

**TOWN OF EAST KINGSTON, NH
SELECTMEN'S PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010**

6:30PM Lori and Josh Jacobs
6:45PM Building Inspector, Ray Donald
7:00PM Cheryll Hurteau
7:15PM Police Chief, R. R. Simpson
7:30PM Interim Fire Chief, Ed Warren

ATTENDING: Selectmen Matthew B. Dworman, Richard S. Poelaert and David R. Pendell, Jr.

OTHERS ATTENDING: Lori & Josh Jacobs, Cheryll Hurteau, R. R. Simpson, Atty. Ryan Russman, Barbara White, and Ed Warren.

Chairman Dworman called this Selectmen's Meeting to order at 6:30PM.

MINUTES: The Board reviewed the Selectmen's public and non-public meeting minutes dated 2/17/2010.

Mr. Pendell **MOTIONED** to approve and sign the public and non-public meeting minutes as written. Mr. Poelaert seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

REGISTER: The Board reviewed the check register. Mr. Pendell **MOTIONED** to approve and sign the check register dated 2/17-2/26/2010 in the amount of \$475,912.32. Chairman Dworman seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

ABATEMENTS: The Board reviewed abatements. Mr. Pendell **MOTIONED**, based on the recommendation of the assessors, to approve and grant an abatement, including interest for M/M Richard Mason, 37 Powwow River Rd., MBL #02-04-02 in the amount of \$1,473.69; M/M R. Scott Urwick, 27 Powwow River Rd., MBL #02-04-01 in the amount of \$1,052.53, Mr. Anthony Moulton and Diane Amero, 6 Pine Woods, for MBL #12-03-05, 19 Stagecoach Rd., in the amount of \$378.87 and to deny the abatements for Whippoorwill Realty Trust, for MBL #12-03-06, 12-03-07, 12-03-08, 12-03-09 and 12-03-19; & Jayne Fisher, MBL #16-02-04-05. Mr. Poelaert seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

NONPUBLIC SESSION: Chairman Dworman **MOTIONED** to go into a nonpublic session at 6:33PM under RSA 91-A-3, II: para (c) Matters, which if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. The Board was polled and the results of the poll were: Matthew B. Dworman – Yes, Richard S. Poelaert – Yes, & David R. Pendell, Jr. - Yes.

The Board was polled & determined the divulgence of the information would render the proposed action ineffective & the information will be withheld from the public during the public meeting Minutes of March 1, 2010. The results of the poll were: Matthew B. Dworman –Yes, Richard S. Poelaert–Yes, & David R. Pendell, Jr. - Yes.

Mr. Poelaert **MOTIONED** to adjourn this Selectmen's non-public meeting at 6:37PM. Mr. Pendell seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

DONALD: It was noted Ray Donald will be unable to attend tonight's meeting, and has asked to be rescheduled for the next meeting.

NONPUBLIC SESSION: Chairman Dworman **MOTIONED** to go into a nonpublic session at 6:40PM under RSA 91-A-3, II: para (c) Matters, which if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the

reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. The Board was polled and the results of the poll were: Matthew B. Dworman – Yes, Richard S. Poelaert – Yes, & David R. Pendell, Jr. - Yes.

The Board was polled & determined the divulgence of the information would render the proposed action ineffective & the information will be withheld from the public during the public meeting Minutes of March 1, 2010. The results of the poll were: Matthew B. Dworman –Yes, Richard S. Poelaert–Yes, & David R. Pendell, Jr. - Yes.

Mr. Poelaert **MOTIONED** to adjourn this Selectmen’s non-public meeting at 7:20PM. Mr. Pendell seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

NONPUBLIC SESSION: Chairman Dworman **MOTIONED** to go into a nonpublic session at 7:22PM under RSA 91-A-3, II: para (a) The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.

The Board was polled & determined the divulgence of the information would render the proposed action ineffective & the information will be withheld from the public during the public meeting Minutes of March 1, 2010. The results of the poll were: Matthew B. Dworman –Yes, Richard S. Poelaert–Yes, & David R. Pendell, Jr. - Yes.

Mr. Poelaert **MOTIONED** to adjourn this Selectmen’s non-public meeting at 7:55PM. Mr. Pendell seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ed Warren and Cheryl Hurteau joined the meeting.

FIRE DEPT. Interim Fire Chief Ed Warren met with the Board to discuss the difference in EMT I & Paramedic status for fire department/emergency services personnel.

