

TOWN OF EDGECOMB
Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting
December 20, 2010

PRESENT: Jack Sarmanian; Stuart Smith; Jessica Chubbuck (selectmen); Jennifer Elkins (secretary)

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Wiscasset Sewer District has increased its rates to Edgcomb. The Town will charge 25% more than they charge us to cover administrative costs, insurance, capital improvements. Mike Hynes strongly suggested not raising or perhaps even lowering the amount charged, saying he feels like he is being used as a cash cow. Jarryl commented that the assumption was that the money would be used for routine maintenance, adding that this is an account she's never seen a budget for. She always thought that utilities have to have a budget. Jack said it has been integrated as part of the general revenue of the town and all the funds are kept in separate accounts; they are separate from, don't flow into general account. Jarryl requested the Selectboard consider drafting a clear budget with revenue, expenses, and future use.

REGULAR MEETING:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2010 meeting. Seconded. Passed 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NEW BUSINESS

December 15th bypass meeting

Jack encouraged comments regarding last week's meeting with the DOT. A lobsterman (not present at tonight's meeting) said he found it ridiculous to displace twenty homes for one eagle nest. Jim Cote said the nest wasn't there in 2008 according to the fish and wildlife representative. Diane Eacobacci asked if there was any feedback from members of the task force to give us a sense of how it developed, as the meeting was represented as one thing but took a different path. Jack spoke to Jo and Amanda who reported that there was no prep for them--- it was supposed to be an informational meeting, not a task force meeting. Jack questioned the great push to respond by January 14th. Kat Beaudin's letter to committee members was Dec. 9th. Since the DOT knew in June yet did not share the information until early December we as townspeople need to question the 30 day response. Diane asked if the task force was given the courtesy of any explanation of the date time-line; Jack said there was no interaction. Roy said it was obvious the DOT has no clue, as they thought it was a public meeting and she (Carol Norris) didn't even

realize that. Roy questioned how much in tax dollars has been spent since the nest discovery--- who will be accountable? Jack mentioned that he, Jo, and Jarryl had thought the task force had disbanded back in June when the decision was made to proceed with N8c and the work begun. The DOT should have contacted the towns to re-start the task force. He thinks it's a legal issue. Jarryl said when you are on a task force, after that much time they should have at least confirmed who the members are as a courtesy. Neither Jo or Amanda received an invitation to the task force meeting.

Diane asked if the task force is merely advisory? Her impression was that it was an advisory capacity and a courtesy extended to them by the bureaucracy, and if so the MDOT can do whatever they like regardless of what the Task force wants. The January 14th date could be the last attempt to show how important the bureaucrats are---the new administration coming might not want to spend any money. Bob Faunce, Planner, was trying to tell MDOT to fish or cut bait, but it came across as too wordy, Stuart said. Jack disagreed with Faunce's statement that it is a big money issue, but not his task. Stuart and Jarryl replied that Faunce's role was not financial but the human and developmental concerns of the routes. Jack said money is the one thing that will stop this project---a decision was made for N8c. Times have changed, though, and there is no money anywhere. Jack thinks the cost will go to \$120 million with the new expanded routes. Jack restated that he felt the meeting was not in the intent advertised; it left audience out. It was agreed that as a community we should have our own internal group to deal with this. We need an official town response, and also community to back up that response. Jack suggested involving the Dept. of the Interior, congress, senators, state representatives, the transition team for the Governor-elect and the new administration.

Diane reported the absence of many severely impacted people at the meeting. She could name several individuals whose land would be taken and wondered if they were not reached or just frustrated. She suggested notice should be given to all parties. Diane asked if the town could go through the names of potentially impacted parties, yes. Jack wants to call a meeting for the community. Lawsuits will happen. Jack reported that Edgecomb said the only place to go is Davis Island--- it has the least impact and is the quickest route as well as being the most economically viable. The bypass has been determined, Jack said. It was suggested that the law regarding the eagle's nest could be altered. Diane asked what the Edgecomb task force's opinion would be if the N8c option was no longer an option--- she thinks we need to be prepared for that to happen.

Jack made a motion to form an internal Edgecomb Bypass Task Force. Seconded. Passed 3-0.

Sewer rates

Stuart suggested getting actual numbers from Claudia to see how much is accumulating in that account, with a token gesture to start revisiting the issue and tell Chris that we approved an

increase of 20% instead of 25%, effective next billing cycle. The Selectboard signed paperwork.

Stuart made a motion to approve the increase in sewer water rate to 1.2x what we're being billed from the Wiscasset Sewer Department. Seconded. Passed 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Jarryl questioned the utility abatement discussed at the last meeting; Jack said it was an overcharge stemming from an incident where a line broke, the water kept running and filled up the basement. The owners got billed for sewer overages because of the water usage. The abatement was for the sewer overage since that water did not go into the sewer.

Fire Department

Roy reported that the Fire Department now owns the Fire truck purchased from Verona, NJ. It will need to be insured as soon as possible, at which point he will take title and insurance card to get it registered. The engine work will be done by the end of next week and it will need road testing. The Fire Department has been busy: two calls today. Jack commended the Fire Department for their hard work; Stuart thanked him also on effort to go above and beyond for certain intervention with individual in this town. Jack said we're getting 150% from them; they're exceedingly busy, a great group who deserve kudos.

WARRANT:

Number:	14	Amount:	\$99,957.89
---------	----	---------	-------------

Moved to approve the above warrant. Seconded. Passed 3-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Stuart made a motion to go into executive session 1 M.R.S.A. 405 6 (a). Personnel issue within Fire Department.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.