

**TOWN OF EPSOM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**
Monday, December 7, 2009

Bob _____
Joanne _____
Keith _____

Final _____
Accepted _____
Accepted as Amended _____

Present: Bob Blodgett, Chairman; Joanne Randall, Vice Chairman; Keith Cota; Darlene Phelps, Recording Secretary
Also in Attendance: Kathy Bailey; Deb Loiselle; Grace Lovergood; Richard & Mary Frambach; Gordon Ellis; Jack Campbell

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

6:15pm **Proposed Removal of the West Buck Street Dam: Grace Lovergood, PE NHDES Water Division & Deb Loiselle, River Restoration Coordinator**
Grace & Deb are here to discuss the removal of the West Buck Street Dam. The Legislature is asking for some dams to be removed due to the increasing cost of maintaining them. Fish & Game said this will increase some fish population as well. If the removal does take place, there will be testing of the sediment. They will hold a public informational meeting for Allentown, Pembroke & Epsom. This planned meeting will have a lot more information. They anticipate noticing the meeting about a month in advance. Keith asked them to permit the Town to post PDF's on their website so that people will have a chance to view them & be prepared to make comments at the meeting.
Deb suspects that aesthetics will be a main concern among residents, as well as concerns about removing a historic landmark. The people downstream are concerned about flooding; however this dam does not control much of the flooding. Joanne asked how this will affect the recreational areas, and Grace responded that Webster Park will likely have the same amount of water as it usually has during the winter, and said the water level at the campground just north of the dam will be lower than usual.
Keith asked if they suspect that residents will be concerned about reduced property value. Grace said she has heard that concern before, but doesn't feel this removal will impact property values.

6:30pm **Staff Discussion** Barbara Clark said all abutters of Whitehouse Acres have been notified of the meeting next Monday night. Barbara also asked about the Planning Board trying to only hold one Public Hearing for zoning changes. It was clarified that the first meeting MUST be held by January 5 in order to allow time for public input.
Jay Hickey said there 10 - 20 storage trailers located on properties that are not allowed per our zoning. He said he is struggling with how to deal with one of the residents because there are several throughout town. He also said that a developer has begun building a home (foundation poured) without a building permit. The BOS advised him to proceed with standard enforcement on the second issue and will await instruction on the trailer issue..

Nancy Wheeler said she enclosed Direct Deposit enrollment form with all paychecks last week. She also said that TD Bank will be sending a new agreement to be signed since the bank changed from TD Banknorth to TD Bank. Nancy asked how much the grant match would be for the table-top. Joanne said she will have to check with Rick Bilodeau. She is also trying to gather up all the information she will need for year end. She will be calculating stipends for the BOS review next week.

The BOS is ready for the Budget Committee meeting on Thursday night – there doesn't need to be any revisions to the budget. Nancy asked Joanne to find out from the Budget Committee about when public hearings will be held in January so she can notice them.

7:00pm

Public Hearing – Grants, Gifts & Donations Nancy said she has not heard from the Fire Department about how they plan to spend their grant money. Unless the BOS makes a decision on how to spend the money, then another Public Hearing will need to be held when that decision is made. The town received the money from FEMA for the 2006 flood, which included money for the school. That money will need to be transferred to the school.

Bob opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM

Funds received for the following disasters:

\$2,478.89 (12.5% of Hannah expenses)
 \$6,149.47 (12.5% of Dec 08 ice storm)
 \$12,745.51 (12.5% of May 06 flood expenses)
\$2,719.47 (12.5% of July 08 tornado expenses)
 \$24,093.34 Total

To be broken down by the following departments:

Fire Dept. \$1,311.34

Police Dept. \$332.70 – to be spent on equipment for the cruisers.

Highway Dept. \$15,147.40 – to be spent on paving on New Orchard Road (these funds would need to be encumbered).

Parks Dept. \$2,308.21 – to be spent on repairs for the swimming area (these funds would need to be encumbered until spring when the proposed work can be completed).

School \$4,993.69 – to be spent on additional work on the soccer fields.

The Police Department received the following donations and grants in 2009:

NH Highway Safety (2009 Speed Grant)	\$4236.00
NH Highway Safety (2009 DWI SCP Grant)	\$4644.00
NH Fish & Game (2008-2009 ATV Grant)	\$2250.00
NH Highway Safety (2008 DWI Patrols)	\$1733.00
FEMA & State Fee	<u>\$824.40</u>
Total	\$13,687.40

Bob asked if there are any public questions or comments on the spending of the FEMA funds.

Gordon said he has received the following donations:

30 - 2 x 4 x 16 from Mihachik Lumber (about \$5 each)

6 boxes of tile from himself (about \$30 per box)

8 boxes of tile from the school (about \$30 per box)

Total about \$570

7:28 PM Bob asked if there is any further discussion about these gifts/donations. Being none, Bob closed the public hearing. After some discussion it was decided that the Fire Department money will be spent on vehicle equipment and personnel emergency equipment.

Keith made a motion to accept the \$24,093.34 FEMA disaster reimbursement funds to be spent as follows:

Fire Dept. \$1,311.34 – to be spent on vehicle equipment and personnel emergency equipment.

Police Dept. \$332.70 – to be spent on equipment for the cruisers.

Highway Dept. \$15,717.40 – to be spent on paving on New Orchard Road (these funds would need to be encumbered).

Parks Dept. \$2,308.21 – to be spent on repairs for the swimming area (these funds would need to be encumbered until spring when the proposed work can be completed).

School \$4,993.69 – to be spent on additional work on the soccer fields.

Also to accept the donation of supplies to the Highway Department in the amount of \$570.00.

Joanne seconded the motion. All in favor.

