

Bob _____
Joanne _____
Keith _____

Final _____
Accepted _____
Accepted as Amended _____

**TOWN OF EPSOM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, January 26, 2009**

Present: Bob Blodgett, Chairman; Keith Cota; Darlene Phelps, Recording Secretary

Not Present: Joanne Randall, Vice-Chairman

Also in Attendance: Dave Fiorentino; Andrew Walton; Gordon Ellis; Betsy Bosiak; Nancy Wheeler; Debbie Tibbetts; Matthew Moulton; Dave Palermo; Rick Bilodeau; Wayne Preve; Joni Kitson; Gary Perry; Roger & Irene Cassidy; Representative Maureen Mann; George Carlson; Mal & Bernadette Cameron; Leo & Gale Preston; Representative Carole Brown; Representative Margaret Porter; Andrew Robertson; Charles Yeaton; Paula Duchano; Representative James Sullivan; Peggy Drouin; Rick Belanger; Pat Ward; Joyce Yeaton

6:15 PM Bob called the meeting to order and asked Captain Matt Moulton to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Wayne Preve introduced the new police officer, Ferdinand Cruz to the Board of Selectmen.

6:30 Staff Discussion

Debbie responded to the concern last week about minutes being uploaded to the website. She said she puts the BOS minutes on, and wanted clarification of how the Planning and Zoning Board minutes get put on. Joanne stated that Norm Gentry puts those on the website. She said she isn't sure that she is receiving final minutes from the Budget Committee. Betsy said she does send an electronic copy of the final minutes to her and Harvey Harkness. She said she would resend recent final copies to Debbie.

Nancy said the W2's were sent out last week and the 1099's will go out by Wednesday. The final financial statement should be available soon for the BOS review. She said she has been working with Gordon on the Hannah Storm damage figures and then will begin work on the Ice Storm damages.

Barb said the Intent to Cut requests that are on the agenda to be signed have been pulled, as the taxes are not current. Procedure calls for a bond to be placed if taxes are not current.

6:45 PM Department Heads

Joanne reviewed the new policy for paperwork for New Hires. From now on, all W2's, I9 Forms and Payroll Authorizations must be completed in the Town Office by the new hire.

Bob announced that any Department Heads who are not in attendance at the Department Head meeting must provide the BOS or their liaison with a written report prior to the Department Head meeting.

Dave Palermo, Deputy Fire Chief (Fire Department) stated that the Engine 2 is back in service. The car has been taken completely out of service. The new SUV will be in full service in a couple of weeks. He asked what the BOS would like to do with the old car. Joanne stated that at the debriefing meeting in the fall, there was a brief discussion about keeping it as a Town Vehicle to be used by people who usually have mileage reimbursement. Deputy Palermo stated the car is a 2004 and has less than 200K miles. Right now it only needs a battery. Keith wondered if it might be best to put it up for sale versus keeping it as a town vehicle for other departments to use. He also questioned whose budget would this vehicle fall under given the potential for default budget in the next budget cycle.

Chief Palermo also stated there was a fire at Circle 9 Ranch today in a Fifth Wheel camper. During that response, a hose was broken on one of the trucks, and that will be repaired.

Chief Wayne Preve (Police Department) said the ATF was in town this morning & made an arrest which they assisted with. He received a late bill for "complaint forms", which he included on a PO for "office supplies" for the 2008 budget. Since the PO was dated after January 1st, he needs BOS approval to pay that invoice out of the 2008 police budget. Chief Preve said he received his electric bill today and he said the bill doubled. He called Unitil and they will be coming out to check his meter.

Rick Bilodeau (Emergency Management) is working with Nancy in listing the equipment that has been purchased with grants.

Gordon Ellis (Highway Department) Gordon said there is an ordinance that prohibits plowing across the road. He would like it changed and provided a copy of how he'd like it to read, which addresses the intent of the ordinance; not plowing snow into the road or in the ditches. There was a brief discussion about where snow should be placed. This will be placed on the agenda for discussion at a later date.

Joanne reported for the Budget Committee – she said the information on the final budget has been placed in the town office for anyone to review.

