

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
April 6, 2020**



**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
VIA ZOOM FOR BUSINESS**

**ATTENDANCE**

Chairman Adam Munguia; Selectmen; Cody Belanger, Bob Jordan and Joe Trombley. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge; Executive Secretary Joyce Blanchard. Selectman Mike Yergeau logged on later.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Adam Munguia called the public session to order at 7:00 pm via Zoom

**MINUTES**

Minutes from March 30, 2020 Selectmen's meeting was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the minutes from March 30, 2020 Selectmen's meeting. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Cody Belanger, Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye.**

**PAYROLL MANIFEST**

Payroll manifest for the pay period ending April 2, 2020 in the amount of \$120,864.81 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the payroll manifest for the pay period ending April 2, 2020 in the amount of \$120,864.81. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 4-0. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Joe Trombley, Cody Belanger, Bob Jordan and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye.**

## **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST**

Accounts payable manifest for the week ending April 2, 2020 in the amount of \$406,912.23 \$150,000.00 is the Trustees of the Trust Funds – Warrant Articles and \$256,912.23 is for the town was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the accounts payable manifest for the week ending April 2, 2020 in the amount of \$406,912.23. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 4-0. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Cody Belanger, Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye.**

## **VETERANS CREDIT**

Service connected total disability veteran's credit for Gregg Russo at map and lot 025-012-005 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the service connected total disability veteran's credit for Gregg Russo at map and lot 025-012-005. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 4-0. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Cody Belanger, Joe Trombley and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye.**

Veteran Tax Credit for Joseph Ottati at map and lot 029-191 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Veteran Tax Credit for Joseph Ottati at map and lot 029-191. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 4-0. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Cody Belanger, Joe Trombley, Bob Jordan and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye.**

## **POLICE**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge asked for a motion to allow retired Officer McFadden to work on a Part-Time basis.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan allowing retired Officer McFadden to work on a Part Time status. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 4-0. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley, Cody Belanger and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye.**

## 7:15 PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Munguia read the public hearing posting regarding a proposed payment in lieu of tax agreement for a solar renewable energy generation facility on map and lot 038-025 on Exeter Road with New England Solar Garden Corporation. Selectman Mike Yergeau, Town Attorney Ratigan, NH Representative Mike Vose and NE Solar Representative Andy Kellar joined the meeting remotely. The Selectmen all spoke in favor of this agreement.

The meeting was then opened to the public. Mr. Vose asked how much the income would be and if there would be a waiver of liability as it is a superfund site? The anticipated income with this project will be \$15,800. Attorney Ratigan answered there does not need to be a waiver as all the structures are on the ground. Attorney Ratigan reported the DES were thrilled with the productive use of this property. Conversation continued.

Fire Chief Joe Lombardo asked what the comparison would be if the land was usable? Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge reported the taxes on this piece of property if it was clean and usable would be \$9,047.

NE Solar Representative Andy Kellar added this is an opportunity for businesses, school and town to be part of a rebate program.

There was a one minute wait period for the public to call with comments and or questions, as there were none, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:40.

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to agree to the PILOT program with New England Solar Garden, Corp giving Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge permission to sign the documents on the Board of Selectmen's behalf. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Cody Belanger, Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley, Mike Yergeau and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye.**

## COLA ADJUSTMENTS

Selectman Belanger shared his concerns regarding the COLA adjustments given out at this moment. Residents are being negatively affected by the pandemic. Selectman Trombley explained his reasons for his vote last week as he wanted an extra week to study the impact. Discussion regarding the 3% COLA being in the budget and approved, merit pool raises, the pandemic and etc. continued.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to move forward with the 3% COLA increases. Seconded by Selectman Belanger.** More comments were made that resulted in Selectman Belanger rescinding his second on the motion.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to move forward with the 3% COLA increases. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-1. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Mike Yergeau, Joe Trombley and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Selectman Cody Belanger voted nay.**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge asked for a motion to increase the Part Time Firefighters hourly wage by \$1.00. Don DeAngelis explained that the Part Time Firefighters are receiving minimum wage at the moment and don't qualify for the 3% COLA increase. This was in the budget and approved.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to move forward with the \$1.00 increase for the Part Time Firefighters. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Cody Belanger, Mike Yergeau, Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **EOC BRIEFING**

EOC Director Don DeAngelis reported 8 EMT, 56 Fire personnel and 73 Police are in quarantine. There is a strategy in place regarding wearing masks.

NH Representative Mike Vose is on the Economic Recovery Commission and he is making calls to banks asking for economic relief funds and paycheck protection applications. Local businesses will be able to apply to the Federal Government for relief.

EOC Director Don DeAngelis explained the town emergency back up plans. There is an agreement with Newmarket for mutual aid. Recreation is doing an incredible job taking care of the "seniors". Market Basket is opening earlier and \$1,000 dollars was donated to buy food for those who can't get out. Everything is going well.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge asked if the Board of Selectmen wanted to meet next Monday as there is a limited amount on the agenda. There will be a meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Selectman Trombley is happy with the changes and recommendations at the Transfer Station.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### **Town Administrator**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained the Road Supervisor David Reinhold asked permission to start spring cleaning. The employees would be working outdoor and individually.

## **INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS**

### **Selectman Cody Belanger**

No Report

### **Selectman Joe Trombley**

No Report

### **Selectman Mike Yergeau**

No Report

### **Selectman Bob Jordan**

Selectman Bob Jordan thanked the residents for staying indoors and at home. We will get through this. Market Basket is limiting people in the store. He would like to thank them and the staff for all they are doing.

### **Selectman Adam Munguia**

Selectman Adam Munguia mentioned next budget cycle may be a lean budget for next year.

Selectman Adam Munguia thanked the residents for their politeness and patience during this time.

Selectman Bob Jordan thanked both chiefs and Mr. Dodge for all the support structure provided to stay ahead of the curve.

**ADJOURN**

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Mike Yergeau, Cody Belanger, Joe Trombley, and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Joyce Blanchard  
Executive Secretary**

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**Adam Munguia, Chairman**

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**Mike Yergeau, Selectman**

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**Cody Belanger, Selectman**

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**Joe Trombley, Selectman**

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**Bob Jordan, Selectman**

**Dated: April 13, 2020**