

**Town of Epsom
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Monday, April 13, 2009**

Bob _____
Joanne _____
Keith _____

Final _____
Accepted _____
Accepted as Amended _____

In attendance: Bob Blodgett, Chairman; Joanne Randall, Vice Chairman; Keith Cota

Also in attendance: Dick Frambach; Mary Frambach; Betsy Bosiak; State Representative Carol Brown; George Carlson; Nancy Wheeler; Barbara Clark; Dawn Blackwell; Andrew Walton; Jay Hickey

6:15pm Bob called the meeting to order and asked Jay to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

6:15pm Joanne made a motion to go into Non-public RSA 91-A:3 II (c) (reputation) with John Hickey. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

6:32 pm Joanne made a motion to come out of Non-public session. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

6:35pm Staff Discussion

Nancy Wheeler said the audit of the town is continuing throughout this week.

Dawn Blackwell has the contract from Jason Baker from Point and Pay (Credit Card Offer for Payment). Dawn said she has found a few variances in the contract from what she was initially told. There is a \$95 fee for the scanner (unless we have \$10 Million in revenue), and Dawn suggests not using the scanner – and just manually entering the credit card numbers. Also, Jason initially stated there is a program available which will allow residents to interface directly with Avitar property data; to go online, review, and submit payment of their tax bill to the Town. However, there is a \$600 set up fee from Pay and Point and \$0.20 per credit card payment (charged to the taxpayer). Jason indicated that Point in Pay is willing to waive the \$600 set up fee in order to be a test-pilot for this program.

Keith feels that Point in Pay has misrepresented the contract & suggested Dawn go back to Jason & see if he will honor the product he sold to the town, to waive the cost of the scanner, and also to ensure that we are able to cancel the contract at any time with no cost. The board agrees. She will come back with the contract next Monday.

Dawn said the E-Reg is up & running & someone has already used it! It hasn't been publicized yet, because she wanted to be sure it was working well first.

Barbara Clark – Joanne asked about the insurance claim for the damage to the Town Hall. The Board would like Barbara to prepare a Request for Bids for repair to the Town Hall. She will have the Request ready for the board to review next Monday.

There was a brief discussion regarding tax abatements.

7:00pm **Bob opened the Public Hearing to Accept and Expend FEMA & State Bridge Aid Monies to accept and expend funds as follows:**

Ice Storm 2008-

Highway Reimbursement: \$28,384.10

Administrative: \$543.96

\$28,928.06 (This entire amount is for the New Orchard Road project)

State Bridge Aid for Griffin Road – final payment –

Check received 3/23/09: \$144,218.28

Added to check received in 2008: \$183,976.66

\$328,194.94

NH DOS HSEM: 1695-DR Hazard Mitigation Grant Program & 2008 Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program for culvert replacements – 50% of 75%:

Lockes Hill Road	\$33,523.50
New Orchard Road	\$33,622.00
Drolet Road	\$33,845.00
North Road	<u>\$23,800.00</u>
	\$124,520.50

To expend funds from Hanna, September 2008, as follows:

Police:	\$230.00 Recording Equipment
	\$262.20 Equipment for new vehicle or ammo
Fire:	\$267.86 Laminate maps for command vehicle

7:05 PM

Richard Frambach & George Carlson – Epsom Meetinghouse Committee

Richard Frambach said they have about \$40K left in the L-Chip to use for installation of electrical, gas furnace, handicap ramp, and some site work. At this time there is no money available for plumbing. Perhaps a volunteer may be willing to do this.

There was a brief discussion about fundraising/volunteering. Dick stated that many people would be willing to help & donate time, but often times if there are too many restrictions, people are discouraged from helping.

Dick updated the board on the LChip grant, the Moose Plate grant and explained how he has gone about requesting materials from various businesses, and applying for grants, and plans to raise money in the future. He explained some of the work that has been done and what is left to be done (windows, etc.).

