

**Town of Epsom
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Monday, May 18, 2009**

Bob _____
Joanne _____
Keith _____

Final _____
Accepted _____
Accepted as Amended _____

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

Also in Attendance: Herb & Lee Bartlett; Attorney Tony Soltani; Chief Wayne Preve; Betsy Bosiak; Dick & Mary Frambach; Gary Perry; George Carlson; Nancy Wheeler; Marylou Keane; State Representative Carole Brown; Rick Bilodeau; Jay Hickey; Kevin Reeves

6:15pm Bob called the meeting to order & asked Chief Wayne Preve to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

6:15pm Attorney / Client Consultation

6:40pm **Staff Discussion**

Nancy Wheeler said the paperwork for Verizon Wireless has been completed, and Sales representative Mark is working on getting the numbers all changed over.

The Federal Funds portion of the audit will be done on May 29 – reviewing all the paperwork for Federal Funds received in 2008.

It seems the billing issues with Fairpoint are finally getting straightened out. She stressed that any departments that have a question on any bill should come to her to discuss their concerns.

All Department Heads have received their expenditures to date, and she has not received any feedback from any departments. Nancy asked Joanne about Suncook Valley Regional Town Association's request for schedule of appropriations from the SAU. Joanne stated that other towns were inquiring about it as a comparison to how they were doing appropriations.

Barbara Clark has put the warrant in for the first tax bills, which will be due on July 6. These are estimated tax amounts, which will be adjusted in December. Avitar has reassessed a lot of the properties that were affected by the tornado. They will be reassessed each year for the next several years to keep track of improvements.

6:53pm **Department Head Meeting**

Dick Frambach – Meetinghouse Committee - The heating system has been installed & the propane tank will be in sometime this week. The conduit for electricity has been installed. The stained glass windows have been put back in, and the protective windows will be installed on Friday. The building will be weather-tight by the end of the week. He has asked for some estimates for interior work so at least the auditorium portion can be opened. Keith reminded Dick that they need to keep very good records of any donations received whether they are monetary or in kind. The building is still not usable because there are no bathrooms, water or handicapped parking.

George Carlson – Meetinghouse Committee – Herb Bartlett is going to finish up the handicap accessible ramp this week. Hopefully next week LChip will come in for the final inspection. He met with Milestone General Contractor today and got the final estimate, which he will give to Nancy. Keith said the Stewardship Agreement has been executed & sent to LCHIP, when it comes back, it will be recorded at MCRD. Tony Soltani worked on the Stewardship Committee Charter, and will be discussed at next week's BOS meeting.

Lee Bartlett – Welfare Dept – said she has been working hard at getting the food pantry organized & thanked Nancy very much for helping her work with the Excel program.

Rick Bilodeau – Emergency Management – Fairpoint has been working on getting the phones hooked up for the EOC. They are waiving the \$65 hook up fee, and there will be a monthly charge of \$20 per line (5 lines) to have the lines ready to use when needed. There was a brief discussion about what department will be paying this additional \$100 per month. Keith feels that these phones are for emergency use only, so the money should come from the Emergency Management budget; even if it means over expending a portion of its budget, and making an adjustment in next year's budget. The consensus of the BOS is to have the money come out of the "Equipment" line of Emergency Management budget. Rick noted that he was recently certified in Web EOC training (there are also 4 other town employees who have attended this training). He has taken photos of some of the office staff for employee ID cards, and he will proceed with taking photos of all employees – except the Police Department which will use their existing ID's.

Budget Committee – Joanne said they have their first meeting on June 7.

Chief Wayne Preve – Police Department – He received a call from CNHRPC asking him to do a 3 year report on accidents on Route 28. There have been 108 accidents in the past 3 years. He said it will take a great deal of time to prepare a detailed report. Wayne said that he was told they got the information from the State, but it wasn't the same information he could get from the PD, and wants the Town's Police Report. Joanne said this is part of the Route 28 Corridor Study to determine specific areas from Allenstown to Alton that are priority for road improvement projects. Joanne will call CNHRPC and let them know that what they are asking for is too time consuming for our Police Department to provide, and ask them exactly what information they are looking for.

