

Town of Eddington

906 Main Road Eddington, Maine 04428

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday
March 21st, 2017
6:00 P.M.
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE: Mike Shepherd called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: All Selectmen present, except J. Powell. A motion was made seconded and passed to accept his absence as excused. J. Brooks / R. Wood, Jr. Vote 4-0.

MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting on February 21st, 2017. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept as written. J. Brooks / R. Wood Vote 4-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:

Fire: Chief Ellis went over his report for the month of February. The department responded to 36 calls during the month of February, eighty-three percent of them were medical calls. Ellis spoke of recent repairs to the Brush Truck (#326), expressing the need for replacement, as the current truck is over 22yrs old and starting to nickel and dime the department. He gave a ballpark figure of \$50-\$60,000 for a newer used truck, adding that there is enough money in their reserve account to make the purchase if approved.

Members of the department are trying out a new application called IamResponding. This application provides a direct connection from dispatch to a department member's cell phone. The application fee runs about \$800.00 a year, with the possibility of funding by Penobscot County, in the future.

Chief Ellis addressed staffing concerns, expressing the need for manpower, especially where the busy season is upon us, making people even less apt to be available. Part time people are very hard to find and even harder to keep. The towns of Milford and Orrington have started a night per diem option, perhaps Eddington could look into this as well.

Police: Deputy Chris Watson submitted his report for February. There were a total of 104 calls for service - 7 Reportable crashes, 27 Special Patrols, 6 Public Service, 21 Property checks, 3 arrests and 11 Medical Agency Assists. Dep. Watson is continuing training with the SRT Team, as well as School District Safety issues.

Michael Shepherd, Chairman

Mark Carreira, Selectman



Ray Wood, Jr. Selectman



Joan Brooks, Vice-Chairman



Joe Powell, Selectmen

ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT: February Report included in packets.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: Rusty Gagnon focused on numbers for her report this month. She anticipates positive changes in the Governor's proposed budget, and if not, The RSU's allocation from the state will be cut by \$500,000.00. If the funding is cut, the burden will be passed on to the taxpayers, which means increased property taxes. Gagnon broke down some cost figures for the district. High School - Regular Instruction costs are \$2,686,258.00. UTC Program costs at \$164,821.90. Special Education is over 20% of the Budget with costs at \$256,915.87. There are 550 K-8 Students in the district and 17.8% receive special services. Gagnon reported that the audit went well and there would be less than a 2% increase over last year's budget, if the state didn't cut funds. The auditor's annual report will be presented before the regular board meeting on 04/13/17 in the conference room at the Holbrook School, regular board meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Gagnon announced the new board member from Clifton, Buzz Moore, and expressed the need for another seat to be filled, representing Eddington. The position will hopefully filled by the June Election. Gagnon asked Selectmen to spread the word and encourage people to run for the seat.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No items to discuss, or act on at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: Ratify Town Meeting Vote of July 28, 2016, Article 25, MRC. A motion was made, seconded and passed to sign. J. Brooks / R. Wood, Jr. Vote 4-0.

Authorization to sign Municipal Joinder Agreement (Russell noted that all the paperwork has been done, just need to sign the agreement) – **A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize the chairman to sign the agreement.** R. Wood / M. Carreira Vote 4-0.
(M. Shepherd abstained from voting because he was the one signing. After a brief discussion, it was realized that he could and should vote, he then rescinded his previous choice to abstain, making the 3-0 vote, 4-0.)

Sign Put Option Letter to MRC – **A motion was made, seconded and passed to rescind the motion from the previous meeting.** M. Carreira / J. Brooks Vote 4 - 0.

A motion was then made, seconded and passed to sign the Put Option Letter to MRC.
M. Carreira / R. Wood, Jr. Vote 4-0.

Emera Appeal – Russell explained that the deadline to appeal with the Supreme Court was 03/24/17. The appeal costs would be shared with the town of Bradley and was recommended by the town's attorney, Charles Gilbert. **A motion was made, seconded and passed to Appeal to the Supreme Court.** M. Carreira / J. Brooks Vote 4-0.

