have been written so far this year. Pat Bonnevie on 10 French's Lane- Handicap vans bottom out on the narrow speed bumps and speed tables and if the board is considering speed tables to please keep that in mind.

Shawn Smith- Muddy Pond Road- he explained that he brought this up about a year ago and knew that the town was going to work on the study. He had a car speeding by when his wife was walking their grandchildren and he believes that this is a start.

B. Gustafson explained that he believed that the speed limits were 25 mph townwide when he moved in, he believes that there are out of towners that use the cut through roads and the only thing that the town can do is to regulate the speed limits. He believes that the Chief is doing a good job being out on the roads. He did caution people walking on the roads to beware of cars that might not know the town roads. B. Solomon does not think that anyone believes that there will be any major changes, and this is one step in trying to do something.

The board will consider the spacing of the signs on the roads and how far apart they are and is all aware that speeding in town is an issue and they believe that this is a step in the right direction. J. Pace would like to see the solar speed limit signs on the other roads to help people to know how fast they are going.

B. Solomon made a motion to change the speed limit on Stumpfield Road and Muddy Pond Road to 25 mph, B. Gustafson seconded the motion, all in favor.

The speed limits will be come effective on February 1, 2022.

Matt will look into additional signs and if they will be effective.

Chief Cain will investigate Exeter's solar signs and what vendor they got them through and different avenues to pay for them.

- **Library Funds Question-Susie Gilbert**

Susie handed out the board her expenses and showed them where her deficiency in in the budgeted numbers was. There have been higher expenses this year and her budget is not sufficient. She is requesting \$5000 from the board to help to cover her regular operating expenses. J. Pace explained that the board has gone up on next years budget due to the shortfalls of this year's budget for the libraries operating expenses.

B. Solomon asked why the library is paid differently than other departments, and why their bills are not included with the town's bill runs. It is due to RSA that surround the library, their payroll is paid by the town and then the remaining monthly allotment

B. Solomon made a motion to have the library over expend their budget by \$5000 and for Kathy to send a check for that amount, seconded by B. Gustafson, all in favor.

The board signed off on the check to the library for \$5000 to be paid out this week.

- **Encumbered Funds Requests**

The board discussed all the department's requests for invoices to be encumbered.

The list of the encumbered amounts will be in the finance office.

B. Gustafson made a motion to encumber \$66, 010.90 for all departments, seconded by B. Solomon, all in favor.

The remaining funds for the Road Reconstruction to roll over for 2022 is \$7,299.26.

The remaining funds for the Grange Hall to be encumbered is \$6,233.66.

- **Camera System for the town hall-**

The board approved the encumbrance for the new camera system that is NDAA compliant, the demo will be scheduled with Chief Cain soon.

- **Finalize Budget-**

The board discussed the budget and removed the lease from the police department budget and also \$5000 from the library budget for the water filtration system.

Supervisors of checklist-

Have not been paid since 2020, she would retroactively like to pay the supervisor for the elections that they were not paid for. **B. Gustafson made a motion to approve the pay the Supervisors of the Checklist a total of \$1566.00 for three supervisors, J. Pace seconded, both in favor with B. Solomon abstaining.**

Other Departments:

Kathleen Felch:

- Solar Exemption Map 5 lot 15
B. Solomon made a motion to approve the Solar Exemption on Map 5 Lot 15 for \$20,400, B. Gustafson seconded all in favor.
 - Auditor Option MS-60A
The board reviewed the MS-60A. **B. Gustafson made a motion to submit the MS-60A to the DRA, and to authorize the chairman J. Pace to sign, seconded by B. Solomon, all in favor.**
 - J. Pace asked for the motion to approve the payrates for Jonathan True and Kathleen Felch effective January 1, 2023. **B. Gustafson made a motion to approve the payrate for Chief Jon True to \$27k effective January 1, 2023, seconded by B. Solomon, all in favor.**
 - **B. Gustafson made a motion to approve the payrate for Kathleen T Felch of \$59, 010 yearly effective January 1, 2023, seconded by B. Solomon, all in favor.**
 - **B. Gustafson made a motion to authorize the chairman to sign both payrates for Jonathan True and Kathleen T Felch for the board, seconded by B. Solomon, all in favor.**
- Approval of Board Minutes **November 4, 21st and December 5th.**
B. Solomon made a motion to approve the minutes from November 4, 21 and December 5th, B. Gustafson seconded all in favor.
- Bills, Payroll were signed.

J. Pace brought up the options of creating a PTO pool for employees and keeping these days for significant illnesses or family issues where that PTO pool could be accessed. This would be an ongoing liability for the town. The employees can put in time unused and unable to carry forward from the year before. This will be looked into for a policy.

B. Gustafson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48pm, B. Solomon seconded all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen T Felch