

**TOWN OF EPSOM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Monday, January 4, 2010

Bob _____
Joanne _____
Keith _____

Final _____
Accepted _____
Accepted as Amended _____

Present: Bob Blodgett, Chairman; Joanne Randall, Vice Chairman; Keith Cota; Darlene Phelps, Recording Secretary

Also in Attendance: Kathy Bailey; Betsy Bosiak; Mary Frambach;

6:15pm Bob called the meeting to order and decided to omit the Pledge of Allegiance due to lack of public attendance.
Joanne stated that Town Counsel Tony Soltani may be unavailable for a period of time due to his health, and if that happens, she said she'd recommend using Byron Bedard for legal issues in his absence. She will be in touch with Tony and will keep the BOS up to date.

6:30pm **Staff Discussion** Joanne asked if a letter has been received from Eric Reeves in regard to his property. Barbara said no, but suggested that the BOS check with Jay before following up with Eric. The BOS agreed that if Jay has not received the letter that Eric was supposed to send, that she ask Debbie to send a letter to him.

FOR SIGNATURE

1. **Accounts Payable** has been signed.
2. **Manifest** has been signed.
3. **Request for Leave** has been signed.
4. **2010 Pay Rates** has been signed.

FOR DISCUSSION

- A. **Default Budget:** Joanne reviewed the default budget, which has a total of \$2,651,657. The current proposed budget which has not yet been accepted reflects a total of \$2,716,149. Joanne said she does have a couple of questions for Nancy in regard to the Epsom Historic Meetinghouse funds that were budgeted and also audit fees that were not needed.
Keith is still questioning the legality of the Library Trustees to grant merit raises when merit raises for other contracted employees have not been approved by the town. Joanne will ask Nancy to get with Tony for an explanation on this. After some discussion, the following changes were determined necessary to the proposed budget:
Reduce the Planning Board budget by \$2500K due to the credit on account at the CNHRPC for development of the

CIP; and also to remove the portion of the Morrison Line under the Executive portion of the budget that was used to purchase the office computers (Joanne thinks it's about \$3800); also to increase the Fire Dept. Health Insurance Line by \$609 due to an employee making a change in which plan they are choosing.

B. CNHRPC – Request for Letter of Interest for Projects

A letter was received from CNHRPC in regard to a new project CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality). Keith explained that this is a project that will help to reduce the number of vehicles on the highway (like building sidewalks, park-n-rides, etc.) This would require a 20% match of funds. This letter was also sent to the Planning Board.

C. 2010 BOS / Dept Head Meetings rescheduled due to Holiday Closings:

Jan 19 BOS meeting (Civil Rights Day) (Dept. Head 1/25)

Feb 16 BOS meeting (Presidents Day) (Dept. Head 2/22)

June 1 BOS meeting (Memorial Day)

Sept 7 BOS meeting (Labor Day)

D. 2010 Mileage Rate was set at 50 cents per mile (reflects a reduction of \$.05 per mile)

MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- **Draft – December 28, 2009** Joanne made a motion to approve these minutes as amended. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Final – December 21, 2009** Joanne made a motion to approve these minutes as written. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION (No action required)

- Zoning Compliance Letter
- Comcast – One Time Charges
- LGC Scholarship Program

ANY OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE BOARD

Board Member Liaison Reports:

There are a total of 7 Warrant Articles, 3 were by petition. Joanne read the details for the benefit of the public. The Budget Committee will be reviewing these on Thursday and will be voting on whether or not to recommend each one.

Joanne said if the \$30,000 Warrant Article does not pass, then the BOS will need to discuss how to fund finishing off the building in order to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy, which was the commitment made when receiving the LCHIP grant.

Joanne said she received an email from the Hooksett Banner looking for additional information as to why the estimated tax impact is not going to be included on the Warrant. Joanne said she has been advised that towns are recommended to not put that wording on the Warrant as its estimated and often times it's far from being accurate. Also as the BOS interprets the statute,

they do not have the authority to do so. Attorney Soltani told Joanne placing that verbiage on the Warrant can be considered electioneering. Keith also noted that although it's not placed on the ballot – the information is made available to taxpayers on the website, at town office, etc. Budget Committee meeting is Thursday, 1/7. The Public Hearing will be held on 1/14.

The Stewardship Committee has a meeting on 1/19, which is the same night as the rescheduled BOS meeting, so Joanne will be in attendance at the BOS meeting until about 7 PM, and then she will go to the Stewardship Committee meeting. There will be a SVRTC meeting on Jan 21.

Keith said he did some research about the Depot Road Bridge in Chichester, and he noted the bridge is classified as an "E2" load rating, which has certain weight limitations for certified vehicles. It is typical for a logging truck to be certified through the NH Department of Safety to allow it to carry heavier loads (up to 99,000 lbs with six axles). All certified loaded vehicles are restricted from crossing "E2" rated bridges with those heavier than legal loads. Joanne asked if the BOS should take any action now that we have this information. Keith feels that unless we hear future complaints from residents along Goboro Road or we see road deterioration due to the truck's heavy weight, we don't really have any authority to stop the logger from traveling that road.

Keith reported that the Planning Board approved the zoning changes for the flood maps and the Bed & Breakfasts.

Bob said Gordon did not use all of the last 2 loads of salt, so he still has some left. He has his new Highway Department vehicle.

Public Comment:

Betsy asked why the Highway Department doesn't have any town identification on their vehicles. The BOS agreed that all town vehicles should be identified, and requested that Bob direct Gordon go to Diamond Sign in Chichester & check prices for decals for his Department vehicles.

Kathy Bailey asked for an update about the LCHIP grant – Bob said an LCHIP meeting is scheduled for Jan 11 at Fish & Game.

Kathy also asked if it's the Town's official policy to not release "drafts", as she's had some difficulty obtaining them. Joanne said there is not an issue in providing information to her – but is cautious because when she writes an article it is possible that it can be interpreted as a final copy – not a draft. Joanne said she'd like to ask Tony his opinion about providing her draft copies. Kathy feels she could report more responsibly if she had the drafts in front of her as opposed to her reporting based on the information that she gathers from a meeting. Joanne told Kathy that if Tony gave her the OK she would make arrangements for Kathy to get a copy right away.

8:00 PM Joanne made a motion to adjourn. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.