Officer Cruz is going into his 4th week at the Police Academy & everything is going well. Officer Ostalanza will be on patrol on his own next week with a full time officer in the station. On June 5th he will be on shift alone.

Wayne noted that he is adamant that he does not want to stay with Bow Dispatch. He wants to move, as planned, to Merrimack County Dispatch on July 1. Bob will follow up on the call from the Chairman of the Bow Board of Selectmen and decline the offer for three year dispatch contract with r Bow Dispatch.

Gary Perry – Parks & Recreation – The field work is pretty much finished. The backstop near the concession stand has been removed, and they are working on shifting the baseball backstop to the area near the bean pots and to install a smaller field at the former backstop area. Gary noted that the water is back on in the park. He's waiting until the end of the week to send in the water for testing. The water lab has recommended that they test the drinking water every year. There has been some graffiti in the chemical toilet building – it was all painted red inside. He's going to try to lift it with paint thinner. He said the ground bees

have gone. If they can add some soil to the ground, it may deter the bees from coming back. Old Home Day Committee is not planning an Old Home Day celebration this year. He said the Friends of Webster Park are willing to sponsor an Old Home Day celebration. Joanne said this is not a function of the town – but that of an independent committee. The Town recognizes Old Home Day as a Town function so that the activities are covered under Epsom’s liability insurance. The only thing the town requires is that all vendors must sign a waiver for insurance purposes. Otherwise, the Town is not involved in Old Home Day.

Stewart Yeaton – Fire Department (not in attendance, report submitted to BOS) – A service was held for Retired Fire Chief Lee Cushing and his service to the town was recognized. The POD drill was cancelled by the state and may be rescheduled in the fall. He was certified in the Web EOC meeting. He will be a speaker at the Emergency Conference in Manchester. He has an issue with a Fairpoint invoice, and Nancy said that it has been resolved.

Jay Hickey – Zoning Compliance Officer – regarding the property on Chestnut Pond Road with the driveway issues, Jay & Keith met with Tony Soltani and discussed this. He has prepared a letter to be sent to the Mortgage Company along with several other departments. Keith suggested that Jay call Tony tomorrow to be sure that he has the current Mortgage Company information to address the letter to. 19 Building Permits have been issued so far. He is dealing with the usual influx of signs popping up all over town. He has received a lot of calls from people who are interested in properties for sale along Route 28 and Route 4 asking what they can use the property for. He has been looking for someone to help him issue building permits to free him up to do more Zoning Compliance items. There is a ZBA meeting with KingsTowne MHP scheduled for Wednesday night to discuss the revision to the agreement with them. Keith said he will also be in attendance at Wednesday night’s meeting. Jay noted that Kingstown has redone all of their water systems and their roads have all been torn up. He also notes that the Queens Lane, where the replacement lots would be located, has been formed and appears ready for blacktop. Keith pointed out that at the present time the town has not approved this extension into the “green area” and they continue to do any work at their own risks.

Zoning Board of Adjustment – Keith has the report, which reiterates that there will be a meeting on Wednesday night with Kingstown MHP.

Highway Department – Keith has Gordon’s report – They have finished highway ditching. They are in the process of seeding affected areas from snow removal. Gordon will be working on the culvert projects for the summer.

Library – No one in attendance and no report provided;

Planning Board – No one in attendance and no report provided;

Health Department – No one in attendance and no report provided.

7:25 PM Bob opened the Public Hearing to Accept and Expend Federal and State Funds according to RSA 31:95B

Ice Storm of 12/08 \$7,968.75 – These funds will be expended by the Road Agent for storm debris removal under contract in 2009.

Center Hill Road & Blakes Brook Bridge \$145,552.22 – This is for work completed under contract with the town for bridge replacements.

FEMA final funds for bridge & road total \$312,608.70

7:46 PM Bob asked if anyone has any questions about this funding. Being none, Bob closed the public hearing.

