

**Regular Meeting of the Eastford Board of Selectmen
Monday February 1, 2010, 7:00 PM
Eastford Town Office Building
16 Westford Road
Eastford, CT 06242**

Agenda

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- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Citizen's Participation limited to three (3) minutes per person and no proxies.**
 - 3. Budget**
 - 4. Frog Rock**
 - 5. Approval of Minutes:**
 - **January 4, 2010 Regular Meeting**
 - **January 15, 2010 Special Meeting**
 - 6. Transfer Station Project**
 - 7. JAG Grant**
 - 8. School Facilities Committee**
 - 9. NECCOG Contract**
 - 10. Electrical Supplier Contract**
 - 11. EMD Support Committee**
 - 12. Appointment Planning/IWWC Secretary**
 - 13. Appointment Alternate Planning Commission**
 - 14. Selectman's Report**
 - 15. Property Tax Refunds**
 - 16. Add to the Agenda upon two-thirds vote of members present and voting.**
 - 17. Citizen's Comments on the Agenda**
 - 18. Adjournment**

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Present: Allan Platt/First Selectman, Terry Cote/Selectman, Thomas Latham/Selectman

Called to Order:

AP called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Citizens Participation:

Tom DeJohn was present representing the Conservation Commission to hear what BOS have to say concerning Frog Rock and report the status back to the Commission.

He also hoped the BOS would revisit plans for the TOB renovations which were tabled at a previous meeting. AP confirmed that TC would present discussion when the meeting proceeded to agenda item #16 (add to the agenda).

Budget:

AP presented a copy of BOS Revenue sheet to all present to explain a realistic calculation of what we've lost in revenues and what we're projected for this year. It included a possibility of losing part or all of our "Town Aid Road" revenues from the State of Connecticut - \$79,055.

AP concludes:

- **Total estimated revenue loss projected to date, \$55,889 - \$134,944**
- **Offset in two revenue lines that will show positive, \$15,000**
- **NET CURRENT ESTIMATE REVENUE LOSS, \$40,889 - \$119,944**

Frog Rock:

AP read a report he wrote to the BOS.

February 1st, 2010

Report to BOS – Frog Rock

I do not believe it is in the best interest of the Town of Eastford to pursue acquisition of the property known as Frog Rock at this time.

With its reputation for unsavory activity in the past as well as a dumping ground for household trash, I believe this isolated site presents security and maintenance challenges the Town of Eastford will not be able to provide for. I believe for this area to be utilized properly and consistent within standards the residents of Eastford would rightfully expect would require the following:

- **A general property clean-up including the removal of hazards from leaning or distressed trees.**
- **The establishment of clean, debris free picnic areas and trails with maintained tables.**
- **Secured trash containment with scheduled pick up. This would probably be a minimum of twice weekly.**
- **Bathroom facilities at least in clement seasons. The average daily traffic count on this isolated segment of Rte. 44 is 6,000 cars per day.**
- **Proper signage and maintenance thereof.**
- **Proper fencing with gating and designated parking.**
- **A reasonable surveillance schedule of designated persons whenever the area is open to the public. (I would not consider leaving the area open throughout the night especially on weekends.)**

I believe this proposed endeavor to be done properly would cost between \$25,000 and \$40,000 to start with and an additional \$5,000 - \$10,000 yearly upkeep depending on hours of operation contingent on volunteer wardens.

I believe there is a tremendous difference between rural “open space” and an area of non-resident heavy traffic volume with a tacit invitation to stop. The area has a historic value and I fully understand why some residents might wish to proceed with acquiring this property.

I believe the Town of Eastford has a responsibility to provide for the safety of its citizens and visitors to any town property to a reasonable standard consistent with the properties use. As First Selectman, and with the resources available to me, I do not believe I can provide an acceptable degree of safety or oversight of this property if it were to be acquired.

Sincerely,

**Allan E. Platt
First Selectman
Eastford, CT**

**AP/TL moves that the BOS not pursue the acquisition of Frog Rock at this time.
Unanimous.**

Approval of Minutes:

AP/TC moves to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2010 regular meeting of the BOS. Unanimous.

AP/TC move to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2010 special meeting of the BOS. Unanimous.

