

**Town of Epsom  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Monday, April 20, 2009**

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

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

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

**Also in attendance:** Wayne Preve; Rick Bilodeau; Carol McGuire; Gordon Ellis; Stewart Yeaton; Mary Frambach; Betsy Bosiak; George Carlson; Glenn Horner; Nancy Wheeler; Barbara Clark; Dawn Blackwell; Marc Stewart; Norm Gentry;

**6:15pm** Bob called the meeting to order & asked Carol McGuire to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**6:30 PM** Keith made a motion to go into Non-Public RSA 91-A:3 II (a) session with Wayne Preve for a personnel matter. Joanne seconded the motion. All in favor  
Joanne made a motion to come out of Non-Public session. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

**6:30pm** **Staff Discussion**  
Nancy requested to use her comp time next week and have the week off. The Board signed her request for leave.

**6:45PM** **Department Heads Meet**  
**Marc Stewart – Verizon Wireless** – Marc presented the proposed a plan for cell service, which includes 9 phones and 2900 shared minutes per month, unlimited calling with Verizon customers, unlimited nights & weekends, a nationwide plan with no roaming charges. The plan includes unlimited Push-To-Talk service. The phone he recommends is a military spec phone; waterproof, dust proof, shock proof, and is provided at no additional charge to the town, when the town agrees to Push-To-Talk service. There is a \$5 charge per phone per month for Push-To-Talk service, and can be cancelled at any time. The monthly charge will be approximately \$313.63. Marc said in a couple of months the plan can be reviewed and adjusted if the number of minutes is are too high or too low. Joanne stated that while price is a strong consideration, coverage is equally important. There are no activation or start-up costs and no contract terms.  
Chief Preve stated the Police Department switched from Nextel to Verizon and they are very happy with the coverage area that Verizon provides.  
Chief Yeaton asked about texting. Marc replied that incoming text messages are charged \$.02 each and outgoing text messages are \$.10 each.  
Joanne said Sprint would be coming in to make a presentation as well. Rick Bilodeau, Gordon Ellis, Chief Preve & Chief Yeaton stated that coverage from Sprint/Nextel is not good (particularly east of the fire station), and they do not feel their coverage will fully accommodate the public safety in the town.  
Joanne asked if any department heads would like to hear from Sprint/Nextel. No one does. There was a consensus from the Board to go ahead and switch the Town's service to Verizon. Joanne and Nancy will be the contacts for Marc and will begin the transfer this coming week.

**Finance Management Review - Free Offer** - Joanne explained that there was a letter sent to the town from LGC offering to have an auditor from their finance group come in to meet with any of our Department Heads to review our procedures, as a Risk Management tool. This is offered at no charge. Joanne said this sounds like a great idea, and if any Department Heads would like to take advantage of this opportunity, then they are committing to meeting with the auditor. The Board decided that Epsom would move forward with the voluntary audit.

**Dawn Blackwell** – spoke to Jason Baker at Point and Pay. In regard to the contract: their contract cannot just be cancelled arbitrarily. Point and Pay also cannot give the scanner at no charge. She has investigated PayGov and they offer a monthly contract, and they will provide the scanner at no charge. Their fee per swipe is less than Point in Pay. Dawn will be setting up an appointment with them. She has the deeding letters done. The deeds will be done in June. She has the folder ready for the BOS review.

**Welfare Department** – Lee Bartlett is not here tonight, but sent her report that the food pantry is pretty quiet. She is learning the Excel program.

**Fire Department** – Chief Stewart Yeaton stated the ambulances need tires & brakes. An oil leak is being repaired in one of the engines. Captain Moulton will be having surgery to fix a work-related knee injury on April 29. His knee was injured when carrying a patient out of his home. This is the first work related injury in the Fire Department for quite some time. He will be out of work for approximately 3 weeks and may affect the Department's overtime budget to maintain coverage. There is a hearing scheduled for April 28 to discuss the traffic light being installed on Route 4. Stewart would like the minutes to reflect that his concern about this traffic light is the site distance – and would like to see a warning light before the traffic light. He discussed the phones for the EOC, which Fairpoint is charging a lot of money to activate. Rick Bilodeau stated they have contacted the PUC to investigate. Chief Yeaton stated that they are still looking for about 200 volunteers for an Anthrax Point of Delivery (POD) drill. The drill is for Pittsfield, Epsom and Northwood & Chichester. The drill is Saturday, May 16 from 7 AM - Noon. Training is April 30 from 7 PM – 9 PM. Volunteers will be treated first in the event of a real emergency. This is a huge drill, which has taken a great deal of time for planning / training. Norm Gentry has offered on behalf of the Lions Club to field all calls from volunteers who are willing to help. A notice will be placed on the TV channel and the website.