Michael Shepherd, Chairman

Mark Carreira, Selectman



Ray Wood, Jr. Selectman



Joan Brooks, Vice-Chairman



Joe Powell, Selectmen

Plowing and Sanding – Russell explained that LP Williams, the current contractor, offered to keep his contract figures the same as the current 3-yr Contract, ending this year, if the town renewed it rather than put it out to bid. (Current prices for L.P. Williams - \$98,000 per year, for 3 years, and \$13.50 per yard, for winter sand.) After a brief discussion, agreeing that it makes the most fiscal sense, the board made the decision to extend the current contract.

A Motion was made, seconded and passed to extend the Plowing & Sanding Contract.

J. Brooks / M. Carreira Vote 4 – 0.

Trash & Recycling Contract – Russell informed the board that the current contractor, Sullivan’s Waste, is looking to cut back and their contract ends this June. The contract for Sullivan’s is \$45,226.20 for trash and \$13,764.48 for recycling. Russell estimated bids to be around \$50,000 to \$60,000 if they found a new contractor. The current contract ends in June. Bid Specs will be in the upcoming weekend paper.

Financial Report – Copies given to board members as requested. Russell pointed out a few corrections, and how to read the lines, as the TRIO program is sometimes difficult to understand, if you’re not familiar with it. With three months to go in the current budget year, he assured them the town was in pretty good shape.

The Contract with the Penobscot County Sherriff’s Department – Russell informed the board that if the town was to sign a 3 year Contract, there would only be a 2% increase per each year vs. A 1yr contract at 3%. It would mean a \$1700 savings per each of the 3 years. The board was in agreement that the town gets great service and coverage from the S.O. and the people in town seem very happy with it as well.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to sign a 3 yr. contract, pending Town Meeting approval.

M. Shepherd / J. Brooks Vote 4 – 0.

2017 – 2018 Budget - Budget Sheets were handed out, Russell briefly ran down through sections, and spoke about a few proposed figures he already had for the upcoming budget year. The Town Manager and Board members agreed to hold a budget workshop on the first meeting in April. (04/04/2017) to continue discussions and figures.

Nomination Papers available for 2 Selectmen Seats and 1 School Board Member – Due back by April 28th, 2017. Informational only, no action needed. (Posted at Store, Post Office and on website.)

Michael Shepherd, Chairman


Mark Carreira, Selectman



Ray Wood, Jr. Selectman



Joan Brooks, Vice-Chairman



Joe Powell, Selectmen

OTHER BUSINESS: Superintendent Letter - \$587,000. The revenue sharing allocation by State Legislature, for the Make Good Bill, was not done correctly, the formula used was incorrect. It has been requested by the SAD that they redo the calculation the way the law states it shall be done. (the formula used cut funds by 14%) The Superintendent asked to come to a meeting to answer any questions and give her proposal on revenue sharing. Russell said he would put her on the May 2nd Agenda.

Michael Shepherd updated the board members on the Starbird Leadership Group, topic. He feels that the board needs a direction vs. Broadness before actually spending the money on a consulting firm. The Board needs to identify "What can we do to make this town better", identify what they are looking for. Shepherd would like to see the board work together, to make a list of suggestions, ideas, and goals regarding areas that could be enhanced or tweaked, in our town government operations.

WARRANTS: A motion was made, seconded and approved to sign warrants
J. Brooks / M. Carreira Vote 4-0.

PUBLIC ACCESS: Resident, Theresa Woznik, was curious as to why the Board would need to hire a consulting firm for advice and direction. She suggested that they should look into training through Maine Municipal Association.

Hilma Adams – Asked if the Selectmen had job descriptions, and suggested they through the Manual provided by MMA, which would be a very helpful tool, in her opinion.

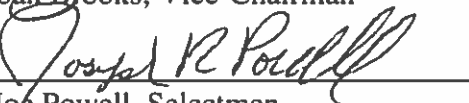
Rusty Gagnon – Spoke about the Binder full of policies, duties and responsibilities of the School Board Members, and how helpful it has been to them.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.
J. Brooks / R. Wood Vote 4-0.

Michael Shepherd, Chairman


Joan Brooks, Vice-Chairman

Mark Carreira, Selectman


Joe Powell, Selectmen


Ray Wood, Jr. Selectman

(these minutes are a summarization of the Meeting, they are not a transcript. Meetings are recorded and can be made available, if someone wishes to listen to all discussions and all comments made)