

**TOWN OF EPSOM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Monday, March 22, 2010**

**Bob** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Joanne** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Keith** \_\_\_\_\_

**Final** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Accepted** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Accepted as Amended** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Also in Attendance:** Tim Harkness; Tom Langlais; Lester Cash; Andrew Walton; Richard & Mary Frambach; Dave Fiorentino; Betsy Bosiak; Len Gilman; Jay Hickey; Nancy Wheeler; Bruce & Penny Graham; Barbara Clark; Debbie Tibbetts; Don Bartlett

**6:15pm Joanne called the meeting to order and asked Les Cash to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.** Joanne said she's going to be filling out a Deed Waiver for all of the properties that the Town will not be accepting as tax deed. The Board still has a couple weeks before final decisions on properties are made.

**6:30pm Staff Discussion - Debbie** has provided a draft letter regarding the tax impact, for the BOS review. Joanne noted that next week's meeting will be an emergency review of the last storm, beginning at 5:30 PM.

**Nancy** said Rick Bilodeau came in this morning and said that last week's rain was considered a disaster and a Preliminary Damage Assessment is required. Nancy St. Laurent had provided a map to him for damage to be indicated on. Nancy said she noted about \$400 in road damage and about \$4K of fallen trees at Webster Park. Due to the result of the election, Nancy asked if the BOS has created a list of tasks to be completed in order to obtain an Occupancy Permit for the Historic Meetinghouse, perhaps making a list of goals. Keith replied that he went to a Meetinghouse Committee meeting, and said there are no funds except for donations, to go toward the work needed to acquire the Occupancy Permit. The committee will be seeking bids for electrical & plumbing work, and bringing water into the building – at least for the first floor; then pursue additional donations for work in the basement. Rick Belanger indicated that he was going to try to get septic system work completed at reduced costs while George Carlson is going to do donate his time to do the septic design. Grant options are being researched. Keith also said the charter for the Meetinghouse Committee expires this March, so the BOS will need to extend their charter and it has been suggested that the BOS may want to appoint George Carlson to be the Project Coordinator to oversee any improvements undertaken at the Meetinghouse. Keith also noted that Meetinghouse Committee would like to hold a "Vision" session with the BOS possibly in May, for the public to come in and discuss what the options are for that building and site.

**Barb** said Larry Caraway's insurance adjuster will be here on Wednesday morning. Server removed the air circulators. Tom Hebert will begin work after the adjusters come in. She also had a different cleaning company offer an unsolicited bid for cleaning. Avitar will be doing a full town revaluation this year and will be coming to our next BOS meeting to discuss this, along with DRA.

**7:00pm Public Hearing** - Joanne opened the Public Hearing for Gifts, Grants & Donations. The State of NH sent a check in the amount of \$143,223.32, which is 12.5% match of the funds Epsom received for the 2007 flood.

|              |           |  |
|--------------|-----------|--|
| Fire Dept.   | \$500     | Equipment                                    |
| Police Dept. | \$200     | Equipment                                    |
| Parks        | \$1450.00 | Replace damaged equipment, build parking lot |

Highway Dept. \$141,073.32 New Orchard Road

Mary asked if there was a reason why the reason for the Public Hearing was not specifically included on the agenda. Joanne said it was likely an oversight. Joanne asked if there was any other public comment. Being none – the Public Hearing was closed.

Keith made a motion to accept the amount of \$143,223.32 for the FEMA funds for 2007 flood, to be expended as stated above. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor.

## FOR SIGNATURE

1. **Accounts Payable** was signed.
2. **Manifest** was signed.
3. **Payroll** was signed.
4. **Exemptions – Disabled & Veteran** was signed.
5. **Abatement** – Keith made a motion to approve the abatement R01-30-11 as recommended by Avitar. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor.
6. **BCEP Alternate Appointment** was signed.
7. **Settlement Plan Map U16 Lot 7 Kings Towne Mobile Home Park** - Keith asked Jay to confirm that the map provided is the correct one. Jay noted that the map is accurate according to the agreement with Kings Towne. Keith asked about Lot #13 – the stipulation was upon renovation or abandonment – not sale. Keith made a motion to authorize the BOS Chairman to sign the Settlement Plan for Map U16 Lot 7 Kings Towne Mobile Home Park. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor.
8. **MS-2 Report of Appropriations** was signed.

## FOR DISCUSSION

- A. **Default Budget** – Fire & Police Departments have submitted their suggestions for re-allocations based on what they submitted for the proposed budget. Gordon has submitted his suggestions for the Highway Department. Joanne asked Nancy to create a worksheet showing what dollar amounts would correspond with percentages of salary increases for full-time employees at 2%, 3% and 4%. The dollar amounts are all-inclusive with taxes, etc. Joanne is going to provide excel spreadsheets showing the comparison of proposed/default budget amounts, and suggested that a work session be held next week to discuss this in detail.
- B. **Policy for Temporary Alternative Duty Program** – Joanne questioned the consequences if an employee refuses Temporary Alternative Work. RSA 281 addressed those concerns. Keith made a motion to approve this policy in accordance with RSA 281-A:23-b. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor.
- C. **Properties to Deed in May** – this is being reviewed weekly until the middle of April
- E. **NH Homeland Security & Emergency Management – Statewide Debris Cleanup** – A letter was received from NH Homeland Security asking if we will be providing curb side pick-up of allowable debris (brush, etc.) from the February storm, which is a reimbursable service the Town can provide. The consensus of

the Board is to not offer this service, as there doesn't appear to be an immediate need for this service to the residents of Epsom.

