

TOWN OF SEABROOK

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

MAY 9, 2012

Present: Brendan Kelly  
Aboul B. Khan  
Edward J. Hess, Jr.  
Barry Brenner, Town Manager

6:30PM

Chairman Kelly opened the meeting at 6:30PM.

**MEETING - POLICE - D'ALESSANDRO ESTATE FUNDS**

Deputy Chief Lee Bitomske and Sergeant Jason Allen were present for this meeting.

They are looking to get 7 laptops for the police cruisers. One would be used as a spare. The funds would come from the estate of D'Alessandro.

Sgt. Allen explained the age of the current equipment and how they received the laptops the last time.

Deputy Chief Bitomske explained how the estate funds were received in the amount of \$357K.

There was discussion on the cruisers.

<u>MOTION:</u>	Aboul B. Khan	To authorize the use of
Second:	Edward J. Hess, Jr.	funds for \$30,715.13
Unanimous		from the D'Alessandro
		Estate for computer
		systems for the police
		cruisers.

The Board of Selectmen thanked the D'Alessandro's for the funds received.

Lee Bitomske and Jason Allen left the meeting at 6:40PM.

**MEETING - WATER BILLING**

Wayne and Coreen Perkins were present for this meeting and Water Superintendent Curtis Slayton.

Coreen Perkins said they have excessive water use for outside animal feedings but it does not go through the sewer system. Mr. Slayton said that is true and he has no reason to believe any different. He spoke about having a policy for this and to install a deduct meter, which would show the amount to be deducted from the bill.

Mr. Hess questioned the policy on agriculture and said this may need to be looked at. Mr. Kelly agrees and they should have a discussion to look into this.

Paula Wood said it should be looked into as it is illegal to charge a resident for something when they are not using the service.

Mr. Khan requested the Water Superintendent and the Town Manager look into having some form of an exemption and to bring back a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. He would like this recommendation within 60 days.

Mr. Hess said he has been asked why it is no longer included in the taxes so the residents can claim on their federal income taxes. He said the rate for the water is going to go up every year.

Mr. Brenner spoke and said that DES initiated the water meter project and also to remove the chemicals, which resulted in a water treatment plant. A consultant was hired to look at 50, 75 and 100% of recovery and the direction of the Board of Selectmen at that meeting was 50%.

Mr. Hess asked to look at the rates and if they would continue to increase. Mr. Slayton said the focus was 50% so the bills will increase 8% per year for 3 years. Mr. Brenner said there would be a public hearing each year for the increase so there could be public input.

Wayne & Coreen Perkins left the meeting at 7:06PM.

#### **REAPPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

Paul Kelley - Housing Authority  
Vernon Small - Scholarship Committee

<u>MOTION:</u>	Aboul B. Khan	To reappoint both
Second:	Edward J. Hess, Jr.	members to the
Unanimous		respective committees.

#### **WATER RATE DISCUSSION**

Paula Wood said the bills have just been received and she is disappointed that no information came with the bills. She said the warrant article gave a rate per \$1000, which is the taxes, and now they are being told differently and the people were not notified. There is a large elderly population and now they won't get the benefit of an exemption and they are on a limited income.

Paula Wood said it is not fair to pay for a service that you are not getting. She said if the Town needs money why are they waiving the fees for the coop.

Mr. Khan said the article in 2008 was for a water treatment plant and there was no mention of the cost on the tax rate. He said the article required 3/5 vote not majority and it was passed by the voters. The money that was borrowed has to be paid back one way or another. He said you cannot operate the water treatment plant on the fees that are being collected so the Board needed to look at increasing the fees. Mr. Khan said Paula Wood knew all this information as the Chairman of the Budget Committee and she never objected to any of the information given to her. Her only objection now is the increase in the rate. He said nothing was done wrong and the books are open for anyone to see. There were many questions asked about the service fee and why the need for a third party billing company. Those are things the Board of Selectmen can look at.

Mr. Brenner explained where the remaining money from the bond would be used.

Paula Wood proposed that the Board of Selectmen consider going back to the \$120 fee per resident and let the tax base pay for the water treatment plant.

Mr. Hess said the taxpayers did not have a say and he they should have a say on how it gets done.

There was discussion on the water ban and the use of water with the water meters in place.

William Knowles spoke about the DES Administrative Order for the water treatment plant. He said they have an order for the wastewater treatment plant and we still don't follow that order.

William Knowles requested copies of the bids that came in on bringing the remaining wells to the water treatment plant.