7:37pm

Public Hearing: To Adopt a Resolution for the Revised FIRM (Flood Insurance Rates Maps) Keith questioned that these maps are noted to be created in April 19, 2010. Barbara stated these are draft maps, and they must be adopted or no one in Epsom will be able to get flood insurance.

Joanne asked if the Town is due for a new cable TV contract and Barbara said not at this time.

7:37 PM Bob opened the Public Hearing

Keith noted that Article 4 of our Zoning Regulations provides for protection of properties in flood zone areas and it is a requirement of FEMA to have these maps as part of our Regulations in order for residents to be able to qualify for flood insurance. The Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing to accept these maps dated April 19, 2010. These maps do NOT include the river avulsion. These maps may be revised at a future date, but these maps must be accepted.

8:10 PM Bob asked if there is any further comment on this item. Being none, Bob closed the public hearing.

Joanne made a motion to adopt the revised flood insurance rate maps dated 4/19/10. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

FOR SIGNATURE

1. **Accounts Payable** has been signed
2. **Manifest** has been signed
3. **Medical Coverage and Rates** has been signed.

FOR DISCUSSION

- A. **Request to Extend Vacation Time** The Chief of Police has requested that his vacation time be extended to Jan

15, 2010 as he is unable to use them all by the end of the year. He has 44 hours saved. Joanne made a motion to allow Chief Preve to use his 44 hours of vacation time by January 15, 2010. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

B. Dental Plan - Barbara said she has received information from Melisa about the dental plan, but said it requires 75% participation. There are about 17 full time employees, so about 13 would need to participate. The last time dental insurance was proposed (approx 5 years ago) there was not a large interest. Joanne feels we might not get the minimum participation if the BOS tries to push it through this year, so she recommends that it is tabled until next year, and it can be addressed before budget season. The consensus of the BOS is to continue to explore this and perhaps budget for it next year.

MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- **Final – December 2, 2009 Emergency Meeting** – Joanne made a motion to accept these minutes as amended. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Draft – November 30, 2009** Joanne made a motion to accept these minutes as amended. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Final – November 23, 2009** - Joanne made a motion to accept these minutes. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Final – November 16, 2009** - Joanne made a motion to accept these minutes. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor. Bob abstained.
- **Final – November 9, 2009** - Joanne made a motion to accept these minutes. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor. Bob abstained.

CONFIDENTIAL

- Attorney/Client privileged communications (2)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION (No action required)

- Education Tax Warrant for Tax Year 2010
- MetroCast Channel & Rate Changes

ANY OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE BOARD

Gordon Ellis said he previously accepted FEMA funds (\$78,498.44) that has not been spent. He'd like any amount that does not get spent in 2009 be held over for paving on New Orchard Road. When the original Public Hearing was held, a portion of it was for New Orchard Road and the rest for general road repairs. He plans to pave from the top of the hill on New Orchard Road to just past Paul Davis' home. This area is in need of repair. Keith made a motion to use

the \$78,498.44 of previously approved accepted FEMA funds be dedicated to repairs on New Orchard Road in 2010. Joanne seconded the motion. All in favor.

Keith said the Hazard Mitigation Plan had been submitted in June and FEMA had not responded which was hindering the submittal of an application for grant fund for the River Study and restoration. FEMA did respond last week and an emergency BOS meeting was held last week in order to act on the acceptance of the plan. This allowed the application to be submitted before the deadline.

Keith said at the Epsom Building Committee Meeting it was discussed about writing a Warrant Article. They met with the architect, and discussed the process. A report is being prepared for presentation to the BOS next week.

Joanne said she has been reviewing the Town Policy Manual and is finding a lot more than just policy included (memos, letters, minutes, etc.). She would like to have one or two people assist organizing and preparing a new policy book and help determine what needs to be removed, and what policies need to be established before presenting a new book to the BOS for final review.

A Budget Committee meeting was held last week and they are asking a lot of questions about Capital Reserve Funds and revenues, which is helpful to understand the financial picture of the Town, however it makes it difficult to stay on task. She also noted that after the meeting ended and she, along with some others had left, it was brought to her attention that some Budget Committee members remained in the conference room and continued to discuss the budget. Joanne said as a precaution, she spoke with Town Counsel and he will plan to attend this week's meeting and remind the Budget Committee about the Right To Know law, and procedure that will protect the town. Joanne is not aware if there was a quorum at that time. She does not want to appear accusatory, but wants to be sure the town is not put at risk. Keith suggested she review the minutes very carefully and be sure there were not any decisions made out of order.

Jack Campbell said Pittsfield & Northwood have established a committee and are actively pursuing Market Basket to build in their town. He would like Epsom to form a committee. Joanne said the BOS sent a couple of letters to Market Basket and they have not responded. Bob said Betsy Bosiak spoke to Market Basket developers and let them know that there is land available for purchase; but that Epsom is not on the top of their list of choices. Bob said Betsy is going to write them another letter on behalf of the Planning Board and let them know that the Town of Epsom is interested in talking with them. Joanne said that if it's already been indicated that Epsom is not on the top of the list, then forming a committee may be premature. Bob told Jack that he'd like to have some response from Market Basket before going forward.

Jack Campbell also said Charlie Yeaton is retiring this year and believes a retirement party should be held for him, as he has served the Town of Epsom for a lot of years. Joanne said that would have to be a private party, as Town funds cannot be spent on this. Keith said Senator Barnes will be retiring as well, and suggested that at the Town Meeting, they can both be recognized for their years of service.

Jack Campbell also indicated increasing the BOS to a five member board. He has started a petition and has begun collecting signatures. He asked if any member would like to sign the petition, none of the members wished to sign the petition.

8:25 Keith made a motion to adjourn. Joanne seconded the motion. All in favor.