

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH THE BRENTWOOD SELECTMEN
Monday May 6, 2013**

ATTENDANCE

Chairman Tom Gauthier, Vice-Chairman James McGeough (arrived at 7:08 p.m.), Selectman Karen Falcone, Selectman Bob Jordan, Selectman Tom Dwyer (arrived at 7:04 p.m.), Town Administrator Gregory Dodge, Brentwood Board of Selectman Chairman Andy Artimovich, Selectman Jeff Bryan, Selectman Ken Christiansen, Selectman Dave Menter, Town Administrator Karen Clement. The audience consisted of Epping Fire Chief Don DeAngelis, Police Chief Michael Wallace, Captain Jason Newman, Brentwood Police Chief Wayne Robinson and New England Dragway Track Manager Joe Lombardo.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Gauthier called this special joint meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Epping Town Hall.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

NATIONAL EVENT AT NEW ENGLAND DRAGWAY

Chairman Gauthier began by stating that this meeting was called so that both Boards would be briefed and informed on the preparations for traffic, security, fire, and EMS concerns for a major National event to occur at New England Dragway on June 20-23, 2013. He called on Epping Fire Chief Don DeAngelis to start things off.

Chief DeAngelis said that preparations have been ongoing since July of 2012 and that he worked closely with the Seacoast Fire Chiefs, Epping/Brentwood Police Chiefs, Brentwood Fire, State Police, and Sheriff's Department. Help was also solicited from the Loudon Police and Fire who are accustomed to running large events. Though the crowds in Loudon can number near 100,000 the Epping/Brentwood event may see 15,000 or more at any one time. The Chief went through a long list of items considered (see list attached to these minutes).

Chairman Gauthier asked the Chief if there would be any equipment from the Police or Fire Department used during the event. The Chief said that neither Epping nor Brentwood would be committing any equipment for the event.

Chief Michael Wallace spoke about the Security aspect of the plan stating that the safety and security of the track, patrons, and residents was their main concern. There will be a Command Post on site from the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department and that will be staffed with

command personnel from the Police, Fire, Sheriff's Office, and State Police. Intersections will be monitored and there will be plenty of signage around alerting motorists of detours, closed roads, etc. The goal is to mitigate problems. A shuttle bus will bring people to and from New England Dragway from Star Speedway. Police officers will be paired up on foot while working the event and any arrests will be booked and bailed on site. A bail commissioner will station themselves at the event if needed. Selectman Tom Dwyer asked if Route 27 will be posted "No Parking" and wondered if there was any thought to set up cones along the route from Star to the Dragway for potential pedestrian traffic. Selectman Falcone said that they had considered putting up some snow fence but that it would be difficult to erect for the entire route. Town Administrator Dodge stated that as the former Police Chief and working previous large events there was a concern that if the shuttle buses were not quick enough, frustrated patrons would walk instead of waiting. That caused many incidents where people were hurt and residents had to deal with littered lawns, disorderly persons, etc. Chief Wallace said that all of Route 27 will be posted for "local traffic" only. Brentwood Selectman Dave Menter asked if North Rd. would be closed to Brentwood and the Chief responded that it would be.

Chairman Gauthier had some concern with traffic detours causing problems for other areas and wondered if the Route 125/101 lights should be manually controlled. Captain Newman said that was not in the plans but if it became an issue they would monitor that intersection. Saturday night of the event is predicted to be the busiest night.

Track Manager Joe Lombardo said he did not anticipate a mass exodus and that there would be a lot of traffic in and out throughout the event. Overnight campers are the only patrons expected to stay on site through the weekend.

Captain Jason Newman spoke about the traffic patterns and the goal of having the least impact on the motoring public. NH DOT will assist in signage and giving motorists advanced notice of detours and/or road closures. On Saturday in the Town of Brentwood, North Rd. will be closed to traffic from Deer Hill Rd. to Route 27. Route 101 west bound traffic will be diverted to exit 9 with assistance from the Exeter Police Department. Chairman Artimovich of Brentwood was concerned with Pine Rd. commercial traffic as there could be a potential problem. Captain Newman said that concern was not voiced and he will check on that with Exeter. Chief Wallace said that traffic patterns, road closures, etc. will be adjusted as needed and that the plan was "Fluid".

Chief Wallace will provide the phone number for the Command Center to each member of each Board of Selectmen as they will probably be taking calls at home during and after the event. Chief Wayne Robinson stated that everyone worked well together and that the goal was to make this event as safe as possible. He anticipates there will be few problems and said that having the Sheriff's Department and State Police would certainly be a help.

Selectman Falcone said that having been involved in this plan for a few months now and meeting with the different officials she feels the best possible plan is in place. She commended the officials for working so well together and coming up with this comprehensive plan.

Track Manager, Joe Lombardo wanted to thank all of those who helped with this plan. He was glad to have so many resources at his disposal. The event will have a huge impact on the community as it will bring people in from all over the country and Canada. He did say that even in light of the recent bombings at the Boston Marathon, bomb sniffing dogs will check the track every morning to further enhance the safety of others. All bags will be checked at the gates

and no alcohol or glass containers are allowed. This is also a televised event and it is going to bring in a lot of people and also be a positive boost to the local economy. He talked a bit about shuttles and said that initially there would be four shuttles but that has now been doubled to eight and they will run whatever is needed to accommodate the race fans. Shuttle buses will be running Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and there will also be trams taking people from the parking lots to the ticket gates.

Selectman McGeough asked about insurance coverage. Mr. Lombardo said that the track has a \$5 million dollar policy and that NHRA carries their own \$10 million dollar policy. Mr.

McGeough asked that the Town Administrator have the insurance coverage checked with our insurance company, LGC to make sure there are no deficiencies in coverage. Brentwood is also covered by LGC so the question will be asked on behalf of both Towns.

Chairman Gauthier told Joe Lombardo that the officials said he was a pleasure to work with and appreciated the cooperation.

The Chairman asked if there were any further questions and hearing none he took up a purchase order that had been presented at the last minute.

PURCHASE ORDER

A purchase order was presented for Wolcott paving in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the paving of the Main St. and Academy St. intersection. ***Selectman Dwyer made a motion to approve the purchase order for \$5,000 with a second from Selectman Falcone, MOTION CARRIED, 5:0:0.***

Chairman Gauthier thanked everyone for coming.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Jordan made a motion to adjourn with a second from Selectman Dwyer, MOTION CARRIED, 5:0:0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregory C. Dodge
Town Administrator