

ATTENDANCE

Chairman Karen Falcone; Selectmen: Dianne Gilbert, James McGeough; Town Administrator, Dean Shankle; Administrative Assistant: Judith Bielecki. Selectmen Rene Archambault and Bob Jordan were absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Falcone called the public session to order at 6:00 PM at the Epping Town Hall.

2. ADJOURN TO NON-PUBLIC 91:A:3 II. (a)(b)(c) personnel: (e) negotiation

Motion by Selectman McGeough to adjourn to Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 3-0. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously.

3. RECONVENE AT 7:20 PM

4. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

5. SEAL NON-PUBLIC MINUTES – August 9, 2010

Motion by Selectman Gilbert to seal the Non-Public Minutes of August 9, 2010. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 3-0.

6. PURCHASE ORDER ADDITION – Highway Department

Mr. Dave Reinhold, Highway Supervisor, requested approval of striping an additional street in Town. Selectman McGeough requested Prescott Road be striped as a safety issue exists on that road with the new construction and limited visibility in areas. Mr. Reinhold advised that an additional \$650.00 would be required to stripe Prescott Road.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the striping of Prescott Road with an additional \$650.00 to be added to the purchase order. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 3-0.

7. MINUTES OF JULY 26, 2010

Minutes from July 26, 2010 were submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gilbert to approve the minutes of July 26, 2010. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 3-0.

8. SIGNING OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST

Accounts payable manifest in the amount of \$575,466.22 for week ending August 6, 2010 was presented for

approval.

Motion by Selectman Gilbert to approve the accounts payable manifest in the amount of \$575,466.22. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 3-0.

9. SIGNING OF PAYROLL MANIFEST

Payroll manifest in the amount of \$80,790.00 for payroll period ending August 5, 2010 was presented for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gilbert to approve the payroll manifest in the amount of \$80,790.00. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 3-0.

10. BUSINESS

10.1 PUBLIC WORKS ISSUES

Mr. Reinhold advised that the Highway Budget is ok at this point, and that \$28k would be coming from FEMA for the work already completed for the flood. Mrs. Fogg, Finance advised that to date we have received \$8,000.00 and another \$28,000.00 will be received from FEMA. She added that FEMA would not approve the funds for the culvert replacement.

Mr. Reinhold presented the request for approval for Jones & Beach for the drainage design on Nottingham Road at Rollins Brook in the amount of \$3,200.00.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the drainage design as submitted by Jones & Beach for Nottingham Road at Rollins Brook in the amount of \$3,200.00. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to request Town Administrator Shankle sign the contract with Jones & Beach for the drainage design on Nottingham Road. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 3-0.

10.2 PURCHASE ORDER – Highway Department

Purchase order for MB Tractor & Equipment for the rental of two mowers for five days in the amount of \$3,500.00 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the purchase order for MB Tractor & Equipment in the amount of \$3,500.00. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 3-0.

10.3 FIRE DEPARTMENT – Warrant Article Request

Warrant article request to place the purchase of an ambulance on the ballot was presented by Charles Goodspeed and Deputy Chief Nickerson. Mr. Goodspeed advised that bids were requested for a specific ambulance on the desired chassis currently only available from one supplier although other suppliers did bid another type of ambulance. He added that the Fire Department would like to purchase the same model they have namely a PL Custom, Ford E-450, Diesel ambulance through Sugarloaf Vehicles. Deputy Chief Nickerson advised that if the Board authorizes them to pre-order the ambulance the manufacturer will hold the chassis and build it to our specifications. He added that if the warrant article does not pass, the Town is under no obligation to purchase the ambulance, and if funded the delivery will be within a month. Selectman McGeough advised that in review of this request from the Fire Department to lock in the price pending Town vote would save money and insure the Town gets the vehicle required.

Mr. Craig Clough advised that a proposal was sent in on the ambulance and a detailed proposal was not requested. He said he submitted a quote but was not advised of the official due date. He requested consideration of the proposal from Yankee Fire & Rescue.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the proposed warrant article to purchase an ambulance from Sugarloaf Vehicles subject to approval by the Fire Wards at their next meeting. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Goodspeed submitted a draft ad for a Full Time Fire Chief and requested the Board review the ad and submit any comments. Selectman McGeough requested that basic computer skills be included the ad.