Joanne wanted to be sure that whenever an application is filled out for a grant, to be sure that the application is brought to the Town Office before it is mailed & Dick stated that the BOS has to sign the application, so they are always brought here first.

Nancy asked if there is a list of projects that need to be completed. Dick said they are working with the money they have. Nancy wanted to be sure that George & Dick understand that any donations that are received and not spent by the end of the year will go into the General Fund. Friends of the Meetinghouse Committee is not a town committee and the Town is not set up as a “Non-Profit Group”, and so there are a lot of restrictions regarding charitable donations. Nancy also stated there are standard Volunteer Agreements that can be used.

George said they will prepare a list of projects, materials needed and what volunteers are needed for. Keith asked to be included in correspondence.

Joanne asked that this group provide an update at the monthly Department Head meeting.

George discussed Town Office space. They have been investigating similar-sized towns & their office space. George would like the BOS to go look at the Town Office in Strafford. There was discussion about whether it is too early in the process to begin looking at buildings. The BOS is willing to go to Strafford, so George will try to coordinate a time.

7:55 PM Bob asked if anyone has any questions or comments on the Public Hearing to accept and expend funds as described earlier. There are none.

Keith made a motion to close the public hearing. Joanne seconded the motion. All in favor. Joanne made a motion to accept and expend the funds as described earlier. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

7:58 PM – 8:05 PM Break

FOR SIGNATURE

1. **Accounts Payable** was signed.
2. **Manifest** was signed.
3. **Abatements** – Keith made a motion to grant an abatement for lot #U03-21-2 Ramsey \$2,200.00, as recommended by Avitar. Joanne seconded the motion. All in favor.
Keith made a motion to grant an abatement for lot #U08-82-1 DeStefano \$95,700.00, as recommended by Avitar. Joanne seconded the motion. All in favor.
Joanne made a motion to deny the abatement request lot #U06-16 Wolverine Management as recommended by Avitar. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
4. **Elderly Exemption** was signed.
5. **BCEP – Earth Day** was signed.
6. **Appointment Papers** was signed.

FOR DISCUSSION

- A. **LGC – Claim Response Old Town Hall**
- B. **Abatements – Tornado Damage** - There was a brief discussion of abatements for tornado victims. Barbara will draw up the appropriate paperwork for additional property owners who are eligible for an abatement due to loss of property use, and will give to the board next week.
- C. **State Surplus Property Auction** – Joanne suggested we consider what we are going to do with the old the Fire Dept. vehicle, and if we are not going to keep it – we may want to consider putting it up for auction. There is a consensus to put a For Sale sign on it and try to sell it privately instead of putting it up for auction. Joanne will talk to Chief Yeaton and determine the value of the vehicle, report back to the BOS and then place a sign on it & put it out front of the Fire Department.

D. Charitable Exemption – for Evergreen Lodge (International Order of Odd Fellows). Joanne made a motion to approve the exemption for Evergreen Lodge U14-27 & U14-28B. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

E. Abatements for Review / Signature

Otterson R13-12 – Avitar recommends abatement of \$9000.00. Joanne made a motion to approve this abatement. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

Morrisette R10-22-5, R9-19-4, R10-22-35 – Avitar recommends denying these abatement as there is not basis for abatement. Joanne made a motion to deny these abatement requests. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

Kwawan U5-55 – Avitar recommends denying this abatement request. Joanne made a motion to deny the abatement request. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

Virginia Bumford Revocable Trust U10-6 – Avitar recommends denying this abatement request. Joanne made a motion to deny the abatement request. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

Leon J. Jaworski Trustee of Joseph Jaworski 2001 Revocable Trust R2-56– Avitar recommends approving abatement for \$6300.00. Joanne made a motion to approve the abatement as described. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

Joanne made a motion to approve the abatement of taxes of 75% of assessed value in accordance with the court agreement with Elder Trust of Florida. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- **Draft – April 6, 2009** – Joanne made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Final – March 30, 2009** - Joanne made a motion to accept the final minutes. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Final – March 23, 2009** – Joanne made a motion to accept the final minutes. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

CONFIDENTIAL

Letter from Town Council

ANY OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE BOARD

Liaison Reports:

Bob Stated that Gary Perry & Herb Bartlett are moving some material from the Meetinghouse site to the ball field.

