

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
June 13, 2022**



**ATTENDANCE**

Chairman Joe Trombley; Selectman Bob Jordan, Tom Gauthier; and John Cody; Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge; Executive Secretary Joyce Blanchard. Selectman Mike Yergeau was excused.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Trombley called the public meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

**ENTER IN TO NON-PUBLIC 91-A:3 II. (a) compensation (b) hire**

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to enter in to Non-Public Session in accordance with 91-A:3 II. (a) compensation (b) hire. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Motion carried 4-0. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously.**

**RECONVENE**

Chairman Trombley reconvened the public meeting at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall meeting room and via ZOOM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Minutes from the May 31, 2022 Selectmen meeting were submitted for approval.

Payroll Manifest for the pay period ending June 9, 2022 in the amount of \$184,630.32 was submitted for approval.

Accounts Payable Manifest for the week ending June 9, 2022 in the amount of \$1,682,691.04 (\$1,306,101.00 is for the school payment, \$281,162.97 if for Wolcott Paving and \$95,427.07 is for the town) was submitted for approval.

Intent to Cut for Leslie and Amos Clapp and at map and lots 009-001 + 002-001 on Nottingham Square Road was submitted for approval.

Timber Tax Levy for Canterbury Commons LLC in the amount of \$255.09 at map and lot 022-082-001 on Fogg Road was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the consent calendar items as submitted. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **BUSINESS**

### **TRANSFER STATION**

Request to Hire Mark Davidson for a Transfer Station Attendant at \$15.00 an hour starting as soon as possible was submitted for approval

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the hiring of Mark Davidson for a Transfer Station Attendant at \$15.00 an hour pending background check. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **POLICE**

Request to Hire Andrew Gosson as a Full Time Police Officer effective July 1, 2022 at \$22.29 an hour was submitted for approval. Police Chief Michael Wallace gave a brief overview on Officer Gosson. Officer Gosson will be attending the August academy or the Fall session.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the request to hiring of Andrew Gosson as a Full Time Police Officer effective July 1, 2022 at \$22.29 an hour. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **FIRE**

Purchase Order to Overhead Door Company of Portsmouth to replace two garage door openers in the amount of \$4,540.00 was submitted for approval. Conversation continued regarding ordering additional hardware for more overhead doors versus keeping money in the budget to cover the gas prices increase. Assistance Fire Chief Joe Lombardo will watch the budget and order more hardware if the budget allows.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the purchase order to Overhead Door Company of Portsmouth to replace two garage door openers in the amount of \$4,540.00. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **7:15 APPOINTMENT – Annjannett Burke**

Ms. Burke came before the Board of Selectman requesting the possibility of paving Dearborn Road. There are a lot more people that live on the road now, taxes keep going up and the road is not kept in good condition. Discussion regarding scenic roads, the road grading schedule and the cost of paving the road continued.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to have the Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge look into paving a scenic road and contact Ms. Burke with the information. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **ABATEMENT**

Abatement for North River Holdings LLC at map and lot 005-023 on North River Road in the amount of \$5,108.40 was submitted for approval. This parcel is a condo unit and should not have been billed.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the abatement for North River Holdings LLC at map and lot 005-023 on North River Road in the amount of \$5,108.40. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **7:30 APPOINTMENT – Kim Sullivan**

Mr. Sullivan came before the Board of Selectman with several concerns:

The first concern was regarding the Memorial Day Parade. He thanked the American Legion for bringing the parade back after COVID. This parade is to show respect to those who served and/or lost their lives protecting this country. Large yellow vehicles have no place in the parade, unsafe young people hanging off the sides and it is not safe for those standing on the parade route. There were motor bikes doing wheelies, yelling and without appropriate clothing. This parade was very disrespectful. Mr. Sullivan believes the police need to assist the legion and make the parade more secure. There needs to be guidelines in place to help the Legion with the parade route.

The Fire Museum has mold and the bricks are cracked and falling out. Mr. Sullivan asked if the building was owned by the town or the fire department? The town owns the building and is in

charge of the maintenance. The fire department owns the equipment inside. Mr. Sullivan believes this building needs attention.

