

TOWN OF EDGECOMB

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting

August 18, 2008

ATTENDED: Stuart Smith, John Johnson, Jack Sarmanian (selectmen), Marilee Harris (secretary), Susan Johns (Wiscasset Newspaper), Sue Carlson, Kitty Norton (Comprehensive Planning Task Force), Gretchen Burleigh-Johnson, Bobbie Carlton, Barry Johnston, Roy Potter, Lawrence Omland, Chris Gleason, Ted Sasala, Ruth Sasala and Corning Townsend.

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

Minutes of August 4, 2008 meeting were approved as amended. August 8, 2008 meeting minutes were approved as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marilee Harris was welcomed as secretary of selectmen's meetings. She has been hired to attend the meetings and record the minutes.

Susan Johns from the Wiscasset Newspaper was also welcomed. She will be attending Selectmen's meetings in order to report on what has occurred.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Sue Carlson and Kitty Norton, as representatives for the Comprehensive Planning Task Force, presented to the selectmen the progress their committee has made. They have researched the State requirements, which are formidable, and reported they have met the requirements. They have switched to the specific needs of Edgecomb, as they figure out what is Edgecomb's role in the area?

After researching how other towns have approached similar situations, the committee has decided to create two volumes of information. One volume would boil down all the information into a readable and interesting pamphlet. The second volume would be all the information the state is requiring and be a resource for interested citizens with useful links to help find information. It has been decided this second volume would be on discs that could be copied and made available, rather than having paper copies.

The committee has also decided they would like more input from the community, so they have set up “Forums” or public meetings, for the following dates: September 22nd, October 9th and October 23rd from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. A presentation will be given at each forum and there would be a time of conversation, with refreshments and opportunities for the exchange of ideas. The committee is planning a mailer and will be putting up posters to advertise the need for people to attend the forums and give their input and generate ideas and suggestions.

The Selectmen all agreed that the Comprehensive Planning Task Force has done an outstanding job. The information formulated up to this point will be read by the selectmen and then the information needs to go before the budget committee, for its recommendations.

The Selectmen thanked Sue and Kitty for all their hard work and encouraged them to continue with their plans.

- B.** Fire chief Barry Johnston turned in his written resignation, effective immediately. It was regretfully received. Barry said Roy Potter has been voted on as the new fire chief. The selectmen expressed their regret to see Barry go, and expressed their gratitude for 20 years of faithful service to the community. Lawrence Omland, has been recommended to take over as the EMA director.

John brought up a concern of the process of choosing a fire chief, since the final responsibility lies with the selectmen. He asked what role do the Selectmen play in choosing who is in charge? Barry explained the process of choosing a fire chief has previously been done by an election by the fire department members. Jack suggested amending the process so in the future a process of accountability was established where the fire department made a recommendation and then the selectmen had the opportunity to agree and appoint. John will follow up on researching what other towns do and developing a new procedure.

It was determined that due to Barry’s resignation the Selectmen need to find a 911 coordinator. Barry has also resigned from being the only “first responder” in Edgecomb

and the “first responder program” will now cease with the response going to the Wiscasset Ambulance Service for medical emergencies. Barry has agreed to inform those necessary with the information.

Roy Potter was welcomed as the new fire chief. Roy will be attending selectmen meetings to insure new procedures, as well as be involved in looking into finding sources of income for a proposed new fire department building. He was also asked to submit his resume along with a current list of volunteers.

Lawrence Omland was also recognized as being the new EMA director and he too was asked to submit his resume to the selectmen.

- C. Chris Gleason of Maine Drilling and Blasting returned to discuss the steps that had been taken in order to meet all the requirements established in the town’s blasting ordinance. He explained that he has offered to put all of the abutting landowners on an “on-call” list and to call them a day before or, an hour before, any blasting.

Following up on the August 4, 2008 meeting, Chris reported that all abutters have been contacted either by certified mail, or hand delivered notification, and offered a pre-blast survey, along with video taping interior and exterior structure of the home, as well as a water quality and quantity test.

As written, in the agreement, before blasting will commence, well testing for quantity and quality of water will take place and results will be given to each homeowner abutting the area prior to any blasting. Then 24-72 hours after blasting another test will administered.

A question arose as to what blasting agent was being used? When the water was re-tested would there be a test done for this agent?

It was stated that Roger Bintliff had previously agreed to establish a bond to be set aside for

possible payment for the repair of damaged wells.

It was agreed that once results of both quality and quantity of well water was in the hands of the homeowners, then Chris could come back to the selectmen to request a blasting ordinance. In the meantime, Chris will call everyone and put together a call list.

D. Access to Deep Water

An e-mail was sent to Stuart from Tom Boudin who has found a piece of deep water property on Cross Point Road that the town could purchase.

A motion was made that the information be passed on to the Waterfront Committee. Passed: 3-0. Stuart will send Bob Norton, chair of the Waterfront Committee, the information.

E. Woodard and Curran

John will be checking with Wiscasset, to find out if the sewage capacity needs to be purchased in chunks, or how it should be done.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Gretchen Burleigh-Johnson of Fort Road, requested the selectmen follow up the concerns of the residents of Davis Island and Edgecomb, by establishing a “Future’s Committee” to look at where Edgecomb will be in 20 years. John agreed and said he would work on doing so.

B. After listening to the information given concerning archeological historical sites, Bobbie Carlton of Fort Road questioned why this information was not made public? She also questioned why the planning board does not have this information and whether this information would not have any significance? It was determined there were two different areas: prehistoric areas and sensitive areas. Stuart stated he will contact Dave Boucher,

planning board chair, and ask him to try and locate the map that was seen at the By-pass committee that revealed archeological sites.

- C. Ted Sasala offered the following question: Who among the Selectmen controls tax assessment and is responsible for overseeing the value of property? Ted expressed that there as a prolonged impact on his property due to the continued development around his property. Stuart addressed the question by agreeing with Ted and his concern but expressed that assessment can't be done according to the market. The assessor had been asked and he stated he does not know what will happen after all the construction is done.

Ruth Sasala questioned where her increased taxes are being spent? She expressed that along Fort Road the road sign is tipped over and the speed sign is not visible. Questions arose as to: Where is our tax money going? School funding? School consolidation? She said it is very discouraging. Added to this she expressed she has to deal with equipment noise going on every day. Stuart expressed he heard what Ted and Ruth were saying and was willing to send an e-mail to the assessors to see what can be done.

- D. A question was brought up concerning what the status of the one year approval from the planning board for the assisted living by Roger Bintliff? No one knew. Stuart agreed to ask the lawyer, David Soule, if we can put a lien on the property in order to pay an outstanding, engineer bill that is supposed to be paid by the developer.

- E. Corning Townsend of Fort Road, mentioned, work force housing was presented and the town was told there would be no impact on the school. It was approved and then turned section 8, and was there any way we could make sure this does not happen again. Stuart and Jack responded to Corning's concern by stating they had recently met with, Eric Stumpfel, the lawyer with Eton Peabody, and they were recommended to put procedures in place, to regulate development by limiting the percentage of capacity. It was recommended that the Selectmen put procedures in place and then take it to town meeting. Stuart will contact Eric Stumpfel and see how percentages can be established.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

WARRANT: The following warrants were moved and passed 3-0.

A. Warrant number 5 for \$38,284.86

B. Warrant number 202 for \$3,701.21

C. Warrant number 102 for \$1,890.00

EXECUTIVE SESSION: none required

CORRESPONDENCE: none presented

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.