Fire Chief Warren stated he wanted to clear up the confusion and clarify the difference between the certifications. Fire Chief Warren informed the Board the class to become a paramedic costs between \$10,000 and \$12,000. It can take up to 18 months to complete, and East Kingston does not have the call volume in Town for a paramedic to keep his certification once he achieves it. It then forces them to find work elsewhere. In order to keep the certification, they must fulfill a number of hours working as a paramedic.

Fire Chief Warren stated when a 911 call is received at dispatch, they determine if the call is rated A – H, and any call above a C is categorized for ALS with 2 paramedics dispatched, who arrive at a call within 6 – 9 minutes. East Kingston responds with EMT’s or EMT I’s, and by the time they assess the situation and determine they need a paramedic, the paramedics dispatched by the 911 call are on the scene.

The EMT’s in the fire station can disburse medications if needed. If a paramedic is needed, they are on the scene at no cost to the Town, as they are dispatched out of Exeter Hospital.

Fire Chief Warren added, for most calls you do not need a paramedic. He added in Epping, they now have seven paramedics who want to be paid \$100 per call, whether their paramedic skills are needed or not.

Mr. Poelaert inquired how do we get them more proactive experience? Fire Chief Warren responded he suggests foregoing training in East Kingston, and go to Exeter Hospital for more experience. He added the staff is willing to do that for more exposure. They would still be paid whether they go for the training in East Kingston, or to the Exeter Hospital.

Fire Chief Warren further added, 99% of the calls an EMT-Basic can handle. It is a rare event that we need a paramedic. They are toned out at a level and any letter above a C the Paramedic is dispatched out from Exeter Hospital. He advised that it is not a good idea to spend \$10,000.

Mr. Poelaert agreed Fire Chief Warren has made valid points and clarified the matter.

The Board of Selectmen agreed that they would be okay with the Town paying for them to be at the hospital or at training at the station.

Mr. Poelaert inquired if he has come up with ideas to keep them busy during the day at the station. He responded, yes, he makes up a list and is keeping them busy, i.e. this week they will be painting the new railing at the Town Hall that was replaced. Both Bruce Gosselin and David McElroy who are covering the station (Mon – Fri, 7AM – 1PM) are certified EMT's and Fire Fighter II level. He added that there are "down times," and that it is to be expected in the station. He added the paperwork is being done. In response to Mr. Poelaert, Fire Chief Warren stated they do check the drugs on the truck and they are kept secured.

It was acknowledged Fire Chief Warren has given them a pretty convincing argument to keep away from paramedics, and keep EMT's.

It was noted David McElroy has 26 years of experience, and Bruce Gosselin is more than willing to get any additional training.

Fire Chief Warren stated that he is very proud of the department from start to finish for what they have done over the past 4 days throughout the recent storm. Heavy rains and strong winds caused a lot of damage, and the Town was without power). He added the response was great.

Mr. Poelaert inquired about the "firehouse" software, and Fire Chief Warren responded it is operational and, to date, all of it has not been utilized, but they do use it for state reporting.

NONPUBLIC SESSION: Chairman Dworman **MOTIONED** to go into a nonpublic session at 8:10PM under RSA 91-A-3, II: para. (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. The Board was polled & the results of the poll were: Matthew B. Dworman–Yes, Richard S. Poelaert–Yes, & David R. Pendell, Jr.–Yes.

The Board was polled & determined the divulgence of the information would render the proposed action ineffective & the information will be withheld from the public during the public meeting Minutes of March 1, 2010. The results of the poll were: Matthew B. Dworman –Yes, Richard S. Poelaert–Yes, & David R. Pendell, Jr. - Yes.

STORM DAMAGE: A State of Emergency was declared by the Governor last Friday, Feb. 26, 2010, due to the heavy rains and very strong winds, which caused massive power outages and property damage due to fallen trees, branches, electrical wires, internet, and phone service throughout NH, with the Seacoast being hit the hardest.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Director, Sarah Gallant and the Fire Department personnel manned the EOC/fire station all weekend long, working with Unutil to restore power and remove trees and debris from roads, etc.

Mr. Pendell informed the Board members during the power outage he had the lock taken off the gas tanks, so the road crews and others could fill up their gas tanks. Stores and gas stations were closed for hours before getting power and with the forecast of up to a foot of snow to come; he was just trying to be prepared, and didn't want them out looking for gas.

It was noted if the gas tanks are not locked, everybody would be diligent to record the gas consumption. Fire Chief Warren stated there are “gas keys” that can be used to record the gas used. Mr. Poelaert asked how much those special keys cost, as Ed stated he has one with DiFeo. Fire Chief Warren offered to find out the cost.