Glenn Horner (Zoning Board of Adjustment) reported that a childcare for up to 24 kids has been approved on Goboro Road in the old Huckins Oil building. The board had a discussion and is requesting that the speed limit on that section of Goboro Road be lowered to 20 MPH. He would like the BOS support in this recommendation. Joanne said the BOS will discuss this later.

Jay Hickey (Zoning Compliance) stated that at the ZBA hearing it was brought forth that there is a concern about the speed on Goboro Road. Jay said there are a few pending applications for the ZBA. Jay is still working with some tornado victims and also with some flood victims from Kingstown. A new modular will be brought in on Northwood Lake. He has been very busy with phone calls. He is working on Zoning Compliance issues. The Elliot case is scheduled in court for 2/11/09. Jay brought forth an ordinance for Small Wind Generators and a change in the fees for Junk Yards to the Planning Board.

Gary Perry (Parks Department) said the skating rink is going good. He is expanding it to make a larger rink. He will be having the big tree behind the legion building removed. He asked the BOS to sign the order to have the tree removed for \$1890.00.

Dan McGuire (Planning Board) introduced himself as the new chairman of the Planning Board until March. He will be picking up the Master Plan from the CNHRPC tomorrow. He stated there is application for a large subdivision before the board at this time, for 42 lots on the Chichester line. He stated that there are 3 cases that have a potential legal outcome.

George Carlson (Meetinghouse Committee) will be meeting with Milestone tomorrow.

Library, Cemetery Committee – not in attendance.

7:00 PM

Craig Green, & John Butler DOT – Intersection of Route 107 & Route 4

Keith noted that he will be recusing himself from the board during this presentation, as he is also employed at the DOT.

There is a new program call the Highway Safety Improvement Program to address safety issues on the highway and provide funding for modest improvements that will have significant reduction in highway fatalities. NH receives about 5.5 million dollars for this program. Mr. Green does not have a figure of the amount of money available for this project. Each recommended location is determined by crash data provided by the Department of Safety. They review the top 20 intersections and top 20 areas of highway that have the most crashes. This intersection was not initially in the top 30 of those intersections, however based on crash data; it is a recommended location for redesign. Mr. Green said no redesign has been started yet, he really wants the input of townspeople. Joanne stated that she has reviewed the crash data and out of the last 18 accidents, about half occurred in clear, dry conditions, and were all left hand turns.

Police Chief Preve stated that he sees the biggest problem with vehicles heading east and hitting the cars coming off of Route 107. He feels that if a light is going to be placed there, there needs to be a well developed sign package warning of the upcoming light, otherwise there will be an influx of rear-end accidents. He also wants to ensure that the speed limits will be dropped in the approach to 40 MPH.

State Representative Maureen Mann, (representing Deerfield) has a series of petitions, and emailed accounting of people in her district that requests a light that is always green except when someone is waiting on Route 107. She is concerned about Deerfield students who drive to Concord for school, and is fearful for their safety. She also requests that signage warning about a traffic light ahead be flashing lights. She doesn't think a blinking yellow for Route 4 traffic and a blinking red for Route 107 traffic will solve any problem.

Mel Cameron, Deerfield travels to Concord to work each day, and his frustration is that it is too difficult to pull out of Route 107 and turn west onto Route 4. He feels there needs to be more than a flashing beacon (which was there previously). He also would like to see lighted signage warning of the upcoming light. He asked if there are any issues with people turning in or out of Lords Mill Road. Chief Preve stated that the issue is really with Route 107 – not Lords Mill.

Bernie Cameron asked why the blinking light was removed that was there years ago. Mr. Green replied he's not sure why it was removed as he doesn't know the history.

Leo Preston, Deerfield, agrees with the Camerons and feels it's a very dangerous situation. He also would like to see the light always green on Route 4, unless there is a car trying to pull out of Route 107.

Dave Palermo, Dept. Assistant Fire Chief, feels this is a visibility issue for all 4 sides. He feels that if traffic backs up to the corner when heading east, then as cars come around the corner, there will be rear-end collisions. He doesn't think a full traffic light will be the answer – but perhaps a flashing red / yellow light. Captain Matt Moulton stated that if a traffic light is installed – and the traffic is stopped heading west – then people trying to turn left into Lords Mill Road will need to cross two lanes of traffic.

