

TOWN OF EDGECOMB
Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting
January 11, 2010

PRESENT: John Johnson and Jack Sarmanian, (selectmen); Marilee Harris (secretary); Susan Johns (Wiscasset Newspaper); Brittany Blackman; Jim Larson; John Cote; Deb Boucher;

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2010 meeting as amended. Seconded. Passed 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Larson asked the selectmen to clarify the Planning Board's request for a six month moratorium. Jack said he attended the latest Planning Board meeting when they discussed the moratorium and had shared the selectmen agreed it was a solid idea. John commented he had hoped the Planning Board would come to the selectmen for assistance in drafting the request, since the selectmen have a legal fund and the Planning Board does not. Then the matter could be taken to the town's lawyer and be accomplished sooner.

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter from Deb Boucher

Deb Boucher, the town's tax collector, submitted a letter she had written to the Department of Motor Vehicles requesting she be given authorization to distribute license plates. The letter needs the signatures of the selectmen for validation.

A motion was made to sign the above mentioned letter and support Deborah A. Boucher in being able to distribute license plates to the residents of the town of Edgcomb. Seconded. Passed 2-0.

TIF monies being spent

Woodard & Curan contacted John and requested the payment of a \$2,700 bill for an investigation they performed. The money should be taken from the TIF account. John said this is another incident when the town should have requested money from the developer, up front, to be placed in an escrow account to be used for such expenses. The town should remember this for the future.

Exploring TIF funds for fire station and public safety issues

Jack said he heard from Fire Chief Potter, at the Building Committee meeting, the town manager of Casco, Maine, David Norton, received over a \$1,000,000 from their TIF account to pay for two additions to their fire station, a pumper and two ambulances. Jack contacted David Norton

and he is sending copies of their proposal. Jack would like to explore the possibility of utilizing the TIF account in Edgecomb for fire station and public safety issues. Jack said since the town of Casco has set a precedent, there may be a possibility for Edgecomb to do something similar. John thought it was worth exploring and he would talk with the town's attorney, Eric Stemple to get his opinion.

Utility Committee

John Cote asked if the town was planning to build a pumping station on Route 1. John said the town needs to decide how they want to handle the sewer situation. Currently the selectmen are the sewer commissioners. The Utility Committee has to decide whether or not to recommend the town form a Utility District, to govern the sewer and water by July 1st or ask for an extension. There are many factors to consider such as the Edgecomb Development situation, the Gateway 1 project and the town's Comprehensive Plan regarding Route 1. The Utility Committee will meet again, a week from Wednesday.

Building Committee Report

Jack said the FEMA grant is still pending. The Building Committee is finalizing a building plan and is preparing to hold a town forum in March to gather resident input.

Preparing for a new Selectman

John said he thought it would be beneficial to start in February to train the next selectman in charge of General Assistance. John said he was handed a box of General Assistance stuff with no guidance and he does not want to do that to someone else. John recommended Jack be the one to take over the responsibility as it requires a great deal of record keeping and a great deal of time and energy.

John said he will not be running for a second term as the job required more time than he is able to offer at this time. John recommended the town consider hiring a Town Administrator to manage the clerical work the selectmen are now doing. He felt this would be a better use of funds than adding any additional selectmen.

Continue meeting with neighboring towns on the peninsula

Jack said he plans to schedule another meeting with the selectmen, town managers, school board members and state representatives from Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Southport and Edgecomb, in March. Again the State has balanced the budget with the cost going to the tax payer and Jack is hoping by discussing the issues the towns can work together to discover ways to combat the problem.

Property tax question

Deb Boucher, the tax collector for Edgecomb, said there is a bill for four different people for the property located at R5-023-02 and listed under Katerina Edlund that is not distributed correctly. Jack said he would contact Stuart and have him look into the situation.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on School Board Committee Meeting

The selectmen shared the school board has decided to look into the possibility of starting a 7th & 8th grade. The initial savings estimate could be around \$200,000 a year on tuition expenses. The school board has scheduled a meeting on Tuesday Feb. 9th at 6:30pm, at the school, for parents and interested town's people to express their opinions.

WARRANT:

Number: 17 Amount: \$80,132.98

Number: 106 Amount: \$950.00

A motion was made to sign the above warrants. Seconded. Passed 2-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.