They discussed moving forward, and special keys would allow everyone to use the gas pumps instead of just the Police Department.

Again, Chair Dworman stated to Fire Chief Warren that everyone involved did a great job over the weekend!

It was noted Ed Warren, Sarah & Matt Gallant, Jeremy Smith, Chris Gallant, Mark Brinkerhoff, Bruce Gosselin, Keith Bertogli, Rick Daniels, Michelle Cotton-Miller, and Gabrielle Decatur all spent many hours assisting during the weekend. It was also noted Mark Brinkerhoff and Bruce Gosselin conducted well being checks.

The Board of Selectmen expressed their appreciation for all that these people did, around the clock, with very little sleep.

It was also noted the kitchen that is being renovated at the fire station by the EKFA was not operational. Upon completion, the fire department will be able to utilize the kitchen to prepare food for those helping out in an emergency situation.

It was further noted an assessment was taken of the Town owned buildings for an insurance claim to be filed, the EOC Director was assessing damage of residential homes, and the Road Agent assessed the road damages.

EXEMPTION: The Board reviewed a Veterans’ exemption application, noting all of the required criteria has been met. Mr. Pendell **MOTIONED** to approve and sign the Veterans’ exemption for \$500 for Thomas Cummings, 1 Fox Hollow Ct. Mr. Poelaert seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

TOWN REPORT: The Board acknowledged delivery of the annual town report over the weekend by the EKFA. The Board reviewed two letters of appreciation, one to the EKFA for the delivery, and the other to Whittier Press for the publication.

Mr. Poelaert **MOTIONED** to approve and sign the two letters as written. Mr. Pendell seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

EOC: The Board reviewed a letter of appreciation addressed to the EOC Director, Sarah Gallant, for the outstanding work conducted by the members who assisted throughout the storm by removing trees and debris, and assisting residents and Unitil to restore power. The Fire Dept. and Road Agent crew worked endless hours throughout the State of Emergency declared by Governor Lynch.

PLANNING BOARD: The Board acknowledged receipt of the Planning Board meeting minutes dated 2/18/2010.

LEGAL: The plaintiff has filed an appeal on the case that was dismissed.

DAY: The Board acknowledged receipt of a letter dated 2/22/10 from the Trustees of the Trust Fund. Mr. Day was asked to provide further information and, to date, has not provided it; therefore, no action was taken.

TOWN TOUR: The annual Town Tour was discussed, and they determined they will conduct it on Fri., March 12 at 9:00AM.

SMITH: It was noted that Rick Smith called from Florida to thank us for the dedication to his brother Larry in our 2009 Town Report.

CALENDAR: 3/8 at 6:00PM-set up for election, 3/9 Voting Day 7:00AM–8:00PM, 3/12 Town Tour, and 3/15 next Selectmen’s meeting.

NONPUBLIC SESSION: Chairman Dworman **MOTIONED** to go into a nonpublic session at 8:35PM under RSA 91-A-3, II: para (a) The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.

The Board was polled & determined the divulgence of the information would render the proposed action ineffective & the information will be withheld from the public during the public meeting Minutes of March 1, 2010. The results of the poll were: Matthew B. Dworman –Yes, Richard S. Poelaert–Yes, & David R. Pendell, Jr. - Yes.

Mr. Poelaert **MOTIONED** to adjourn this Selectmen’s non-public meeting at 8:40PM. Mr. Pendell seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

WAGES: Mr. Pendell contacted MRI, and provided a quote from them to conduct a review of all positions, including the job descriptions, tasks performed, titles, and ranges of pay for the Board. The company is the only one in NH to provide this service, and they are willing to come in and discuss the scope of the work with the Board.

Mr. Pendell noted it may take a couple of months for them to provide a final report, and Mr. Poelaert agreed they should spend the money to get it right. He also agreed with the hiring of an outside professional source.

The Board members acknowledged that since they are the only company in the State of NH that does it, they could not go out to bid. They further acknowledged that NH is unique, and any firm from another state (MA) would not have the same expertise. The Board members agreed to ask MRI to come in to meet with them.

Mr. Poelaert **MOTIONED** to adjourn this Selectmen’s non-public meeting at 8:50PM. Mr. Pendell seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah G. Gallant
Administrative Assistant

Matthew B. Dworman

Richard S. Poelaert

David R. Pendell, Jr.