He spoke with Russell Bartlett about his proposed development on Goboro Road. He said the Fire Department has been very firm in stating that they will require cisterns to be in place before the first home is occupied.

The Board members expressed their appreciation to the fire fighters who went to help out at the Alton fire.

**Police Department** – Chief Preve stated that the department has been very busy over the past month. There were 3 stabbings on March 28 and 1 stabbing on April 4 – there have been arrests in both of these occurrences. There was also a mini-pursuit. There was a single vehicle accident involving a motorcycle, and the driver is in very critical condition. He is going to a meeting regarding dispatch on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, and hopes to start using Merrimack County Dispatch on July 1.

Officer Cruz starts the academy on Monday.

From early April – September 15 there will be 14 speed enforcements. There will be 6 single DWI patrols.

Regarding the Suncook Valley Regional Association – His recommendation is a regional firearm range, accident reconstruction team and if all departments purchase uniforms / ammo / paper products, etc. from the same place - to bargain for a better price, and perhaps dental insurance.

**Emergency Management** – Rick Bilodeau would like to apply for a grant for \$8,450 for a tabletop exercise. The consensus of the BOS is to approve the application for him to submit.

**Highway Department** – Gordon said they have started grading and roadside mowing (brush cutting). The prisoners from the County Jail program worked with him on New Orchard Road & Lords Mill Road. Blasting has been done on Sanborn Hill Road. It has been a very good month to get work done— and the best weather-related spring in a long time. Roads are all open as of this morning. He has not completed his FEMA paperwork for 2010, but will hopefully get that completed soon. Joanne stated that the Suncook Valley Regional Association is looking into purchasing carbide blades for plows, so she would like him to give her the sizes and number he uses.

In regard to the four culvert replacements, Keith asked when he will be ready to advertize those. Gordon said the engineering is being done right now. He'd like to have Michie build the box culverts, put some other items out to bid by June 1<sup>st</sup>. He would like to get the projects done in August.

Gordon asked any / all of the BOS members to be at the American Legion at 9 AM on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

**Zoning Board** – Glenn Horner said the ZBA is still working on a counter-proposal with KingsTowne Mobile Home Park. KingsTowne has asked for another continuance. Keith said he will be attending the next ZBA meeting, and suggested that Glenn ask Tony Soltani to be in attendance at the hearing. Stewart Yeaton stated that the homes in KingsTowne that are on stilts are a real safety issue when a rescue is made. Glenn stated that otherwise the Zoning Board is pretty quiet. John Dodge is the new Planning Board representative, who is taking over for Alan Quimby. Barbara Clark stated the appointment papers will be ready for next Monday.

**Library Trustees** – The handbook has been received.

**Planning Board** - Not in attendance

**Budget Committee** –Carol McGuire said they are not doing anything this month.

**Parks Department** – Gary Perry is not in attendance, but sent his report stating that they have started reconstruction of the baseball fields. Bartlett Excavating has been moving material from the Meetinghouse site to the ball fields. They have a chain link fence donated from the Manchester Airport. They will be working on the horseshoe pits at the new pavilion soon.

**Health Department** – no one in attendance.

**Cemetery Department** – Carol McGuire said there is an agreement for cemetery mowing in the folder.

**Meetinghouse Committee** – George Carlson will be working on the priority list for Meetinghouse projects that the BOS has requested. He said Nancy is working on the Stewardship Agreement. Keith said the board will be receiving the Stewardship Agreement from the attorney for next week. George & Bob will go to Strafford Town Hall to see their building in June – George will try to set it up for June 6.

**Website Committee** – Norm Gentry said there are three Website Committee members that have been working with him to create the new website. They have done a lot of research of other town websites across the country to get ideas. Next month each of them will be developing a new home page, and will bring printed samples in to show the BOS for feedback. He is also investigating tools (Twitter) which would allow each department to update their section of the website with 140 characters.

Norm mentioned that a lot of sites across the country are selling banner space on their pages. He suggested selling 5 banner ads at \$500 each (per year) to Epsom businesses, which would likely cover the cost of developing the website. He feels he already has 5 businesses that

would be willing to buy that advertising space. He'd like the BOS approval to move ahead with that. There was a consensus from the Board to investigate this further.

