

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
May 31, 2022**



ATTENDANCE

Chairman Joe Trombley, Vice-Chairman Tom Gauthier, Selectmen Bob Jordan and John Cody. Selectman Mike Yergeau and Executive Secretary Joyce Blanchard were excused.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Joe Trombley called the public meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes from the May 16, 2022 Selectmen's meeting were submitted for approval.

Payroll manifest for the pay period ending May 26, 2022 in the amount of \$154,495.20 was submitted for approval.

Accounts Payable Manifest for the week ending May 26, 2022 in the amount of \$1,285,545.03 (\$1,000,000-School, \$285,545.03-Town) was submitted for approval.

Intent to Cuts (3) for Orzechowski 48 Poor Farm Rd., Unger 326 N. River Rd. and Centerview Hollow Land Map #28 Lot #38-1 were submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to approve the consent calendar items as submitted. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

BUSINESS

Public Service of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy submitted an abatement for the Board's consideration. Per our utility appraiser, George Sansoucy, it is recommended that the abatement be denied due to no supporting documentation.

Selectman Tom Gauthier and Chairman Joe Trombley felt uneasy denying the abatement due to past history with the utility and pending law suit.

Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to deny the abatement request from Public Service of NH d/b/a Eversource Energy. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION RQUEST

The Conservation Commission is requesting that the Board of Selectmen authorize an amount not to exceed \$3,000 from the Conservation Trust Fund to be spent on the gravel parking area of the George H. Fall Woods conservation site located on Jacobs Well Rd.

Motion by Chairman Joe Trombley to authorize an amount not to exceed \$3,000 from the Conservation Trust Fund to be spent on the gravel parking area of the George H. Fall Woods conservation site located on Jacobs Well Rd. Seconded by Selectman John Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator

Administrator Dodge said that work continues on the Town website.

Town Administrator Gregory Dodge reported that he has not received confirmation from the New England Dragway that the June 20th workshop can be scheduled. Selectman Cody said that he spoke with Chief DeAngelis about this and thinks that perhaps a meeting was not necessary.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman John Cody

Selectman Cody said that in regards to the Dragway, his main concern is the MX track. He further stated that he had spoken to Chief DeAngelis about his (Selectman Cody's) list of concerns and felt most of them were either taken care of or in the process of being addressed. He wasn't sure a meeting was necessary. Administrator Dodge will follow up on this.

Selectman Cody also thought a meeting with the School Board was in order to talk about security at the school. He thought maybe an additional SRO (School Resource Officer) was needed.

Selectman Cody also thanked Sig Sauer for allowing EMS personnel to attend active shooter classes.

PUBLIC HEARING – 7:15 PM

A notice of Public Hearing was read and opened by Chairman Joe Trombley regarding the declaration of a burial ground be deemed abandoned per authority of RSA 289:20 I. The property is located on Fremont Rd. (Map #36 Lot #11) and identified as the Stockbridge Cemetery (a/k/a Brockelbank property).

After the notice of hearing was read, Chairman Joe Trombley introduced Jerry Langdon (Chairman of the Cemetery Trustees) who gave an overview as to the reason the request was being made. If the Board of Selectmen followed through with this action it would give the Cemetery Trustees the ability to mark and maintain the cemetery.

Following his presentation, Chairman Trombley asked for questions and/or comments from the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Gauthier asked how the cemeteries would be delineated? Mr. Langdon said they would use something more than a wooden stake which is what is there now. Chairman Trombley asked about access to those descendants who may want to visit the site. Mr. Langdon said that the property owner needs to allow access.

After questions of the Board were answered, Chairman Trombley opened the floor to public comment. There was no one present in the room and no comment from any Zoom viewers and thus the public portion was closed.

Chairman Trombley then closed the public hearing.

Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to declare the Stockbridge Cemetery located on Fremont Rd., (map #36, lot #11) an abandoned burial ground per authority of RSA 289:20 I. Seconded by Selectman John Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

APPOINTMENT

Amber Haggstrom – 7:30 PM

Ms. Amber Haggstrom and Kaitlin Ellis met with the Selectmen with a request to close a portion of Dorothy Drive from #40 - #45 for a block party. The party is to be held on July 30, 2022 (time TBD) and will feature a bounce house for children, food and games. There will also be tables set up on the side of the road for food. Expected attendance to be no more than 200. Ms.

Haggstrom said that there would still be access to the homes and she planned to "cone off" the area instead of using barricades.

Selectman Gauthier thought it was a good idea but wondered about hours of operation and the need for a police officer. He suggested a large assembly permit being filled out, that way the department heads could address any concerns before signing off on the event. The permit asks for details such as hours, overflow parking, etc. Chairman Trombley agreed with the large assembly permit idea. The Board would consider a conditional approval pending the submission of the large assembly permit.

Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to grant a conditional approval for a block party on Dorothy Dr. (between #40 & #45) on July 30, 2022 pending the submission of a large assembly permit. Seconded by Chairman Joe Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN COMMENTS – CONT'D

Selectman Bob Jordan

Selectman Jordan was glad to see the return of the Town's Memorial Day parade. He thought it was well organized and attended and he was pleased to be involved with it once again.

He also wanted to apologize to those children who wanted to touch the old hand pumper truck but weren't allowed to due to its age.

Selectman Tom Gauthier

Selectman Gauthier thanked the American Legion for putting on the Memorial Day parade.

Regarding adding an SRO at the schools he wasn't sure that was the answer because there was no guarantee any number of officers could counter a threat.

Selectman Gauthier thanked Town Administrator Gregory Dodge for his 42 years of service to the Town.

Chairman Joe Trombley

Chairman Trombley commented on the success of the Town's Memorial Day parade. He said he was aware of antics by others but said that should not overshadow the meaning of the day.

Chairman Trombley wanted to know the history behind the LUCT funds. He was aware that it was collected at one time and stopped then the Town voted to contribute again. He wanted to know more about the fund and would perhaps like to see more money go into the fund. He asked Administrator Dodge if he would research that for him.

ADJOURN

Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman John Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregory C. Dodge
Town Administrator

Joe Trombley, Chairman

Tom Gauthier, Vice-Chairman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

John Cody, Selectman

Note: Selectman Mike Yergeau was excused.

Date: June 13, 2022