10.4 PURCHASE ORDER – Police Department

Purchase order for Interstate Arms for the purchase of tazer's and accessories in the amount of \$3,471.90 was submitted for approval by the Police Department.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the purchase from Interstate Arms in the amount of \$3,471.90. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 3-0.

Chief Dodge requested approval to allow the sale of a surplus revolver to Ex-Officer Seth Tondreault who originally bought the gun.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the sale of a revolver to Ex-Officer Seth Tondreault. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 3-0.

10.5 REVISIT – CAR PURCHASE – Police Department

Chief Dodge requested approval to purchase the surplus vehicle currently owned by the Fire Department. He referred to the letter attached which clarifies the issue of the status of the vehicle, and requested approval from the Board to go forward with the purchase to be funded from the Revolving Fund. Selectman Gilbert

requested a Public Hearing be scheduled as the amount is over \$5,000.00 and comes under unanticipated revenue for the Fire Department.

Motion by Selectman Gilbert to approve the purchase of the surplus Fire Department Vehicle in the amount of \$14,000.00 from the Police Department Revolving Fund. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 3-0.

10.6 FINANCE - BUDGET PROCESS 2011

Mrs. Fogg requested input in regard to direction for the completion of the 2011 budget. She advised that the Budget Committee requested a reply to questions to be discussed at the August 18Th Budget Committee Meeting. Selectman Gilbert requested the budget be prepared according to the current burn-rate. Chairman Falcone requested Board Members attend the meeting on the 18Th to provide input.

10.7 FINANCE ISSUES

Mrs. Fogg requested approval to submit the Safety Facility Bond Payment for the Safety Complex via wire transfer, in the amount of \$89,004.50.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the submission of the Bond Payment in the amount of \$89,004.50 via wire transfer. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 3-0.

Mrs. Fogg advised that in review of the requested drug testing for the Fire Department was advised that the first step is to develop a Drug and Alcohol Policy. Chairman Falcone requested that Town Administrator Shankle review whether the policy exists or provide a draft.

Mrs. Fogg advised that the Management Letter from Plodzik & Sanderson was provided to the Board and stated that some issues need to be addressed. Chairman Falcone requested it be included on the next Board of Selectmen Agenda.

Mrs. Fogg stated that the July Budge Reports were submitted to the Board for review and asked if anyone had any questions. Selectman Gilbert asked about the interest on revenue line item that appears on several different funds has the same account number. Mrs. Fogg advised that the first two digits are different for the different departments.

Mrs. Fogg asked about the \$17,000.00 CORE2 Funds and whether they should be deposited in the General Fund. Selectman Gilbert requested the funds be deposited to pay the Town for the purchase of the land at the rear of Town Hall.

10.8 RENTAL OF TOWN FACILITIES – Lamprey River Watershed

Request to utilize the auditorium for a meeting on August 31, 2010 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM was submitted for approval by the Lamprey River Watershed Association.

Motion by Selectman Gilbert to approve the rental of the auditorium for the Lamprey River Watershed on August 31, 2010 with a fee of \$10.00 per hour. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 3-0.

10.9 RENTAL OF TOWN FACILITIES – Lamprey River Advisory

Request to utilize the Town Hall for a meeting on September 18, 2010 from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM was submitted for approval by the Lamprey River Advisory.

Motion by Selectman Gilbert to approve the rental for the Lamprey River Advisory Committee on September 18, 2010 and charge a fee of \$10.00 per hour. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 3-0.

10.10 RENTAL OF TOWN FACILITIES – Zumba – D. Scott

Request to utilize the auditorium for Zumba Class on Saturdays for one hour was submitted for approval by Ms. Deanna Scott.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to table the request and ask Ms. Scott to attend the next Board Meeting.. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 3-0.

10.11 TELECOMMUNICATIONS EASEMENT AGREEMENT

Request from Verizon to obtain an easement along Fresh River Road to connect from the Fairpoint Pole to provide utility service to the cellular tower site owned by the Town. Town Administrator Shankle advised that the request was reviewed by the Towns Attorney and Water & Sewer Commission.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the Telecommunications Easement Agreement between Verizon and the Town. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 3-0.

10.12 YEIELD TAX – Pintabone

Yield Tax for property owned by Mr. Robert Pintabone, 160 Blake Road, Map 013, Lot 004, in the amount of \$72.89 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the Yield Tax for Mr. Robert Pintabone in the amount of \$72.89. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 3-0.