State Representative Margaret Porter (represents Pittsfield), lives off of North Road and has to turn left when heading east on Route 4. She also feels the bend in the road reduces the visibility. Since there is a new development off of North Road, there will be more traffic using that intersection. She is also concerned about the big tractor trailers

Andy Robertson, Selectmen in Deerfield, said the BOS in Deerfield is very much in favor of a blinking traffic light at that intersection. He presented a letter from the Deerfield BOS with this request.

State Representative Carole Brown reiterated a visibility issue & echoed the desire for good signage.

Gale Preston is the mother of a son who travels to Concord High every day. She is very much in favor of a light as she is concerned with the safety of her son. She stated that she doesn't think this meeting was very well publicized and if the people in Deerfield knew this would be their only forum to speak, she is certain the room would be full of people of would be in favor of a traffic light.

Charles Yeaton has lived in Epsom for 40+ years, and notes the increase in traffic on Route 4 and 107. He would like to see a change.

Andrew Walton asked if this is all state property – and if it is – what would be the time frame. Mr. Green stated that they need to look at the area around the bend that where people tonight are stating there is a visibility issue. Andrew asked how current the traffic count is of 15,000 vehicles per day on Route 4 and 2,800 vehicles on Route 107. Mr. Green said he's not sure – but would think it reflects a current study. Andrew asked Mr. Green to please request that the blinking light be replaced as a temporary measure.

Dave Fiorentino feels this is a visibility issue – but doesn't want to see a traffic light on Route 4. He said there should be a flashing light telling of the upcoming intersection.

Bob Blodgett feels that if a reconstruction of the entire area cannot be done – then a traffic light will not solve the problem. He thinks if a blinking light is put there, it will help. He said if there is a little bit of snow – it will cause a big problem for fully loaded tractor trailers who have to stop at that light. He also feels that a blinking light will help.

State Representative Jim Sullivan (Deerfield) stated his wife is so scared of this intersection, she will not use it. He would like them to consider dropping the speed limit along Route 4 in that area.

Joni Kitson stated that the intersection at Black Hall Road and Route 4 is also a very busy intersection.

Joanne Randall asked about the funding – and wonders if it has already been set aside for this project. Mr. Green said the funds are available; they just need to decide what needs to be done.

Peg Drouin lives on North road and witnessed the fatal accident at this intersection last summer and is fearful for her life when using that intersection.

Roger Cassidy said he is not opposed to a light, but lives about 500' from the intersection, and feels if everyone stops at that intersection then when the tractor trailers and motorcycles stop & start back up again, the noise will be unbearable.

Craig Green said there will be many reviews and one review will be a noise evaluation. They will look at site distances.

Betsy Bosiak said the only area of Route 4 that is 50 MPH, is along this section of road. She feels it should be dropped. She also stated that as past Chairman of the Planning Board, she saw a large concern about this intersection for years, and had tried to work with DOT to have this area looked at, and was never successful.

Gordon Ellis asked if the speed limit can be reduced to 40 MPH immediately. He really feels this would reduce the number of accidents dramatically. Mr. Green said he doesn't think that is a possibility. There are a lot of requirements to get a speed limit changed.

Mr. Green thanked the public for their attendance tonight. He said once all of the studies are complete, then all abutters would be notified, and the Public would be notified to a Public Informational meeting. This could possibly take place late in the spring. The DOT will make a final decision based on engineering results.

8:25 PM - 8:35 PM Break

For Signature:

1. **Accounts Payable** – has been signed
2. **Manifest** – has been signed
3. **Payroll** – has been signed
4. **Intent to Cut (2)** - withdrawn

Priority

Post Warrant – has been done

For Discussion

- A. **Letter of interest – Analysis of Potential Collaborative Agreement specific to Assessing** – Joanne explained that in the same way we enter a collaborative agreement for insurances, there is a possibility of doing the same thing for assessing. Debbie has prepared a draft letter to the Department of Revenue indicating our interest in joining this collaborative. The board agrees that Debbie can send the letter to determine what the benefits are – it is not a commitment.
- B. **Request from ZBA to lower speed limit on Goboro Road near old Huckins Building** – The current speed limit in that area is 30 MPH, and a resident has requested that it be lowered to 20 MPH, and the ZBA is in

support of that. Gordon Ellis stated that the BOS does not have the authority to lower a speed limit below 30 MPH without an engineering study. Keith suggested we do some research to see what the traffic volumes are, what the police records are in that area, and number of accidents in this location, then place this item in the agenda for a future meeting.

