## SPECIAL SELECTMEN'S MEETING TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25th, 2014 6:00 P.M. Minutes

<u>CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE:</u> The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Joan Brooks, at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** All Selectmen were present.

NEW BUSINESS: Hughes Brothers, Inc. & Attorney -Discussion

(Possible Tax Revenues and/or Savings for the Town)

Peter, Eddie and Janet Hughes, along with attorneys John Pottle and Andy Hamilton, introduced themselves to the Board of Selectmen and townspeople in attendance and gave a brief presentation of their company. Hughes Brothers is a family owned business; specializing in mixed concrete, stone, gravel, and sand. The company, currently based in Hampden, has been in operation for 86 years. The company currently has gravel pits in the towns of Newburgh and Winterport. Janet Hughes expressed that they would like to come to Eddington and that they will treat the community just as others they belong to. Benefits they bring with them would include tax revenue, with over a half million dollars in equipment value, the additional tax benefits in personal property and excise tax would be significant. Janet spoke of community benefits they provided to other towns, such as donating the concrete during construction of a home for a special needs child. The equipment, time and materials for the new football field in Hampden.

Attorney Andy Hamilton, on behalf of Hughes Brothers, spoke of the upcoming Public Hearing and what a Moratorium means to a project, reminding the town of Hughes Brothers openness of the project with the public. Hamilton asked that townspeople keep an open mind while they voice their own concerns or opinions at Thursdays Public Hearing.

The message from Janet, the lawyers on their behalf and co-owners Ed and Peter was that Hughes Brothers has a strong interest in forming a partnership with the town and are committed to getting involved with the community. They met with the board to hear what specific needs if any, the town may have that the company could be of assistance with.

Several questions and comments followed. Some of them are listed below. (Meeting was recorded as well)

Joan Brooks, Chairman

Charles Baker, Jr., Selectmen

My W. Glad

Peter Lyford, Selectmen

Charles Grover Jr., Vice-Chairman

Donn Goodwin, Selectmen

Selectmen, Peter Lyford, wanted to know exactly where the project location was.

1500 ft. Northerly of Fox Lane, Access Road by Libby Lane, this runs parallel with Fox Lane.

Ralph McLeod, resident of Holden, expressed his displeasure with the project, he feels it is incredibly damaging to the town property values, such as his son's home, on Fox Lane. Hughes will try and address the property value issue at the public hearing on Thursday evening.

Todd Satterfield, who lives NW of Eddington School and the proposed project, is within 50ft. of the border of his property line. Commented - What if our children become asthmatic due to dust issues, will they be relocated to Holden School and if so who would pay for that. Several parents are worried about their children's health being impacted by the quarry being here.

Hughes Bros. does not see that as an issue, assuring that dust would not travel that far, therefore they do not see how it could result in health issues.

Robert Seccareccia acknowledged the company's benevolence, thanking them for explaining the process, yet he does not support the project, especially being so close to the land where he and his wife's family have homes. He asked how many quarries they have now and how close were they to homes. The Company has 3 gravel pits, closest being 1500ft from nearest home, and no quarries.

Gretchen Heldmann pointed out that any personal property tax should be paid to the town where the companies Main Operations are.

Hughes explained that they currently pay them to Hampden; however they would like to relocate the business to Eddington.

Nichole Mcleod, property owner on Fox Lane, wants to know what the positives are, as she hasn't heard them list any thus far. Attorney Hamilton explained that they are careful not to provide an exact A-Z list, due to public interpretation after. It's more of a long term "can do" type list like economic development, winter sand for the town, and many other possibilities.

A resident off Comins Lane was concerned with how many trucks would be making trips in and out, per day, etc. He has a teenage daughter on the road and worries about accidents due to the site traffic. Total trucks and traffic was estimated by Hughes to be fairly low.

Joan Brooks, Chairman

Charles Baker, Jr., Selectmen

Peter Lyford, Selegimen

Charles Grover Jr., Vice-Chairman

Donn Goodwin, Selectmen

It was asked how or why this particular site was desired by Hughes.

The criteria they were looking for was depth, location, access and noise buffers. There are 220 acres on the lot, the quarry project would not be expanded more than the 20 acres.

Several other comments and concerns were acknowledged, Hughes hopes to better address these at the Public Hearing on Thursday evening.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. D. Goodwin / P. Lyford Vote 5-0.

Joan Brooks, Chairman

Charles Baker, Jr., Selectmen

Peter Lyford, Selectmen

Charles Grover Jr., Vice-Chairman

Donn Goodwin, Selectmen