

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
April 5, 2021**



**MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM**

**ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mike Yergeau called the public meeting to order at 6:00 PM via ZOOM.

**ENTER IN TO NON-PUBLIC 91:A II. (b) hire, (e) litigation**

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to enter in to Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously. Selectman Jordan arrived after the vote.**

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to exit the Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mike Yergeau reconvened the public meeting at 7:00 PM via ZOOM.

**NON-PUBLIC**

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to seal the non-public meeting minutes in accordance of 91:A from April 5, 2021. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Tom Gauthier, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## MINUTES

Minutes from the March 22 & 29, 2021 Selectmen meetings were submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the minutes from the March 22 & 29, 2021 Selectmen meetings. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Tom Gauthier, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## PAYROLL MANIFEST

Payroll manifest for the pay period ending April 1, 2021 in the amount of \$137,688.22 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Trombley to approve the payroll manifest for the pay period ending April 1, 2021 in the amount of \$137,688.22. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan; Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Tom Gauthier, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST

Accounts payable manifest for the week ending April 1, 2021 in the amount of \$298,714.17 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the accounts payable manifest for the week ending April 1, 2021 in the amount of \$298,714.17 for the Town. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Tom Gauthier, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DONALD DEANGELIS

EOC Director Don DeAngelis said the numbers of COVID related cases have increased. Epping had the highest number in the state but numbers have since dropped. At present, there are 26 reported cases in Epping. The CDC is concerned of a 3<sup>rd</sup> spike. There is no target date from the state as to when to open the town buildings and for in person meetings. The AG's office will provide a plan and guidance when it's time to open.

## **FIRE CHIEF LOMBARDO**

Chief Lombardo stated the COVID numbers seem to be with the younger demographic as they have not been vaccinated. Also due to participation in spring break and other outside gatherings without precautions.

There have been 276 calls for service from the Fire and Ambulance Department. That averages to 3 calls per day.

## **POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL WALLACE**

No Report

## **BUSINESS**

### **POLICE**

Purchase Order to Kustom Signals, Inc. for 2 Lidar ProLasers in the amount of \$4,376.00 was submitted for approval. Police Chief Michael Wallace explained these are partially being purchased from a grant agreement with the State of New Hampshire. He also explained the reason for 2 units.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the purchase order to Kustom Signals, Inc. for 2 Lidar ProLasers in the amount of \$4,376.00. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Tom Gauthier, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

Police Chief Michael Wallace reported the "Little Buddy" sign has been having technical difficulties. It is fixed with new parts and is being powered up now.

## **SELECTMEN RE-ORGANIZATION con't**

### **Lamprey Regional Cooperative and Alernate**

**Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to nominate and approve Dennis Koch to the Lamprey Regional Cooperative and Dave Reinhold as Alternate to the Lamprey Regional Cooperative. Seconded by Selectman Joe Trombley. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Tom Gauthier, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## Conservation Commission and Budget Committee

**Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to nominate and approve Selectman Joe Trombley as representative to the Conservation Commission and Selectmen John Cody to the Budget Committee with Selectmen Joe Trombley as Alternate to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Tom Gauthier, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## School Liaison

Selectman Trombley offered to be the School Liaison with the Selectman to create a line of communication.

**Motion by Selectman Tom Gauthier to nominate and approve Selectman Joe Trombley as the School Liaison and Selectman John Cody as the Alternate School Liaison. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Tom Gauthier, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

The Rockingham Planning Commission representative is usually the Chair of the Planning Board. As they haven't had a meeting since the March elections this will need to be discussed at the next meeting.

## **FIRE**

Request to hire Liam McNally as a part time FF/EMT at \$8.25 on call and \$14.50 on a call was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the hiring of Liam McNally as a part time FF/EMT at \$8.25 on call and \$14.50 on a call pending background check. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Tom Gauthier, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 4-0-1. Selectman John Cody abstained.**