10.13 INTENT TO CUT – Burke/Hyde

Intent to Cut for property owned by Ms. Annjannette Burke and Mr. Kevin Hyde, 116 Dearborn Road, Map 008, Lot 002 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gilbert to approve the Intent-to-Cut for Ms Annjannetee Burke and Mr. Kevin Hyde, 116 Dearborn Road, Map 008, Lot 002. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 3-0.

11. CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS

11.1 TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Town Administrator Shankle

No issues.

11.2 INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Gilbert

No issues.

Selectman McGeough

No issues.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPOINTMENTS

7:30 PM Public Hearing – J. Grammas

Chairman Falcone opened the Public Hearing and read the notice.

Mr. John Grammas presented a plan to reconstruct the railroad trail between Main Street and Railroad Avenue. He advised that this area would be relocated to allow for expansion of commercial business in that area. He advised that preliminary approval has been granted by the State with a plan for his company to install a new culvert in the Raymond portion of the trail to improve safety. He stated that this proposal is in the preliminary stage and the proposed plan would be to insure the trail is safe, barriers installed, and improvements made to that area would not impact abutting properties or recreational use.

Lengthy discussion followed with various issues and questions expressed:

Ms. Jennifer Codispoti, Bureau of Trails, advised that this proposal is preliminary and has not been submitted in writing to the State for formal approval. Mr. Grammas stated that a verbal agreement with Mr. Gamache has taken place and the plan and agreement would be submitted by my attorney.

Selectman McGeough asked the width of the trail and would the trail be open during the construction stage. Mr. Grammas advised it would be thirty feet, and the trail would be open during the construction.

Mr. Leo Grimard, Epping, advised that this is a good plan as it involves moving the propane company as it is a time bomb and the railroad track is junk and this plan would be improving the area.

Ms. Debbie Briscoe asked about the location of the barriers and entrances to the trail. Chairman Falcone stated the plan has not been submitted to the Planning Board and interested parties should come to that meeting.

Mr. Rick Davis, Epping, voiced concerns over noise and asked would this trail abut open space. Mr. Grammas advised these issues would be spelled out once the plan is complete.

Ms. Avis Rosenfield advised that this area is currently unsafe and how do you get people from Part A to Part B in a safe manner. She advised that she has spoken to DOT about this issue. Mr. Grammas advised that he is listening to all these concerns and would make sure it will be improved.

Ms. Heidi Gaffney, Epping, asked if this type of approval has been granted by the State previously. Ms. Codispoti advised that yes it has been granted before usually if it is considered a public benefit. She added that the installation of the large box culvert in Raymond would fall into that category.

Ms. Priscilla Davis, Epping, stated that the map is confusing and thinks it might be going right near her property. **Mr. Grammas** stated this is preliminary drawing.

Reverend Vincent Battiparano, Epping, stated that there seems to be another issue with purchasing private property to be used for public use. Chairman Falcone advised that most of these issues would be reviewed when the plan is submitted to the Planning Board, and this would come under the State as it is a land swap. Reverend Battiparano advised that safety seems to be the issue and stated this might be a hell of a mess. He added that 40% of the seats on the Board are empty and thought that they should be filled because of this important issue. Selectman Gilbert stated this is a public hearing. Selectman McGeough advised that one of the members is a fire-fighter and the other member is on vacation.

Mr. Victor McKenny stated that he is a trail user and asked for clarification of the agreement. Mr. Grammas stated that he had met with the State and has a verbal agreement.

Ms. Donna Keith, Epping, advised that she lives close to the project and did not like the idea that Raymond is going to benefit and not benefit Epping.

Mr. Ray Mitrano, Epping, stated that the tunnel in Raymond is a death trap and a new culvert would greatly improve safety.

Ms. Diane Robinson, Rockingham Recreation Trail Association who's organization maintains the trails. She asked if the developer changes the trails and what happens if he goes broke. Mr. Grammas stated he will fix the trail first and then go forward. Chairman Falcone stated that the Planning Board would be asking for a bond.

Ms. Wendy Hay, Epping, asked whether the footing for horses will be taken into consideration. Ms. Codispoti advised that the normal footing would include stone dust which is good for both motorized vehicles and animals.

Selectman Gilbert stated that currently this is confusing as to what the State needs from the Town. Ms. Jennifer Codispoti advised that they are looking for an understanding of concerns of residents and users of the trail. Selectman McGeough stated that basically you are looking for a vote of confidence before Mr. Grammas goes forward. Ms. Codispoti said this was to ascertain whether there was a big negative sentiment expressed before this goes forward. Selectman Gilbert asked if the State would be hosting a public hearing. Ms. Codispoti stated that based on this hearing that could be indicated.