For Discussion Follow Up

- A. Library Agreement – Signature:** Joanne made a motion to authorize Bob to sign this agreement. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor. Bob signed the agreement.

Minutes for Review and Discussion:

- **Draft – January 20, 2009** – Joanne made a motion to accept these draft minutes as amended. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Draft – January 12, 2009** – Keith made a motion to accept these draft minutes as amended. Bob seconded the motion. Keith & Bob in favor. Joanne abstained as she was not in attendance that night.
- **Final – January 5, 2009** – Joanne made a motion to accept these final minutes. Keith seconded the motion. Keith & Bob in favor. Joanne abstained as she was not in attendance that night.

For Your Information Only (No action required)

- a. **NHDES Wetlands LRM Workshop**
- b. **Harris v. Town – Final Hearing**
- c. **Harris v. Town – Order – Motion to Clarify**
- d. **LGC – Refund of Difference (received)**
- e. **Pro Bark, Inc. Wood Recycling of Tornado debris free** – Their services are available to come in & chip wood for free. They make their money with the chips they take with them.
- f. **NHRS – House Bills 289, 401, 420, 475**
- g. **Town Counsel – Agreement**
- h. **Comcast Updates to Service**
- i. **Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact 2008 Annual Report**
- j. **CDFA Successful Funding Strategies for Historic Building Redevelopment**
- k. **Central NH Forest Fire Warden Association – Thank You** – A letter of thanks for the computer.
- l. **Miscellaneous Folder**

Any other business brought before the board

Liaison reports:

Bob said there is a leak on Black Hall Road / Water Street. He left a message for Kevin Reeves, and will have more information tomorrow.

Andrew Walton said the guard rail on Center Hill Road was hit hard several times during the last storm, and needs to be looked at.

Joanne said she asked Dawn if it's possible for the tax bills to reflect where the tax dollars are being spent. The tax bills used to have that information, but they don't anymore. It requires special software, which Avitar doesn't currently use, but they would consider implementing it if

enough towns requested it. Keith suggested that we contact several towns to ask for their support in requesting this from Avitar.

Andrew requested that whoever speaks at the Deliberative Session, quote the percentage of tax dollars that are spent on School / Town.

Joanne said the School's Deliberative Session is on Tuesday, February 3 at 6:00 PM at the school. The people working on the Hazard Mitigation Plan are meeting with CNHRPC on Wednesday, February 4 at 6:30 at the Police Station in the conference room. This meeting is open to the public. The meeting for SB2 is on Monday, February 9 at 7:00 PM. If there are too many people in attendance, the meeting will be moved to the Library. The Department Head meeting for February will be on Monday, February 23.

Joanne said she spoke with Tony about the Library giving wage increases without town approval. Tony said no contract for wage increases can be entered into unless the voters have approved it. Tony will be in attendance at the Deliberative Session in case questions arise.

Keith said in regard to the Suncook River Avulsion. DES is still working with Allenstown to see if they will be submitting an application for the CDBG grant. The income level in Allenstown may not be low enough to apply for the grant. We have applied for the 3.5 million dollar FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant. The process is moving along albeit slowly.

Bob said he spoke with Larry Caraway - and Larry cleared the path on the side of the building. Bob said he forgot to mention the snow falling off the roof onto the cars in the parking lot. He said he would clear the back door and would keep it clear every storm. Joanne mentioned there is a problem with the front door & Bob said he'll call Larry about it.

Keith said that next week the BOS should prepare for the Deliberative Session. He suggested preparing a "State of the Town" address to summarize some of the events that are impacting the town at this time. Joanne suggested that the Moderator be contacted ahead of time to request the time for this presentation.

9:53 PM Joanne made a motion to adjourn. Keith seconded the motion. All in favor.