Bob also went to the Library Trustees meeting tonight & they are going to be emailing the employee handbook to the Town Office.

BCEP hired a new Operations Manager, but the employee has not been notified yet, so Bob can not release his name.

Gordon Ellis has been working with the prisoners and cleaning ditches on New Orchard Road, New Rye Road, Mount Delight Road. He doesn't know if the prisoners will be working with him again next week.

Keith received an email from Michael Lynch USDA on applications for Suncook River. He has received 3 applications for FEMA money and wants to know if Epsom would like to apply for these funds as well. Keith explained that the Town owns the former RR corridor and the Board could also apply for this funding from the Watershed Easement Protection program. He inquired as to the Board's interest in proceeding accordingly. The Board agreed by consensus to authorize Keith to proceed with an application. In regard to the Police Department desire to purchase a new 4 x 4, Keith reported that Wayne said he could replace one of the police cruisers, but he understood that the Highway Department was interested in the Explorer, while there is still good use left in it & there was a good price on a new one, so he thought it might be a good time to make that purchase. He said he can still get a year's worth of use out of the Explorer, but it doesn't have the power that a new V8 would have. Keith said he'd like to hear from Gordon why he wants the Explorer. Bob said Gordon told him the other day that his truck is very hard on gas, and he could put a plow on the Explorer. The BOS would like Gordon to provide more detail next week at the Department Head meeting.

Keith said he spoke to Wayne about Suncook Valley Regional Town Association and some areas for police regionalization that he may be interested. In regards to dispatch, Wayne will hopefully be able to update the BOS the week after the Department Head meeting.

Keith attended the court hearing on Water Street Lot 51 & Lot 52 (Robert Elliott) on Monday, and Keith feels the judge will not rule in favor of Mr. Elliot, but suggested the Town and Mr. Elliot discuss if an alternative solution could be agreed to, such as one residential unit instead of two units. Mr. Elliott approached Keith and Tony Soltani after the hearing & asked if the Board would be willing to come to a settlement. Keith noted that he explained to Mr. Elliot that he is only one member of the Board and cannot act without agreement from the other Board members and that he was willing to bring this request up to the full Board for consideration. The BOS expressed its willingness to enter into discussions with Mr. Elliott. Keith will coordinate with Tony and to let Glenn Horner (ZBA Chair) know that the Board may be meeting with Mr. Elliot in the near future.

Joanne said they are in the last stages of the Hazard Mitigation Program. The final version will be sent to FEMA and hopefully it will be accepted and the committee will make a formal presentation to the BOS.

Joanne did get in touch with Verizon, and the representative will be here at the Department Head meeting this month.

Joanne asked Norm Gentry if a poll question can be done on the website. A poll question has been placed on the website and it will collect email addresses, so in the future if we wish to do an emailing, we'd have the ability to do that.

Andrew asked about viewing Non-Public minutes on the website. Joanne will ask Norm about that.

Joanne said she is reviewing litigation-related Non-Public minutes that are able to be unsealed at this time. She has put the minutes together pertaining to the Road Agent issue, which has been settled, for the BOS to review. Once all three members have reviewed the minutes a motion will be made to make them public. Keith is concerned about the sensitivity of the minutes, so to be sure that this will not open the Town up to any liability and recommended the minutes be reviewed by our town lawyer. Joanne will ask Tony to review them and get his opinion about releasing them.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Betsy Bosiak said the assessors have been to her house a number of times and is wondering why they have been to her house twice in 2006 & twice in 2009. She asked the assessor why he was there so often, and he referred her to the BOS. Bob is going to ask Barb to look into this.

9:05 PM Joanne made a motion to adjourn. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.