Purchase Orders #317 to Certified Computer Solutions for a five-year computer service agreement and computers in the amount of \$11,820.00, #318 to FDSS, LLC for 15 Pump Operator Trainings and 1 mobilization to site charge in the amount of \$2,877.15, #319 to Fire Tech & Safety of New England for 6 masks/straps in the amount of \$1,920 and # 320 to Epping Well and Pump Company for the well installation at the West Epping Fire Station in the amount of \$9,245.00 were submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the purchase orders #317 to Certified Computer Solutions for a five-year computer service agreement and computers in the amount of \$11,820.00, #318 to FDSS, LLC for 15 Pump Operator Trainings and 1 mobilization to site charge in the amount of \$2,877.15, #319 to Fire Tech & Safety of New England for 6 masks/straps in the amount of \$1,920 and # 320 to Epping Well and Pump Company for the well installation at the West Epping Fire Station in the amount of \$9,245.00. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Tom Gauthier, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **DPW – ROAD DISCUSSION/ENGINEERING**

Road Supervisor Dave Reinhold asked for guidance regarding grinding asphalt. He uses it for shim, grading and edging. He needs to get bids and that takes time. He is still waiting for plans on Jenness Road and the water line. After a short discussion, Mr. Reinhold will get some prices and come back before the board at the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Reinhold would like to change the intersection of Old State Road and Blake Road into a “T” stop. He would like to get engineering plans and pricing first as there is no recent survey.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to move forward with the engineering plans and pricing for changing the intersection of Old State Road and Blake Road into a “T” stop. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Tom Gauthier, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **W&S APPOINTMENT**

Appointment for Charles Goodspeed to the Water and Sewer Commission was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier based on the recommendation from the majority of the Water and Sewer Commission to appoint Charles Goodspeed to the Water and Sewer Commission filling the position until March 2022. There was no second and the motion was not acted on.**

**Motion by Selectman Trombley to leave the current Water and Sewer Commission opening vacant for 4 weeks and adequately advertise on the Town Website, ETV, Town Facebook page, Town Hall sign and Transfer Station sign along with posting anywhere else that is viable to advertise for the vacancy at no cost to the town. Then solicit the input of the 2 Water and Sewer Commissioners on the candidates received for the appointment and make the decision at that time. Seconded by Selectman Cody.**

A lengthy discussion occurred regarding the appointment to the Water and Sewer Commission. Selectmen Trombley would like to have a unanimous vote from the commission as to who they appoint and not a split vote. He also would like to have the opening on the commission advertised in more areas at no cost to the town. Selectmen Trombley stated these are the only reasons he does not think the appointment should be voted through and he doesn't have anything personal against Mr. Goodspeed.

Water and Sewer Commissioner Tom Dwyer commented the Board of Selectmen should respect the recommendation the Water and Sewer Commission made. Not appointing the recommended commissioner will hinder the W&S Commissioners leaving them with only 2 members. Chairman Yergeau will stay on the Commission for the interim. After the discussion Roll Call was taken on the motion.

**Roll Call Vote; Selectmen John Cody, Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 4-1-0. Selectman Tom Gauthier voting nay.**

#### **EMPLOYEE UPDATE ON TRAVEL**

EOC Director Don DeAngelis reported there have not been any changes since the Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge sent out the New Hampshire COVID-19 Travel Guidelines. International Travel and Cruises still require quarantining.

#### **CONTINUATION OF TOWN HALL SCREENING**

The general consensus of the board was to discontinue the screener at the town hall. The hallway will need to be reorganized to include a sign in form for contact names and phone numbers. EOC Director Don DeAngelis said the signs should be reworded for directions. If the protocols are not followed, having a screener again will be readdressed.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to discontinue the screener at the town hall as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, Bob Jordan, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained the American Legion needs 30 days to organize the Memorial Parade. They are looking for direction from the Board of Selectmen about scheduling the parade. EOC Director Don DeAngelis and Fire Chief Joe Lombardo reported the state hasn't said no to parades. They both agree with outdoor guidance, restaurant guidelines, social distancing with masks a parade should be able to take place. Stopping for

ceremonies along the parade route and the cook out after the parade will need to be addressed due to crowding.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to endorse the Memorial Day parade contingent on approval from the EOC Director Don DeAngelis and Fire Chief Joe Lombardo on the parade plans, knowing that if COVID-19 cases increase the parade may be cancelled last minute. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, Bob Jordan, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **INTENT TO CUT**

Intent to Cut for David Jenkins map and lot 012-027 off of Camp Lee Road was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Intent to Cut for David Jenkins map and lot 012-027 off of Camp Lee Road. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, Bob Jordan, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **LAND USE CHANGE TAX**