**F. Meetinghouse Charter** - Keith said after reviewing the Charter, it was determined that the term expired on March 10, 2010. Since the members are still willing to continue to serve on this committee, it was determined that this Charter needed to be updated – and will be extended for an additional two years. Keith provided a final draft of the new Charter & made a motion to readopt the Epsom Historic Meetinghouse Committee to be in effect for two years. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor.

**G. Meetinghouse Project Coordinator** - Keith stated that George Carlson is willing to serve as the Meetinghouse Committee Project Coordinator and BOS Agent to oversee the improvements to the Historic Meetinghouse. George did oversee the LCHIP grant that was received. Keith asked Debbie to add a job description for a Project Coordinator for the Meetinghouse Charter. Joanne noted that a Project Coordinator is not able to sign invoices or contracts on behalf of the town. He would update the BOS during regular Department Head meetings. Keith made a motion to appoint George Carlson as BOS Project Coordinator for the Epsom Historic Meetinghouse. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor.

After a brief discussion, the BOS agreed to sign a grant application for a Moose Plate grant, when it is ready. Penny Graham is working on completing that application. It is possible that an LCHIP grant may be applied for; however there are no grant matching funds in the current Town Budget. Keith indicated again his desire to have a Public Forum so the public is aware of the work that needs to be done. Penny stated that 50% of grant matching funds must be cash & the other 50% can be in-kind donations. Mary Frambach said she believes there's about \$3600 in in-kind donations available.

**H. Letter to Senator / Representative** – Debbie drafted a letter to our State Senator & Representatives regarding the vote that passed on Election Day requiring the placement of the estimated tax impact on the ballot. Tom Langlais asked if the Town Attorney has been consulted on this, and Joanne said yes, and he was in agreement with the Local Government Center. Len Gilman stated that this was done before the Town adopted SB2. Joanne stated that this is an unrelated matter, and the BOS has been advised not to place that information on the ballot – it was not a personal decision of any BOS member; in fact Joanne & Keith both stated they are in favor of placing this information on the ballot. Our elected members will be asked to obtain the official position on the ability to do this from the Attorney General office. Len cited some RSA's in which he feels can be applied to this, and the BOS reiterated that it is the intent of the BOS for the AG's office to be consulted to see if this information can be placed on the ballot, and if it cannot be, then our representatives will be asked to support a bill to change the legislation which would allow it. Betsy said any BOS member can go to the AG's office & ask a question. Keith acknowledged that the BOS can seek this opinion

directly but felt our elected officials should be obtaining the legal opinion for the town as they are our elected officials.

**7:37 PM - 7:43 PM Break**

## **MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

- **Final – March 16, 2010 Emergency Meeting** Keith made a motion to approve these minutes as written. Bob seconded the motion. Bob & Joanne voted in favor. Keith abstained.
- **Draft – March 15, 2010** Keith made a motion to approve these minutes as amended. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Final – March 15, 2010 Non-Public** Keith made a motion to approve these minutes as written. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Final – March 8, 2010** Keith made a motion to approve these minutes as written. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION (No action required)**

- Town Building Inspection Checklists
- ZBA Record of Decision
- Conservation Commission Report

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE BOARD**

### **Board Member Liaison Reports:**

Bob said Gordon Ellis would like to hold his vacation time over until July, or get paid for the unused time. Joanne said he cannot get paid for it, and he needs to submit a written request indicating the amount of time he has accrued and wishes to carry over.

Bob noted that Gordon would like to lift the road postings next week. He's been working on ditching and cleaning up trees.

Keith said there is nothing new on the river avulsion, though there has been quite a bit in the newspapers lately about this.

He said a meeting was held with the Town Attorney regarding the Bartlett subdivision. He feels the Planning Board is nearing a decision.

Joanne said since Attorney Soltani may not be available in the near future, Attorney Biron Bedard will be the follow up legal counsel should a need arise.

She said she attempted to contact the owner of the mall at the circle, who is offering two end units to the Town of Epsom for Town Office space. It is about 4700 square feet. Joanne is going to request that the BOS meet with him 2-3 times to discuss various elements of the space available. Bob said he & Nancy have been down there and toured the space. The lease is up on this office space at the end of June 2010.

The Hazard Mitigation Committee is meeting this Thursday at 7 PM.

The Stewardship Committee met last week, but she was unable to attend due to the emergency meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4 at 7PM at the library.

The Suncook Valley Regional Town Association meeting will be held on April 15 at 7:15 at the Northwood Town Hall. Joanne provided a brief description of this committee and informed the audience that the SVRTA meetings were open to the public.

The BOS will meet beginning at 5:30 next Monday to discuss the rain/wind storm that took place in February.

Keith answered Tim Harkness' questions regarding the new mobile homes in Kingstown Mobile Home Park.

Len Gilman asked if the Town held a special election, what the cost would be. Joanne referred to Penny Graham who said it cost about \$1300 for a special election for the Historic Meetinghouse. He expressed his frustration at the way the Warrant Article was written for funding of the Meetinghouse, as it was confusing.

**8:25 PM Bob made a motion to adjourn. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.**