Mr. Burton Witham, Exeter Snow hounds, expressed concern in regard to turn-offs, access to gas and services, and traffic. He questioned whether things would be falling through the cracks as in the past things were approved for the snowmobile trail but never were completed. He sited when they built the bridge over 125 and the Toyota facility.

Ms. Joan Ganatis stated she is a horse back rider and concerned about the footings as the rail beds are wonderful footings and said the material utilized might take years to settle. She added that the barriers might also cause water issues.

Mr. Jerry Bernier stated that he was in favor of this change to the trail and the proposed commercial development as it would add to the tax base. He stated that a new trail would be beneficial and should improve any safety issues in that area.

Mr. Tim Lambert stated he was in favor of changing the crossing to only one, but hoped that this would improve the noise for residents as currently it is being used at 2:00 or 3:00 AM.

Ms. Jennifer Codispoti stated that the Trails Bureaus responsibility is to watch out for the public and rely heavily on those that maintain the trails. Selectman Gilbert stated that one resident asked about the footing. Ms. Codispoti advised that the detail of the trail will be discussed at the time of construction and usually is made up of stone dust.

Mr. Gary Scott stated he was the groomer and stated that to have the tunnel improved would be great and should help the horse riders. He added they add gravel as needed to the trail and reassured everyone that the State monitors it and would insure it is safe.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Chairman Falcone addressed the concerns stating that the issues would be addressed by the Planning Board after the plan is submitted. She stated again that this discussion is the preliminary step to advise Mr. Grammas of concerns by all interested parties. She thanked everyone for participation and asked for a poll, which turned out favorably for the majority of those present based on the preliminary presentation of the request.

Mr. John Grammas closed stating that the access from the recreation trail to the businesses will be included in the plan. He added that materials will be installed properly with swales and barriers as buffers.

8:00 PM LAMPREY RIVER NOMINATION COMMITTEE – J. Hadley

Mr. Jim Hadley, Lamprey River Nomination Committee requested a letter of support to be presented to the Rivers Management Advisory Committee from the Town of Epping in support of the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program.. He advised that letters have been received from Brentwood, Fremont, Newfields, Northwood, and Barrington Select Boards in this regard. Mr. Charlie Goodspeed advised that currently the Town is pursuing a change to the Mill Street Bridge and Dam to change the flow pattern of the river to avoid flooding issues and asked if this department would require notification of this request. Ms. Laura Wheet-Markum advised that the organization is not a voting board only advisory. Selectman Gilbert stated that this is another level of government and this organization could change over time. Ms. Dawn Genes stated the organization is advisory only and is staffed with volunteers.

Mr. Chris Albert advised that these organizations are responsible for obtaining four million dollars from the Federal Government for the water and sewer. He added that the Planning and Conservation Boards have provided letters in this regard.

Reverend Battiparano asked about the issues with the dam as his grandchildren live in West Epping wells and recently their wells have gone dry. Selectman McGeough advised that nothing has gone forward in regard to the dam. Town Administrator Shankle advised that the water level is low and in drought conditions.

Ms. Jen Roudin advised that this organization has a benefit and allows us to talk to other Towns is to protect the river upstream and downstream.

Mrs. Isobel Parke advised that this organization cares about the river and this gives the Towns an opportunity to work together and does not add any additional level of administration. She added that by nominating a river we are saying to the State that this is important to the Town.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to request Town Administrator Shankle to provide a letter of nomination in support of the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. Seconded by Chairman Falcone. Motion carried 2-1. Selectman Gilbert voted nay.

12. COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Reverend Battiparano thanked the Epping Police Department for recovering the jewelry case which was stolen from his car in April. He additionally thanked the Derry and Fremont Police Departments for assistance in recovering his property.

Reverend Battiparano apologized for the statement in regard to the missing Board members and thanked Selectman McGeough for advising him of the whereabouts of the members.

Selectman McGeough requested information on the dry wells, and said no apology is needed for questioning public officials.

13. ADJOURN

Motion by Selectman McGeough to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Judith Bielecki
Administrative Assistant**

JB/

Karen Falcone, Chairman

Rene Archambault, Vice-Chairman

Dianne Gilbert, Selectman

James McGeough, Selectman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

Date _____