Land Use Change Taxes for 8 Annika Lee Drive A+B, map and lots 035-025-9 + 10 and 9 Annika Lee Drive A, map and lot 035-025-011 in the amount of \$3,333.00 for each lot were submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Land Use Change Taxes for 8 Annika Lee Drive A+B, map and lots 035-025-9 + 10 and 9 Annika Lee Drive A, map and lot 035-025-011 in the amount of \$3,333.00 for each lot. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, Bob Jordan, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **ELDERLY EXEMPTION**

Elderly Exemption for Claudette Madore, map and lot 036-015-01-026, Douglas and Susan Stripp, map and lot 033-032 and Carl and Lynn Coombes, map and lot 023-039-014-A were submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Elderly Exemption for Claudette Madore, map and lot 036-015-01-026, Douglas and Susan Stripp, map and lot 033-032 and Carl and Lynn Coombes, map and lot 023-039-014-A. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Roll Call Vote;**

**Selectmen Tom Gauthier, Bob Jordan, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

Elderly Exemption for Roland and Nancy Denault, map and lot 024-037-029 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to deny the Elderly Exemption for Roland and Nancy Denault, map and lot 024-037-029 due to their income exceeding the Town's income limits. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, Bob Jordan, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **VETERAN CREDIT**

Veteran's Credit for James Ekberg, map and lot 026-042 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Veteran's Credit for James Ekberg, map and lot 026-042. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, Bob Jordan, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **COLA/CONTRACTAL INCREASES**

Discussion regarding the employees 2.1% Cola increase that is based on the Consumer Pricing Index for the Northeast continued. The other contractual increases will be a 3% increase.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the employees 2.1% Cola increase and the contractual increases. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, Bob Jordan, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

The Fire Department's 2021 budget has a \$1.00 increase for the part time employees.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the \$1.00 increase for the part time employees in the Fire Department. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0. Motion carried 4-0-1. Selectman John Cody abstained.**



## SHIRKIN ROAD COMMITTEE

Chairman Yergeau requested waiting to form a committee as he would like to hear from the Town of Fremont first and how they feel about cost sharing for the roads.

The next meeting with the Fremont Board of Selectman is April 26<sup>th</sup>.

## RECREATION

Request to Hire Allison Bisson for the After-School Program and Summer Camp at \$11 an hour pending background check was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the hiring of Allison Bisson for the After-School Program and Summer Camp at \$11 an hour pending background check. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, Bob Jordan, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## ABATEMENT

Abatement for Gayle McGuire at 11 Depot Road, map and lot 027-186 in the amount of \$2,722.91 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the abatement for Gayle McGuire at 11 Depot Road, map and lot 027-186 in the amount of \$2,722.91. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, Bob Jordan, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

### Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge discussed the Clarke Farm Easement. The Easement was approved November 30<sup>th</sup> with the towns interest on 21.3 acres pending legal review and having Chairman Munguia sign the easement. Mr. Dodge would like to have a new motion giving the present chairman permission to sign the easement.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to accept the Clarke Farm Easement as approved on November 30, 2020 giving Chairman Yergeau permission to sign on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, Bob Jordan, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

### Selectman Tom Gauthier

No Report

### Selectman Bob Jordan

No Report

### Selectman John Cody

Selectman Cody reported on the school replacing the elementary roof and applying for federal funding. There are some lawn tractors in the school shed that the town might be able to use. The school board is looking forward to the town hall opening and having in person meetings.

### Selectman Joe Trombley

Selectman Trombley thanked Selectman Cody for being flexible regarding the board re-organization.

Selectman Trombley does not have any dissent with members of the Water and Sewer Commission. He wants everyone to agree on who fills the vacancy. Chairman Yergeau should interview the applicants with the Water and Sewer Commissioners as he is the Selectmen's Representative.

### Selectman Mike Yergeau

Selectman Yergeau walked the work site with Underwood Engineers, Road Supervisor Dave Reinhold and Water Superintendent Jim Pouliot on Railroad Ave. Hopefully some work can get done this year and the project be sent out to bid.

## ADJOURN

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to adjourn after 30 seconds. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, Bob Jordan, John Cody, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Joyce Blanchard  
Executive Secretary**

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**Mike Yergeau, Chairman**

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**Joe Trombley, Vice Chairman**

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**Bob Jordan, Selectman**

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**John Cody, Selectman**

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**Tom Gauthier, Selectman**

**Dated: April 19, 2021**