William Knowles stated that he did attend the public hearing on the increase to the water rate and he asked a question on how many municipal systems were looked at and the answer was none.

William Knowles said there will be 4 unfair labor charges on the contracts not being filed.

Robie Beckman would suggest and would volunteer with the IT Administrator to go out and get a quote on new equipment so the boards and committees can be heard and seen. Paula Wood spoke and said a committee was formed to look at those things and a recommendation was given to the Board of Selectmen. They are negotiating with Comcast but have yet to hear any results on this. Mr. Brenner said attorney Ciandella has given this information to Comcast and they are waiting to hear from them as it is in their hands now. He said he could have attorney Ciandella come in to give an update on the status.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To request an update on  
Second: Brendan Kelly the Comcast negotiations  
Unanimous from attorney Ciandella.

Mr. Khan said he has received a lot of calls requesting the transfer station be re-open on Sundays. He is suggesting opening Sunday after Memorial Day through Labor Day. Mr. Kelly said they should have a discussion at the next meeting. Paula Wood said that DeMoulas is looking to have 5 lanes at Rocks Road and this would give the residents a chance on the weekends to get off the road.

Mr. Khan said he would also like to have the town reports mailed to the residents if they could cut the cost of the printing in half. The Board will discuss this at the next meeting.

Mr. Brenner explained the proposal by Next Era for the use of the access road. There was also discussion on the firing range and the sound to the residents.

Dwight Souther said he wanted to be on the agenda to discuss the issue between the public and the coop. Mr. Kelly felt this issue had been resolved and referred him to Mr. Brenner.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES - MARCH 28 PUBLIC & NON-PUBLIC AND APRIL 11 PUBLIC & NON-PUBLIC**

MOTION: Edward J. Hess, Jr. To adopt the minutes of  
Second: Aboul B. Khan 3/28 public & non-public  
Unanimous and 4/11 public & non-public.

**PREVIOUSLY SIGNED PERMITS**

Mr. Kelly read the list of previously signed permits (see attached).

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To approve the permits.  
Second: Edward J. Hess, Jr.  
Unanimous

**ABATEMENT**

Dennis White - 49 Belgian Drive - \$42.94

MOTION: Edward J. Hess, Jr. To approve and sign the  
Second: Aboul B. Khan abatement.  
Unanimous

**7 ELDERLY EXEMPTIONS**

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To approve and sign all  
Second: Edward J. Hess, Jr. elderly exemptions.  
Unanimous

**WATER SERVICE APPLICATION**

Kevin Janvrin - 15 South Main Street - \$50

MOTION: Edward J. Hess, Jr. To approve and sign the  
Second: Aboul B. Khan water application.  
Unanimous

**SEWER SERVICE APPLICATIONS**

Kevin Janvrin - 15 South Main Street - \$50  
Zealand Mobile Home Village - 8 Zealand Mobile Home Vill - \$50  
Valerie Brown - 79 Centennial Street - \$50  
Cleve Brown - 67 Collins Street - \$50

MOTION: Edward J. Hess, Jr. To approve and sign all  
Second: Aboul B. Khan sewer applications.  
Unanimous

**HYDRANT FLOW TEST**

Charles Sisson - 337 Lafayette Road

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To approve and sign the  
Second: Edward J. Hess, Jr. hydrant flow test.  
Unanimous

**WARRANT 2012 PROPERTY TAXES**

Mr. Brenner explained the first half property tax billing.

MOTION: Edward J. Hess, Jr. To approve and sign the  
Second: Aboul B. Khan warrant.  
Unanimous

**BOND POST - ISSUANCE OF TAX COMPLIANCE POLICY**

Mr. Brenner explained this is to bring the remaining wells to the water treatment plant. The money remaining from the construction of the water treatment plant will be used and the issuance of the last \$1 million dollars. The policy is to bring the Town into compliance with the federal tax exempt status for any investors on the sale of municipal bonds.

Mr. Khan read the resolution into the record.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To adopt the resolution.  
Second: Edward J. Hess, Jr.  
Unanimous

Mr. Hess said he attended the recreation commission meeting and they have put together some things that will be coming to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Khan said he attended the planning board meeting and they have some big projects coming. The Rockingham Planning Commission meeting is being hosted by the Seabrook tonight at the Library.

MOTION: Brendan Kelly To adjourn the meeting  
Second: Edward J. Hess, Jr. at 8:29PM.  
Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:29PM  
Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed

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Edward J. Hess, Jr., Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_