

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
March 21, 2022**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Trombley called the public meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

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

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

RECONVENE

Vice Chairman Trombley reconvened the public meeting at 7:07 PM in the Town Hall meeting room and via ZOOM.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes from the March 7, 2022 Selectmen meeting were submitted for approval.

Payroll Manifest for the pay period ending March 17, 2022 in the amount of \$143,439.62 was submitted for approval.

Accounts Payable Manifest for the week ending March 17, 2022 in the amount of \$1,606,402.72 (\$1,000,000.00 for the school, \$260,000.00 is for the Trustee of the Trust Fund, \$108,840.00 is for the Consolidated Communication Settlement, \$70,493.15 is for the Water Treatment Plant Project and \$167,069.57 is for the town) was submitted for approval.

Veteran's Credit for Jerry Thorusen, map and lot 009-022-011 was submitted for approval.

Veterans Credit for Chester Holt, map and lot 008-014-111 was submitted for approval.

Timber Tax to Sig Sauer, map and lot 039-003 in the amount of \$204.19 was submitted for approval.

Large Assembly Permit to Knights of Columbus for a Fishing Derby on Saturday April 30, 2022 at the Fox Run Conservation Pond was submitted for approval.

Abatement for Marx Realty Trust and Richard Fisher Trustee for map and lot 027-044-A, 28 Hickory Hill Road was submitted for approval.

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

BUSINESS

FIRE

Request to Hire Nicholas Murphy as a Full Time Firefighter/EMT at \$20.58 an hour retroactive to March 18, 2022 was submitted for approval. Mr. Murphy will be moving from Part-Time to Full-Time.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the hiring of Nicholas Murphy as a Full Time Firefighter/EMT at \$20.58 an hour retroactive to March 18, 2022. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

Purchase Order to Firetech International LLC for 3 Air Packs and equipment in the amount of \$2,635.00 was submitted for approval. Fire Chief DeAngelis explained this will be paid from impact fees.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the purchase order to Firetech International LLC for 3 Air Packs and equipment in the amount of \$2,635.00. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

Purchase Order to Gear Grid Corporation for 5, 8-pack lockers in the amount of \$11,486.00 was submitted for approval. Fire Chief DeAngelis explained this will be paid from impact fees.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the purchase order to Gear Grid Corporation for 5, 8-pack lockers in the amount of \$11,486.00. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

ARPA FUNDS

Finance Director Lisa Fogg explained a “Readers Digest” Version of the ARPA Funds. The manual is 434 pages and not all the information is significant to Epping. The project(s) using this fund must be designated by 2024 to have the money allocated properly. There are limited projects that this money can be spent on and they need to tie into COVID impacts. Conversation continued regarding using the funds for W&S wells, ventilation for town buildings and a highway garage followed. Prices for the W&S project and highway garage should be discussed further.

Most importantly, Mrs. Fogg stated the Town of Epping needs a “Conflict of Interest Policy” before any ARPA Funds can be spent.

MS-232

State form MS-232, reporting appropriations actually voted on at the March elections was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the State form MS-232, reporting appropriations actually voted on at the March elections. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

GRANT ACCEPTANCE

Grant Acceptance for the proposed Strategic Planning Grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Grant Acceptance for the proposed Strategic Planning Grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services giving Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge permission to execute the grant on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

ASSIGNMENTS FOF SELECTMEN

SELECTMEN RE-ORGANIZATION

Chairman

Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to nominate and approve Selectman Joe Trombley as Chairman to the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Vice-Chairman

Motion by Selectman Bob Jordan to nominate and approve Selectman Tom Gauthier as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Selectman John Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

Lamprey Regional Cooperative

Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to appoint Dennis Koch to the Lamprey Regional Cooperative. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Alternate Lamprey Regional Cooperative

Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to appoint David Reinhold as an Alternate to the Lamprey Regional Cooperative. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Conservation Commission

Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to nominate and approve Selectman Joe Trombley as representative to the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Planning Board

Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to nominate and approve Selectman Bob Jordan as representative to the Planning Board. Seconded by Selectman John Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

Alternate to the Planning Board

Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to nominate and approve Selectman Joe Trombley as alternate representative to the Planning Board. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Budget Committee

Motion by Selectman Bob Jordan to nominate and approve Selectman Joe Trombley as representative to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman John Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

Alternate to Budget Committee

Motion by Selectman Joe Trombley to nominate and approve Selectman John Cody as alternate to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Motion carried 4-0.