Transfer Station Project:

The new solar compactor is in and working in a temporary location. It will save the town some money.

AP/TC moves to authorize the expenditure of \$24,500 from line 7431 of the budget entitled “Transfer Station Upgrades” for the purchase of the trash compactor. This money is reimbursable to the town from an approved grant.

Unanimous.

JAG Grant:

The new security system will consist of 5 monitors and 4 cameras in the TOB.

AP/TC moves to authorize the expenditure of \$8,625 for the purchase and installation of a security system at the Town Office Building. This money is reimbursable to the town from an approved grant.

Unanimous.

School Facilities Committee:

They are asking to set up a building committee for some Architectural planning for some work needed to be done at the school. AP is not comfortable going forward with this at this time until we know what our revenues will actually consist of and what our projected revenues will be for the next budget year. No action taken at this time.

NECCOG Contract:

There was a verbal contract in the past. AP is formalizing a contract.

AP/TC moves to authorize the First Selectman to execute a contract with the Northeast Council of Governments for consultation fees and services provided to the Zoning Study Committee. Total Contract obligation is not to exceed \$5,000.

Unanimous.

Electrical Supplier Contract:

AP set up 4 lines of electricity for the town through Integrys Energy Services at a fixed rate for the next 3 years.

EMD Support Committee:

AP/TC moves to appoint the following people to act as an advisory council representing support groups to the Town of Eastford’s Emergency Management Director per the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Guidelines. The Chairperson of this advisory council shall be the Emergency Management Director as appointed by the Board of Selectmen. These appointments are for a period of one year.

Allan Platt	Representing	BOS
Gordon Spink	Representing	EIFC
Linda Loretz	Representing	EES
Ben Schmidt	Representing	PW

Unanimous.

Appointment Planning/IWWC Secretary:

AP/TL moves to appoint Susan Patenaude as the secretary to the Eastford Inland Wetlands Commission and Planning Commission.

Unanimous.

Appointment Alternate Planning Commission:

AP/TL moves to appoint Dennis Day as an alternate to the Planning Commission.

Unanimous.

Selectman’s Report:

AP presented a permit for the transfer station through 2012.

We had a serious storm recently with lines down all over town. We received a lot of help from the State Police in Danielson and Northeast Utilities.

Also, a big THANK YOU goes out to the Eastford Public Works Department and the Eastford Independent Fire Company for a stupendous job during that storm.

We had a speed trap set up on Westford road (borrowed from Ashford) as a result of some complaints about traffic moving too fast. It has slowed some traffic down and is now being placed on County Road in hopes of doing the same.

We had some frozen pipes in the TOB and it is now under control. A new master shut off valve has been installed.

Property Tax Refunds:

AP/TC moves to approve the property tax refunds as submitted by the Tax Collector. Unanimous.

Add to the Agenda upon two-thirds vote of members present and voting:

TC/TL moved that they add Town Website and TOB Renovations Committee to the agenda. Unanimous.

Town Website:

Training has already begun by Michael Bilica with TC, Selectmen's Secretary and a couple of elected officials at which time it was determined that updates to the website should be limited to these people only. 2nd training is on February 2, 2010 after which TC will make some recommendations on how the committees should interact with those people posting to the website.

TOB Renovations Committee:

TC/TL moves to freeze the additional appropriation made by the previous BOS for any work proposed to the TOB at this time. Unanimous.

Citizen's Comments on the Agenda:

Tom DeJohn questioned whether some things that disappeared from the website including the hours of the Building Official will be put back on. TC stated that is the intent.

Jim Trowbridge stated that this BOS is obviously working very hard and he is nearing the point of municipal contentment.

Bob Willis added that perhaps we could look into state surplus concerning our town trucks. AP stated that he would look into state contract.

Tom DeJohn asked about salary for the new recording secretary for IWWC/Planning's salary and how that will be broken down on each line of the budget. AP stated that the position is based on 20 hours of work per month at \$15.00 per hour. Which line it comes out of will be based on how much time she spends on each, IWWC and Planning.

Adjournment:

AP/TC moves to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Unanimous.

**Respectfully submitted by: _____
Brenda A. Willis, Secretary**

**Approved, March 1, 2010 _____
First Selectman, Allan Platt**