

**TOWN OF EPSOM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
February 7, 2011**

**Bob** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Keith** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Don** \_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Accepted** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Accepted as Amended** \_\_\_\_\_

**Present:** Bob Blodgett, Chairman; Don Harty; Darlene Phelps, Recording Secretary

**Not in Attendance:** Keith Cota, Vice Chairman

**Also in Attendance:** Andrew Walton; Dave Fiorentino; Barbara Clark; Nancy Wheeler; Jay Hickey; Mary Frambach; Rob Topik

**6:15pm** Bob called the meeting to order.

**6:30pm Staff Discussion:** Nancy Wheeler noted that in last week's minutes it was stated that Ken Brown had said he did not authorize any payments for the cemetery. She said she has provided a memo with a copy of the signed invoice to all three cemetery trustees. She has prepared the MS7 and the Warrant Articles indicating the estimated tax impact for the Deliberative Session. This information has also been posted on the website. She has also prepared the pie chart as requested and also the data comparison. It was decided to print both items in black & white. Don asked Nancy if she could pull some similar information from a few years ago for comparison. Nancy said she will be out of the office next week on vacation, so no Accounts Payable will be prepared unless it's an urgent matter.

**6:35 PM Jay Hickey Town Buildings:** Jay said Doug has been checking the insides of the buildings. He said with all of the snow, it's becoming an issue. Bob advised that Gordon has visited the old library & the Police Department with the Prison Release Program Workers to clean off the roofs and they have cleared away as much snow as they can. Jay said the roof needs to be cleaned off the Old Town Hall roof as well, because there is a large build-up of ice. Bob said Gordon had told him that the roof on the Old Town Hall was ok – so he'll have to touch base with him on that. Jay said it is an ice issue on that building.

**FOR SIGNATURE**

1. **Accounts Payable** has been signed.
2. **Manifests** have been signed.
3. **Payroll** has been signed.
4. **Abatements** have been signed. Barbara stated that these are the same abatements that were voted on last week.
5. **Intent to Cut** has been signed. Barbara stated that since the taxes are not current on this property, Jeff Eames has posted a bond, as required.

**FOR DISCUSSION**

- **Attorney Fee Schedule:** Attorney Costanza, who previously worked for Devine Millimet has changed firms and is now working for Nelson, Kinder, Marceau, and Saturley. Bob would prefer not to disclose the fee schedule as negotiations may take place.
- **Dubois & King, Inc. – Application for Donated Services:** This is an engineering firm that has proposed a Half Century Celebration to provide engineering services to the awarded municipality up to \$10K. Bob will ask Barbara to investigate this further.
- **Letter from Resident – Mailbox:** A letter was received from a resident at 373 North Road whose mailbox has been hit & destroyed by the snow plow 3 times this winter. Each time the mailbox has been replaced, it has been replaced with a more visual mailbox with reflectors. She has filed a police report and also the Road

Agent. They are requesting reimbursement for the last 2 mailboxes in the amount of \$132.36. After brief discussion, Bob & Don agreed that the Town does not reimburse for broken mailboxes. Bob said he will discuss this issue with Gordon.

#### **MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

- **Draft – January 31, 2011:** Bob made a motion to approve these minutes as amended. Don seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Final – January 24, 2011:** Bob made a motion to approve these minutes as presented. Don seconded the motion. All in favor.

#### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION** (No action required)

- **NHMA Publication Titled – State Aid to Municipalities: History & Trends:** This is an offering of classes to those interested.
- **HB 457:** A memo from Dawn Blackwell regarding property taxes, and the interest rates that towns can charge for late payment. Dawn indicates that if this House Bill passes, it could have a negative impact on the town.
- **Correspondence from Senator Ayotte:** This was an introductory letter from Senator Kelly Ayotte wishing to open a line of communication with the Town of Epsom.
- Report from Counselor St. Hilaire
- **One-Day Local Energy Solutions Conference:** MVHS on 4/2/11 8 AM – 4:30 PM
- **Town Building Inspections:** The meetinghouse could not be accessed due to snow. The old library and the old Town Hall have been checked and are at temperature and no rodents were seen. Mary Frambach indicated that part of the old Town Hall roof has brown icicles on the east side, which she thinks means the roof is leaking. Bob said he's going to talk to Gordon tomorrow about the roof anyway, and he will make mention of it. Don also said he'll look into it tomorrow.
- **Letter from ZCO:**

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE BOARD**

##### **Board Member Liaison Reports**

##### **7:00 PM Public Comment:**

Mary Frambach asked if any dirt roads were serviced by the Highway Department during the storm yesterday. Bob said he doesn't know. Mary said Cass Road has not been sanded since the ice storm Saturday night. Mary said she made the decision to cancel an appointment for tomorrow morning, because she doesn't feel confident that she'll be able to get out of her road, with the snow that has been forecasted to come in tonight.

Andrew Walton commented that items that are on the agenda should not be postponed by another week because one member is not in attendance; that two Selectmen makes a quorum and discussions should not be put off. He also commented that if the published agenda indicates that a particular item is to be discussed at a certain time, then that item should not be heard earlier. Bob explained that the agenda was very light tonight and that is why the discussion for Jay scheduled for 7 PM was heard prior to that.

Andrew asked Don & Bob their opinion about posting DRAFT minutes on the website. Andrew stated that if he comes to the town office & requests a copy of the minutes, he is charged for them. Both Don & Bob said they do not have an issue with posting the DRAFT minutes on the website, provided that they are clearly noted as DRAFT.

Dave Fiorentino said he thinks that more people will read the minutes online if they are DRAFT, because no one wants to read "yesterdays' news".

Don said he is always willing to put as much information in the hands of the residents.

Don asked Darlene's opinion about the posting of DRAFT minutes on the website and she indicated that in her opinion they are available at the Town Office for review and only FINALS should be on the website because even minor errors can be misinterpreted and could cause a misunderstanding. Don and Bob both indicated they would like to discuss this issue further when Keith is here.

Andrew asked where his request stands (the issue he's been discussing recently). Don said he hopes to have it wrapped up by next week.

Rob Topik asked Don why he felt that his application to the ZBA was a personal grudge. Don stated that it was just a gut feeling. Rob said he has not pursued an appeal with the ZBA, and therefore that should prove that he did not have a personal agenda.

Mary said that the School District Meeting scheduled for Wednesday has been announced at Budget Committee Meetings as starting at a different time than what is published on the website. She asked if it starts at 6:00 PM or 6:30 PM. Neither Bob nor Don is certain. Don will double check & will call Mary tomorrow.

**7:20 PM** Don made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor.