

**Town of Epsom
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2009**

Bob _____
Joanne _____
Keith _____

Draft _____
Accepted _____
Accepted as Amended _____

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

Also in Attendance: George Carlson; Doug Blackwell; Gordon Ellis; Jay Hickey

6:15 PM Bob called the meeting to order and asked George Carlson to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

6:30 PM **Staff Discussion** – Jay introduced Doug Blackwell as his choice for a part-time assistant. He will be doing a lot of the less complicated items and allow Jay to focus on Zoning Compliance. The number of hours worked will depend on the workload. Jay stated he will be able to pay for Doug’s salary out of the Zoning Compliance Officer’s budget. There are already funds in that line for an assistant. The BOS welcomed Doug.

FOR SIGNATURE

1. **Accounts Payable** has been signed.
2. **Manifest** has been signed.
3. **Timber Tax Warrant** was signed.
4. **Charter for the Epsom Historic Structures Stewardship Committee**– Atty. Tony Soltani has reviewed this and the BOS has the final copy here to be signed. A copy of the charter will need to be forward to LCHIP. There are some members of the Friends of the Meetinghouse Committee that wish to be a member of this Epsom Historic Structures Stewardship Committee.
Joanne made a motion to accept the Charter for the Epsom Historic Structures Stewardship Committee. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor. The charter was signed.
5. **Current Use Abatement** was signed.
6. **Town Refuse Disposal** was signed.

FOR DISCUSSION

- A. **NHDOT Preliminary Estimate – Bridge Aid Echo Valley Farm Road over Griffin Brook** – The State is asking for confirmation that town have appropriated the funds for this project (\$89K). Gordon asked Bob to check with Nancy to see how much money is in the Capital Reserve Fund for bridges, and this can be discussed next week.
- B. **Cable Franchise Agreement** for KingsTowne. The agreement has been reviewed by Tony. The BOS has one question about the verbiage (i.e.: “possible” expansion to Kings Grant), so it will be sent back to Tony and will be brought up for discussion next week.
- C. **NHMA Potential Loss of State Revenue** – This is an Action Bulletin regarding loss of revenue to municipalities. NHMA

would like our input about what measures we plan to take to reduce our budget; i.e. cut backs, layoffs. Keith suggested our response be that we have not made any contingency plans as of yet and that we are confident that our State Representatives will see that obligations to municipalities are met.

D. Restoration of Old Town Hall – The insurance distribution for the damage was \$7813.17, and they are holding back \$1737.26 until the work is completed. The bid received was for \$3172.00. The balance can be placed in the general fund. Keith suggested that we investigate installing a different floor covering other than carpeting (perhaps rubberized tile). Jay suggested a monitor / alarm to that will alert us when the temperature drops too low. However, this would require a monthly service fee for a dedicated phone line.

Keith made a motion to accept the bid from Kenneth Stiles for repairs to the Old Town Hall in the amount of \$3172.00. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor. A letter will be sent to Kenneth Stiles notifying him of the bid award.

E. Group Membership – NH Federal Credit Union – This is a proposal to offer Credit Union membership to Town of Epsom employees. The Board of Directors at NHFCU meets once a month and upon review, they may accept our request. This would be another benefit for Town Employees and Elected Officials. Joanne will ask Debbie to write a letter to NHFCU containing the required information.

F. VFA Grant Award - The Fire Department has been awarded the 2009 Volunteer Fire Assistance grant in the amount of \$2,000. This grant was used toward the purchase of the Forestry Pump.

G. Two final properties for tax deeding Barbara said she has received no response from Bob Griggs (U11-11-26) so there will be no action on this property. Barbara has not received any response on the property that Gordon showed interest in obtaining to use for drainage (U05-61). The BOS reviewed the deed and the only restriction is that no permanent structures can be placed on the property, however there has been no response to Barbara's inquiry regarding contamination on that property or neighboring site. The consensus of the BOS is to not take action on either property.

MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- **Final – May 11, 2009** - Joanne made a motion to accept these minutes as amended. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Draft – May 18, 2009** – Joanne made a motion to accept these minutes as amended. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- Lien Execution Report

ANY OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE BOARD

George Carlson said the propane tank has been installed at the Meetinghouse, and he would like to get it filled. Since the cost will be over \$200, it will require a Purchase Order. There was a brief discussion about the purchasing procedure for recurring fill ups. George needs to get in touch with Nancy and get the PO, and then once the BOS has signed the PO, the tank can be filled.

Gordon said he was on site at Copperline Road today and they had 3 large excavators on site, which have been travelling on the paved road, and there are areas that have been torn up, and oil spilled on the surface. Keith suggested that a letter be sent to RJ Moreau and assess them a fee for the overlay that will need to be placed for its repair. Keith said he will also ask Wayne Preve to monitor that area and if he finds any unregistered vehicles operating on the road (such as excavators, loaders) that they be ticketed accordingly. Gordon said a letter was sent to them last year about road damage also, and suggested that letter be pulled and reviewed.

Gordon said the County Prisoners were in town working today.

Liaison Reports:

Parks and Recreation: Bob reported that the old backstop has been moved from the concession stand area to the area of the bean pots. He also said Gary is working on cleaning up the graffiti in the port-a-potties. Bob said there is an increasing issue of “unacceptable activity” on the access road behind the park. Keith will mention this to Wayne Preve and ask him to monitor this area.

Keith attended the ZBA meeting last week, and KingsTowne Park was not in attendance. The ZBA did continue the meeting to June 16 and will be sending a letter to KingsTowne advising them that a decision will be made at that meeting.

Keith sent an email to the Planning Board Chairman advising him that due to the cancellation / continuation of the Planning Board meeting from May 13, a new notice to abutters may be appropriate. This will be taken up at the meeting on May 27. Keith feels very strongly that notice must be given to abutters. Keith will not be in attendance at our next BOS meeting.

Joanne has obtained a copy of a letter from the Emergency Management Team of Deerfield that was sent to residents asking if there are any special needs in that home. Joanne feels this would be a very beneficial tool for our Emergency Department, and has left a copy of this letter in Rick Bilodeau’s mailbox. Keith suggested that the request form could be placed in with the tax bills, and also asked that the cost of Bulk Mail be determined.

Joanne said she has considered placing a Warrant Article to change our fiscal year from January 1st to July 1st. She said this would put us on the same fiscal year as the State, and also the fiscal year would start after our budget is set. She feels it would make budgeting more consistent. Keith stated that it would be a good idea to get feedback from the Budget Committee.. Joanne will gather some more information and will bring up the subject at the Budget Committee meeting in July.

Joanne said she sent an email, as a private citizen, to a School Board representative and asked 3 general questions about teacher/student ratio, etc. – as a taxpayer, not as Selectman and she was told that she will not get answers to her questions. This information should be available under the Right to Know Law.

The Website Committee did meet last week and Norm would like to come to a BOS meeting to discuss funding the ongoing website.

8:09 PM Joanne made a motion to adjourn. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.