Town of Eddington

906 Main Road Eddington, Maine 04428

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY
AUGUST 4th, 2015
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE: Joan Brooks called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

ROLL CALL: All Selectmen present

CHAIR & VICE CHAIR- P. Lyford made a motion to nominate Joan Brooks as Chair and Charles Baker, Jr. as Vice-Chair. No second needed for nominations, they Voted 4-1. (M. Shepherd opposed)

MINUTES: Minutes of June 15th and 16th – Motion to approve minutes of both meetings by M. Shepherd / P. Lyford Vote 5-0.

PUBLIC ACCESS: Rusty Gagnon – Upset with the I395 Resolve item on the Agenda. She stated that she was not sure what the topic was going to be, however, she wanted it known that the recent letter (Resolve) in support of the 2B2 Route, encouraged by Selectmen Lyford, is not the route that the majority of the public were in favor of. Residents Rusty Robertson and Jim Russell both spoke in support of Rusty's words and the townspeople's opposition to this route, adding that the Selectmen need to be reminded that they are elected to represent the townspeople, not their own special interests. A letter from Susan Dunham Shane was read and will be attached to the minutes, stating her opinions to the two Selectmen that voted in support of a Resolve in support of 2B2.

Gretchen Heldmann – Asked if there was going to be any response to a letter with a number of questions, she submitted several meetings ago (March 17th, 2015). Russell assured her that the lawyer had reviewed the letter, and he only addressed the part about there being a conflict with Peter Lyford being a state rep, and said that there was none. She suggested a motion to reconsider their previous vote.

Joan Brooks, Chairman

Michael Shepherd, Selectman

Charles Baker, Jr., Selectman

Mark Carreira, Selectman

Peter Lyford, Selectman

Ralph Russell – Why would the Selectmen support a resolve that would divide our community.

David Peppard – Supports Selectmen, in their decision to support the Resolve. Mr. Peppard also complimented the plowing service that Mr. Williams provided this winter, adding that it was exceptional.

Theresa Woznik – Asking if the public is allowed to comment on other Agenda items IE: the Citizens Letter. Joan Brooks told her the only time they could speak was during the two public accesses. She asked for some explanation on the recall letter issue.

Craig Russell agrees that sometimes the public has no idea what a particular agenda item means, and there really isn't a way to discuss some issues in Public Access, until after they have been discussed & acted on by Selectmen. How can citizens give input or make comments if they aren't informed on the topic ahead of time. Joan Brooks said he raised a very good point.

Rusty Gagnon spoke about how meetings of the school board people are allowed to make public comments during the business meeting, because it's only fair, due to the fact they are the ones who elect the people to do the business. Joan Brooks asked the Board how they felt about allowing public comment during the agenda items. The other board members agreed it would be ok.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Gretchen Heldmann Letter Re: I395 Resolve. Joan Brooks decided to read the letter out loud, and add it to the record. This particular letter was in reference to her receiving no response to earlier questions, asked in her letter dated March 17th, 2015.

Sign I395 Resolve in Support of 2B-2 – (from February 24th 2015 meeting.
Several people spoke about the way this was turned around from the original Resolve, which was against the route. Rusty Gagnon mentioned the 395+ signatures in opposition of the 2B-2 route that two of the Selectmen were willing to sign, in support of, in February. It was suggested by resident Brad Goodwin to have a vote by townspeople at the Special Town Meeting in August. Michael Shepherd said he would support any viable option that the state puts forward, that would get trucks off route 46, adding his feelings about his daughter waiting for the bus in a very dangerous area of route 9. Charles Grover spoke about the effects to the stores and small businesses on this side of town, if the route goes through.
M. Shepherd made a motion to take no action on any resolve, for any route that has to do with the I395 connector. Seconded by C. Baker, Jr.
Vote 4-1. (P. Lyford opposed)

Annual Results of Town Meeting – **A motion was made, seconded and passed to sign the results.**
M. Shepherd / P. Lyford Vote 5-0.

Joan Brooks, Chairman

Michael Shepherd, Selectman

Charles Baker, Jr., Selectman

Mark Carreira, Selectman

Peter Lyford, Selectman

Annual Appointments – The board received a list of names, along with a letter of interest received from David Peppard, to be an alternate member on the Planning Board. **A motion was made, seconded and passed, to approve the regular list, as well as D. Peppard's appointment as alternate member of the Planning Board. P. Lyford / M. Shepherd Vote 5-0.**