Mr. Sullivan stated he is on the Zoning Board and developers are before the Zoning Board regarding a Work Force Housing project on Martin Road. The Board is constantly reminded by the attorney for the developer of the state's direction as to flexibility in regulations/variances when approving work for housing. He is interested in the health, safety and welfare of the town which is not flexible. There is some confusion with the Epping Fire Department regarding the four-story proposal and their approval. Conversation regarding the Zoning Board continued.

There seems to be some misperception with Water and Sewer services. Considering variances for the work force housing, the ZBA needs to know about the demands on the town regarding Water and Sewer issues. There should be a list provided of anticipated availability to the ZBA to help with decisions and the variances. Resident Annjannett Burke asked why the Zoning Commission and the Planning Board don't share communication.

The audio is terrible in the meeting room. Mr. Sullivan has profound hearing loss and he has requested a head set to be provided to him but has not received one. Even though the ETV Technicians are great there are still issues with equipment, video and Comcast that needs to be fixed. ETV Technician Glen Fredericks explained ROKU is an option to watch the meetings. A headset won't work in this room.

Due to a recent discussion with Josh Parenteau, Mr. Sullivan has supplied Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge with copies of deeds and maps along with his suggestions.

## **WATER AND SEWER**

The Water and Sewer Department has been awarded an ARPA Grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 to use as a portion of the Nitrogen Upgrade.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to accept the ARPA Grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 and authorize Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge to execute any paperwork pertaining to the grant. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **FINANCE**

Primex three-year renewal contracts for Workers Compensation and Property & Liability Insurance were submitted for approval. After a brief discussion about searching for other insurance companies it was decided to approve the three-year contract and search other companies for the next renewal period.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Primex three-year renewal contract for Workers Compensation and Property & Liability Insurance. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.**

A schedule for the state revolving fund loan payment for the Sewer Membrane Project was submitted for approval. This is a 20- year schedule at 2% and paid by the sewer users.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the schedule for the state revolving fund loan payment for the Sewer Membrane Project. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **TOWN ADMISTRATOR SEARCH**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge supplied the Board of Selectmen with his recommendation to narrow the search for a new Town Administrator to the State of New Hampshire and local area, hiring guidelines and an advertisement for the Union Leader. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to start advertising on November 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be kept on the agenda for further discussion.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### **Town Administrator**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge submitted the finalized Block Party application for August 6<sup>th</sup> for 40-45 Woodlands Drive. All the Department heads were encouraged to call the applicant for more information.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the finalized Block Party application for August 6<sup>th</sup> for 40-45 Woodlands Drive. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.**

Recreation Purchase Order to MTI Enterprises for royalties for the Schreck Musical in the amount of \$4,025.00 was submitted for approval. This amount will come from the revolving fund.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the recreation purchase order to MTI Enterprises for royalties for the Schreck Musical in the amount of \$4,025.00. Seconded by Chairman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced town property taxes are due July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

### **Selectman John Cody**

Selectman Cody is glad to see residents come to the meeting to discuss issues. Now the Dearborn Road issue can be reviewed. Mr. Sullivan brought up many issues that need further discussion. Selectman Cody agrees the museum building needs to have a walk through and checked for structural problems.

Selectman Cody would like to make sure people state their name but not their address at public meetings. He would like to know if we need a town policy or if it's mandated you need to state your address. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge replied stating your name is the only requirement.

Selectman Cody agrees with the room being noisy. Maybe a sound assessment could be done and have suspended acoustic panels.

Selectman Cody asked everyone to register their dogs. The clerk's office is going to follow up on those that are delinquent.

### **Selectman Bob Jordan**

Selectman Jordan expressed his concern on the three local food service establishments that recently closed their doors. He wishes them the best on their future endeavors.

### **Selectman Tom Gauthier**

Selectman Gauthier congratulated the graduates "Class of 2022" on Friday. Do your best and you will always be successful.

### **Selectman Joe Trombley**

Selectman Trombley congratulated this year's graduates!

Selectman Joe Trombley is understanding the LUCT fund and would like to know how much money has been paid out. Current Use money should be used to conserve land in Epping.

**Selectman Mike Yergeau**

Excused

**ADJOURN**

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Blanchard  
Executive Secretary

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Joe Trombley, Chairman

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Tom Gauthier, Vice Chairman

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Bob Jordan, Selectman

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John Cody, Selectman

*Selectman Yergeau was excused*

Date: June 27, 2022