Recreation Commission

Motion by Selectman Bob Jordan to nominate and approve Selectman Tom Gauthier as representative to the Recreation Commission. Seconded by Selectman John Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

Historical Commission

Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to nominate and approve Selectman John Cody as representative to the Historical Commission. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Cable TV Representative

Motion by Selectman Joe Trombley to nominate and approve Selectman Mike Yergeau as representative to Epping Cable TV (ETV). Seconded by Selectman Tom Gauthier. Motion carried 4-0.

Fire and Police

Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to nominate and approve Selectman Bob Jordan as representative to the Fire and Police Departments. Seconded by Selectman John Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

OVERSIGHT ASSIGNMENTS

Library Representative

Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to nominate and approve Selectman John Cody as oversight to the Library. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Water/Sewer Oversight

Motion by Selectman Bob Jordan to nominate and approve Selectman Tom Gauthier as oversight to the Water and Sewer. Seconded by Selectman John Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

Highway Department, Stump Dump/Recycling Center/Transfer Station Oversight

Motion by Selectman Bob Jordan to nominate and approve Selectman Tom Gauthier as oversight to the Highway Department, Stump Dump/Recycling/Transfer station. Seconded by Selectman John Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

Alternate to Highway Department, Stump Dump/Recycling Center/Transfer Station

Motion by Selectman Bob Jordan to nominate and approve Selectman Mike Yergeau as an alternate for oversight of the Highway Department. Seconded by Selectman John Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

School Board Liaison

Motion by Selectman Bob Jordan to nominate and approve Selectman John Cody as liaison to the Epping School Board. Seconded by Selectman Tom Gauthier. Motion carried 4-0.

After a brief discussion a Police and Fire Alternate was added to the assignments.

Alternate to Police and Fire

Motion by Selectman Bob Jordan to nominate and approve Selectman John Cody as Alternate to the Police and Fire Department. Seconded by Selectman Tom Gauthier. Motion carried 4-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced after 2 years the Fishing Derby will be back on April 30th, 8 AM- 10 AM at the Fox Run Conservation Pond.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained that NHMA was asking Towns and Cities to consider supporting the passage of House Bill 1417 (HB1417) which restores the State's portion of paying into the State Retirement System which was at 7.5%. In committee the bill was recommended for ITL (Inexpedient to Legislate) and now moves to the Full House Finance Committee where the ITL can be overturned.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to support House Bill 1417. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge will reach out to the representatives with the Selectmen's vote.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Tom Gauthier

No Report

Selectman John Cody

Selectman Cody asked if the town had a Purchase Policy and showed concern regarding bids when spending a certain amount of money. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge answered yes there is a policy and the Board of Selectman can waive the policy if needed.

Selectman Cody wanted to make sure NE Dragway is have meetings with the Fire Department in case of a mass casualty.

Selectman Bob Jordan

Selectman Jordan stated watching the recount was a major learning experience. He thanked the town employees who took part in the long task. He said the machines do the work and the recount was a success.

Selectman Cody added how methodically Erika Robinson (Town Clerk) ran the recount. He was at another town's recount and it was a mess, "Kudos to Erika, well done".

Selectman Joe Trombley

Selectman Trombley thanked the Board of Recount and staying to do a secondary count. The counts were 2 votes more or less and human error. It's good to know there is a system in place.

Selectman Gauthier suggested having both machines at the poles just in case this happens again.

Selectman Cody wanted to make sure the Town Employees that work at the poles for 12 hours get paid, compensation time or a floating holiday for each election.

Selectman Mike Yergeau

Excused

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced at the April 18th Board of Selectmen's meeting the NHDOT will present a slide show regarding changes on Route 125. Mr. Dodge would like to have a full board to hear the plans even though they won't be started until spring of 2025.

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Joe Trombley, Vice Chairman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

John Cody, Selectman

**Tom Gauthier, Selectman
Date: April 4, 2022**

Selectman Mike Yergeau was excused