

**TOWN OF EPSOM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**
Monday, December 28, 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: Senator Jack Barnes and Mrs. Barnes; Betsy Bosiak; Richard and Mary Frambach; Barbara Clark; Nancy Wheeler; Jay Hickey; Penny Graham; Dan Kern; Elsie Fife

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

Bob opened the floor to Senator Barnes. Senator Barnes explained that when he has the opportunity he likes to stop by his District's Selectmen meetings to check in on issues. He noted his appreciation of the Board in looking for recognition for his service in the Senate and wanted to advise that he intends to run for another term in November. He inquired as to the Town's success to date on budget development and any issues that his office can provide assistance with. Keith noted the budget for the town is moving forward through the Budget Committee and the Committee appears to have an objective to bring in a budget less than prior years. Keith further noted town is seeking an application to LCHIP in order to advance rehabilitation of the historic Meetinghouse and will be seeking town funding to support the engineering and architectural evaluation for the possible town office expansion. He further noted that the town is working closely with NHDES in pursuing federal and state funds to advance the stabilization of the Suncook River. Senator Barnes indicated that if he can provide any assistance, to contact his office.

Keith indicated that the Board is aware of proposed legislation (senate and house) that will have some impact on town operation and functions. He indicated it is the intent of the Board to review the new legislations and hope to offer insight to Senator Barnes' office. Senator Barnes encourage and look forward's to the Board's review and input. Keith and Bob thanked Senator Barnes for stopping at Epsom Board of Selectmen's meeting and looked forward to his rerun for the State Senate seat.

6:35 pm Staff Discussion: Barbara Clark noted a correction to last week's minutes. Barbara said the incident report requested from the Fire Department has been received (relative to the accident in the homeowner's driveway which was discussed last week). She said the Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing for proposed Zoning Changes tomorrow night. The proposed changes have been printed and made available in the office and no one has come in requesting to read them. She said when the office staff arrived this morning the temperature in the office was 48 degrees. They called the furnace repairman and he came out and confirmed that there is nothing wrong with the furnace; it appeared to be something electrical. The furnace then randomly kicked on and worked fine for the remainder of the day. There were some more issues with the server losing power again today; and in checking the event log – it appears that the problem is happening at approximately the same time every day. Nancy called Unitil and asked them to come out & verify that there is enough power coming into the building.

Nancy Wheeler said she has distributed a copy of the 2009 expenditure report which includes all expenditures including tonight's AP & Payroll, and all P.O.'s that have been signed. She said next week she will be requesting the BOS to sign 2010 Pay Rate Sheets.

Nancy asked why the funds for Emergency Management were encumbered instead of a P.O. being issued. Joanne replied that the training will not be taking place until next year, so that is why the funds were encumbered. Nancy said the proper procedure is to issue a P.O. She provided a definition of encumbered funds for future reference.

She said January 15, 2010 should be the last check run for 2009 expenditures. She also noted a correction to last week's minutes.

The default budget will be reviewed at the January 4 BOS meeting.

7:22pm Conservation Commission (& Bear-Paw Regional Greenways): Dan Kern from Bear Paw was in attendance tonight with copies of the surveys for the Harkness, Carlson & Hickey properties. The easement deeds have been prepared & are ready for signature. He has prepared the Reserve Right portion of the Carlson & Hickey easements as the BOS had requested to include language that any subdivision will need to meet state and town regulatory requirements. Keith asked Elsie Fife if these conservation easements have been discussed in a public forum, and what the public response has been. Elsie replied yes, and that they have received positive response.

Keith made a motion for the Town of Epsom to be the Executory Interest Holder for the Conservation Easement Deed for John & Patricia Hickey property on Sanborn Hill Road.

Joanne seconded the motion. All in favor.

Keith made a motion for the Town of Epsom to be the Executory Interest Holder for the Conservation Easement Deed for Fred Carlson on New Orchard Road (R13-21 and 22).

Joanne seconded the motion. All in favor.

Keith made a motion for the Town of Epsom to be the Executory Interest Holder for the Conservation Easement Deed for Harvey and Barbara Harkness on Baybutt Road (R2-53).

Joanne seconded the motion. All in favor.

All three Easement Deeds were signed & notarized.

7:15pm Penny Graham – LCHIP Presentation: Penny said Amy Dixon and some other members of LCHIP recently took a tour of the Meetinghouse & requested some additional information and photos of the interior & exterior to be provided at the presentation meeting on January 11. Penny said it is a very brief presentation and will only allow 7 minutes for comment, and 3 minutes for questions. Bob said he can be in attendance at that meeting and is hopeful that either Dick Frambach or Penny can be there as well. There was some discussion about prioritizing the repairs / reconstruction of the Historic Meetinghouse.

FOR SIGNATURE

1. **Accounts Payable** was signed.
2. **Manifest** was signed.
3. **Payroll** was signed.

7:40 – 7:45 Break

FOR DISCUSSION

- A. **FD Helmet Request:** Joanne brought up the discussion from last week, when a helmet and radio were run over & a FD member's vehicle was damaged during an accident on a homeowner's private property because of a slippery driveway. Chief Yeaton had noted

that he didn't feel it was worthwhile to pursue reimbursement from the homeowner. Joanne is in agreement with Chief Yeaton, but would like to get the word out to the public (via letter to the editor, website, and TV channel) to keep their driveways as cleared and sanded as possible for the safety of emergency vehicles. It was noted that property can be replaced, but if a person had been injured, the outcome could have been much worse. Keith reiterated that it's the homeowner's responsibility to keep their property safe and noted that the Town could take legal action through home owner's property liability should it incur a significant loss of town equipment and injuries. The BOS members asked that Joanne prepare a letter to be published in the Suncook Sun and also have it posted on the website.

MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- **Draft – December 21, 2009** – Joanne made a motion to approve these minutes as amended. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Final – December 14, 2009** - Joanne made a motion to approve these minutes as written. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION (No action required)

- **CNHRPC – Request for Letters of Interest for Projects (Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality)**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE BOARD

Joanne suggested that the BOS invite the landlord for our Town Offices property, Larry Caraway, to a BOS meeting to discuss the future needs of the Town for the Town Office building, so he can prepare some leasing options for the BOS to review. Since the only related warrant article in March will request funding for only engineering and architecture and not for construction, the Board will need to negotiate a new rental lease. The current rental lease expires in June of 2010.

Liaison Reports:

Keith noted that there is a Public Hearing tomorrow night for the proposed Zoning Changes. Joanne said she is still waiting to hear if there is a Stewardship Committee meeting scheduled & will let the other members know when that is.

She said the Budget Committee's last work session is January 7, 2010 and the Public Hearing is January 14. The Town's Deliberative Session is Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 9:00am at the Epsom Central School.

Joanne asked if Keith had checked into the Goboro Road / Depot Street bridge issue with the logging truck and Keith said he was unable to get any information last week due to the holiday. However, he will follow up and report back to the BOS.

The 2009 budget was reviewed again and Joanne expressed her appreciation for the Department Heads' ability to manage their budgets. She feels it's been a productive year, and is pleased with the purchase of some new computers and a new roof on the PD building. Bob

also added that there had been a lot of road work done this year and a new truck has been purchased for the Highway Department.

Joanne asked if the BOS supports her signing the P.O. for the Emergency Department's training in January. The response was yes, and so she will fill out and sign the P.O. so Rick doesn't need to come in just to fill out the request.

8:15 PM Joanne made a motion to adjourn. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.