**Conservation Commission** – Allison Parodi sent a report that Earth Day clean up is this week (Earth Day is April 22) and they are looking for residents to volunteer to do roadside clean up. Bags are available at town office and Library. Volunteers will be sent daffodil bulbs as thanks for their appreciation.

As part of the Hazard Mitigation Plan – the Adopt a Dam program is being implemented.

#### 8:20 – 8:25 PM Break

#### FOR SIGNATURE

1. **Accounts Payable** - has been signed.
2. **Manifest** – has been signed.
3. **Payroll** - has been signed.
4. **Disability Exemption** – has been signed
5. **Abatement – Timber Tax** - Joanne made a motion to grant a Timber Tax abatement in the amount \$823.70 for Arlene Johnson Trustee, Johnson Revocable Trust (R15-17). Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
6. **Abatement – Tornado Damage** – Joanne made a motion to approve the abatement in the amount of \$147.00 for Tax Map U-01-54 Moffett, due to loss of property use due to the tornado. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor. Joanne made a motion to approve the abatement in the amount of \$584.00 for Tax Map U01-21 Lamy. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor. Keith made a motion to approve an abatement in the amount of \$153.00 due to loss of property use due to the tornado, as recommended by Avitar. Tax Map U01-33 (Jabour) Joanne seconded the motion. All in favor.
7. **Abatement – Regular** - have been signed according to recommendations by Avitar.
8. **Cemetery Mowing Contract** – A service agreement from KMR Landscaping for the budgeted amount for the year is \$11,000. The agreement is from May 15 – Sept 30, 2009. We would be billed \$2200 per month until the contract is paid in full. Joanne made a motion to accept the agreement with KMR Landscaping as stated above. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
9. **Mason + Rich** - Agreement for auditing all federal money received in 2008.
10. **Library Agreement** – The BOS has reviewed this agreement and looks to be in line with what they requested. Joanne made a motion to sign the agreement between the Library Trustees and the Board of Selectmen. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

#### FOR DISCUSSION

- A. **Chadwick-BaRoss** – Joanne said Tony has advised we do not respond to Chadwick-BaRoss continued attempt to collect money on an invoice that we have stated we do not owe.
- B. **State Auction** – Joanne said she spoke with Stewart Yeaton and he said the best way to get rid of the Fire Department vehicle is to bring it to the State Auction. Joanne called Bob & Keith and did a phone vote to agree to send the vehicle to the State Auction.

**C. CNHRPC Appointment** - The Planning Board nominates representatives to the CNHRPC, and Betsy Bosiak and Chris Porter have agreed to serve on this board again.

**D. Request from KingsTowne MHP** – A letter was received from KingsTowne MHP requesting \$609.84 in taxes to be waived on 11 Lance Lane, as the property has been abandoned. Keith made a motion to deny this request. Joanne seconded the motion. All in favor.

**E. Request for Bid – Old Town Hall** - Barbara has prepared a bid request for the repair to the Old Town Hall. A slight revision was made to what Barbara prepared, now it is all set for her to send to the Suncook Sun on April 29 and the Hooksett Banner on April 30.

**F. Charitable Exemption** – This is for the Epsom Bible Church. Joanne made a motion to approve this charitable exemption. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

#### **MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

- **Draft – April 13, 2009** – Joanne made a motion to accept these minutes as amended. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Final – April 13, 2009 Non-Public** – Joanne made a motion to accept these minutes. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Final – April 6, 2009** – Joanne made a motion to accept these minutes. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Final – April 6, 2009 Non-Public** – Joanne made a motion to accept these minutes. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Final – March 16, 2009** – Joanne made a motion to accept these minutes. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

**CONFIDENTIAL** – Attorney correspondence for review (2).

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS** – Betsy Bosiak asked about the Davis vs. Harris case. Keith said the court determined the Planning Board's decision was within its authority and did not find in favor of the Davis'.

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

Joanne said she received offers for volunteering from two residents so Joanne referred them to Dick Frambach for the Meetinghouse Committee, Old Home Day Committee and Town Office Building Committee.

Liaison Reports:

Joanne & Bob stated their liaison reports were covered during the Department Head meeting. Keith said the Planning Board is continuing hearings with Russ Bartlett for the Goboro Road project.

Steve Landry advised Keith that FEMA pre-disaster mitigation was not awarded at the national level. Steve has advised that Representative Hodes is trying to gain some funding from another source in the amount of 3.5 million dollars.

**9:15 PM** Joanne made a motion to adjourn. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.