Keith made a motion to accept funding as follows:
Ice Storm of 12/08 \$7968.75 – These funds to be used for debris removal under contract for 2009.
Center Hill Road & Blakes Brook Bridge \$145552.22 – This is for work completed.
FEMA final funds for bridge & road total \$312608.70
Joanne seconded the motion. All in favor.

7:48 PM – 7:55 PM Break

FOR SIGNATURE

1. **Accounts Payable** has been signed.
2. **Manifest** has been signed.
3. **Payroll** has been signed.
4. **Appointment Papers** to reappoint George Carlson to the ZBA. Joanne made a motion to accept the reappointment of George Carlson to the ZBA. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
5. **Timber Tax Warrant** This is an abatement request from Robert Markarian in the amount of \$300.69. Tax Map R10-L25. Joanne made a motion to grant this abatement due to hardship caused by the tornado in July 2008. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
6. **Tax Warrant for 1st Issue Property Taxes 2009** has been signed.

FOR DISCUSSION

- A. **NHDOT Preliminary Estimate – Bridge Aid Echo Valley Farm Road over Griffin Brook** – Grand total \$435K. The Town's portion is 20% which is \$87K; the State's portion will be available in 2016. When those funds have been raised or appropriated, the paperwork should be sent to NHDOT. Bob will speak to Gordon to be sure he has this money in his Capital Reserve Fund for bridge replacement.
- B. **Bids for Restoration of Old Town Hall** - Two bids were received; however one was received after the deadline, so it is not being accepted. A bid was received from Kenneth Stiles in the amount of \$3172.
- C. **Request for Timber Tax Abatement** – This is a request from Joyce Yeaton to abate \$130.35. Tax Maps R09-55 U01-82 Joanne made a motion to grant this abatement due to hardship caused by the tornado in July 2008. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- D. **Town Clerk Notice for Tax Bill Enclosure** – Dawn would like to enclose a notice with each tax bill that tells the details of the program allowing residents to pay their tax bills online. Joanne made a motion to include this notice. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- E. **Heating Oil Bid** – The BOS reviewed the bid request that would be publicized for heating oil. It is exactly the same wording as last year. By Board consensus, the notice will be posted on Monday, June 22, 2009.

F. HB351 – Interest Rates on Delinquent Property Taxes –
This reduces the amount of interest that can be charged on delinquent property taxes. The BOS noted they do not support this house bill as it will result in less revenue and higher taxes; and the BOS supports LGC position requesting it be defeated the bill.

MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- **Draft – May 11, 2009** – Joanne made a motion to accept these minutes as amended. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Final – May 4, 2009** – Joanne made a motion to accept these minutes. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY (No action required)

- NH State Statutes Course: Barbara is wondering if she should go. It is June 15 -18. Course costs \$65.00, manual costs \$50.00. The consensus of the Board is to support this training.
- Chichester Grange has invited the BOS to attend their meeting on May 20. Epsom Fire Department will be an award recipient.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE BOARD

Keith said he spoke to District V Engineer, Pam Mitchell, about Gordon's request for a speed zone reduction in front of the new Concord Hospital building. She said District V would first need to do a speed check – and cautioned that it could result in the opposite result. Keith's recommendation is to wait until the facility is completely operational and to observe how it operates. The new facility may also find support the request for speed reduction in this zone after they open. He noted that the speed check would be funded by the State. Bob will let Gordon know that this is on hold for now.

Joanne would like to briefly discuss the Planning Board's decision to cancel their most recent Planning Board meeting. Keith agreed that the cancellation of the meeting concerned him also and noted that the only authority the BOS has, is to be sure that the Planning Board Chairman is following correct procedures and are meeting its obligations for notification to the abutters for the any continuance hearing. Keith said he will discuss this with Dan McGuire to see if this requires the Town to notify the abutters of the Bartlett subdivision for the new hearing continuance date and time. Keith explained that if the proper notification procedures are not followed it could open the Planning Board up to an appeal on its final decision.

Bob said the office staff has some concerns about who has keys to the office. Joanne would like more specific information about their concerns and try to provide some additional measures so the office staff feels more comfortable.

9:00 Joanne made a motion to adjourn. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.