Attorney Letter – Regarding the Citizens letter, for the petition for Recall of a Select person. Russell read the Attorneys response, which urged the town, through the board, recorded by the town clerk, to deny the request for recall election, on grounds that the ordinance has been preempted by the provisions, set June 13th, 2011, referenced in title 30a M.R.S.A §250.59. Prior to that date, when the state law went into effect, there were no limitations and there could have been a recall. Eddington's recall ordinance, was written in 2000, therefore it has some flaws and needs to be re-written. An extensive discussion ensued, several opinions voiced by selectmen, as well as voiced opinions and suggestions by a few of the citizens in attendance. The agenda item called for action, therefore Vice-Chair C. Baker, Jr. took over the meeting at this point. The Citizen letter was read aloud by C. Baker, Jr. during this time. It was questioned if the letter was part of the petition, do we have any proof that people who did sign it even read it? The letter was not signed or dated, just attached to the signatures.
A motion was made, seconded and passed to table any action on the Petition for Recall and request the town attorney's presence at next meeting.
P. Lyford / M. Shepherd Vote 4 - 1 abstained (J. Brooks)
** Selectmen M. Shepherd questions whether the rest of the Ethics Policy is just null and void, due to the legislature stated earlier, it is in his opinion, it is not, and believes there could be towns who would challenge it in court. Russell will refer this question to MMA.*

Recall Ordinance – The Board agreed that the Ordinance written and approved in 2000, will need to be reviewed. Ethics and Recall policies are products of the Selectmen, not the P. Board.

Sign Local Road Assistance Program – Amount Received this year will be $11, 948.00. **A motion was made, seconded and passed to sign. P. Lyford/ C. Baker, Jr. Vote 5-0.**

Policy Road Side Mowing & Spraying – The policy, proposed by Selectmen P. Lyford, would make it so there would be no spraying done until after July 28th of each year. **Motion made, seconded and passed, to accept the policy as submitted. P. Lyford / C. Baker, Jr. Vote 5-0.**

Special Town Meeting – August 18th at 6:00 p.m. Specific to the Municipal Bond Bank. **A motion was made, seconded and sign the warrant for Special Town Meeting, when it is ready.**
P. Lyford / C. Baker, Jr. Vote 5-0.

Joan Brooks, Chairman

Michael Shepherd, Selectman

Charles Baker, Jr., Selectman

Mark Carreira, Selectman

Peter Lyford, Selectman

OTHER BUSINESS – Town Picnic Date - August 16th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
(for info only, no action needed)

WARRANTS: A motion was made, seconded and passed to sign the warrants for July 2015.
M. Shepherd / M. Carreira Vote 5-0.

PUBLIC ACCESS: Gretchen Heldmann asked if Russell had received information from the Bond Bank? Russell answered yes.
Heldmann also requested that supporting documents for any complex topics, like those we had tonight, could be attached to the Agenda, pre-meeting, as a way to help people understand and maybe reduce discussions as well. Russell said that can be done for future meetings.

Rusty Gagnon thanked the Board for consideration, to allowing public comment on tonight's Agenda.

Selectmen, Peter Lyford, questioned the following items & would like some action taken on them –
1. Several months ago, we were forewarned by Rusty Gagnon, that there would be an increase in Eddington's share of the School Budget. (more than the other two towns, which is something new) Lyford said he is curious if anyone, IE: the Chairman or Town Manager, bothered to look into this, or even asked why?
2. The status of the Playground. Lyford spoke about how it had been in the works for at least 2 years with no real progress, the equipment is being stored in the storage shed which is going to cause damage to it. Russell told him that it was kind of just dumped in his lap, however, a man named James Glidden who does these across New England, has it all staked out, now we are waiting for the holes to be drilled and the cement poured. Peter asked if it would be done before the Town Picnic on 8/16/15. Russell answered "Possibly".
3. A few Committees are needed in this Town, especially a Budget Committee considering ours increased by $40,000 with only a 15min discussion on it. He was disappointed that he couldn't make the meetings.
4. Boat Launch in Bradley – Is that something we can sell and profit from, now that the dam is out? Russell informed him that People do use it, to launch canoes & Kayaks.
5. Plowing Eddy Heights for years and it's not a Town Road, why? We don't plow Hope Manor, he thinks this needs to be looked at.

Joan Brooks, Chairman

Michael Shepherd, Selectman

Charles Baker, Jr., Selectman

Mark Carreira, Selectman

Peter Lyford, Selectman

P. Lyford's questions continued….

6. Roadwork updates? It is now August, did something happen? Russell said the bids will be advertised in the weekend paper. Late September, the projected paving date. (Hill St. & Monument Dr.)
7. After signing the warrant tonight, he noticed a Road work payment to Lenny Williams for $7000.00. Isn't anything over $5000.00 supposed to be put to bid? Russell answered that it was several road work bills into one payment. Lyford would like this process to be done different to allow others to bid on roadwork as a way to save money.
8. The Towns Valuation went down significantly last year & he is concerned, noting that he realized some of it has to do with the Veazie Dam being removed. He said he called the County Treasurer, and was told the town's value went down by 7 million this year. He would like to see us get some businesses in town.

Susan Shane – Mentioned the National White Water Regatta and would like to see the Town get involved in this event as a way to make use of our boat launch and perhaps raise the profile of Eddington, perhaps sell things on tables, etc.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. M. Shepherd / C. Baker, Jr.

Joan Brooks, Chairman

Michael Shepherd, Selectman

Charles Baker, Jr., Selectman

Mark Carreira, Selectman

Peter Lyford, Selectman