

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
April 19, 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. Selectman Gauthier arrived late.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mike Yergeau called the public meeting to order at 6:15 PM via ZOOM.

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

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

**Motion by Chairman Yergeau to exit the Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.**

**RECONVENE**

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

**NON-PUBLIC**

**Motion by Selectman Trombley to seal the non-public meeting minutes in accordance of 91:A from April 19, 2021. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley, John Cody and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DONALD DEANGELIS**

EOC Director Don DeAngelis explained the Governor lifted the mandatory mask requirement. But, that doesn't mean that masks shouldn't be worn. There are 235 new COVID cases in New Hampshire and 14 new active COVID cases in the Town of Epping. The state is reporting that 25% of the population has been vaccinated.

There are no changes in the travel restrictions. Traveling internationally and cruises still require quarantining. The AG's office has not come out with any new information about holding live meetings. The Board of Selectmen can make their own decision regarding in person meetings.

EOC Director Don DeAngelis explained the American Legion has decided not to hold the parade this year. They will do a cemetery and river service with a rifle salute.

Fire Chief Lombardo stated in the fire department, fully vaccinated personnel do not have to wear a mask. Anyone who is not vaccinated and/or leave the building must wear a mask. Chief Lombardo said if in-person meetings were to be approved he would suggest mask requirements be followed along with social distancing.

## **7:15 PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT – NICOLE BIZZARO**

Director Bizzaro asked for guidance regarding scheduling programming. As we are coming out of COVID the "Seniors" are hoping to start small meetings at Watson Academy. There is also a ceramic class of 6 adults, fully vaccinated hoping to start meeting. After a discussion regarding EOC guidance, state guidance, social distancing and wearing masks this conversation will be continued further in tonight's meetings. Selectman Gauthier joined the meeting.

## **7:30 CHANGING POLLING HOURS – JENNIFER ROY**

Ms. Roy had a warrant article in March to open the polls at 7AM. The warrant article did get the majority vote but due to the wording of the article it was deemed to be non-binding. Ms. Roy attended the meeting to ask the Board of Selectman to approve the warrant as she believes it would benefit the people of the town, as the town is growing and it did pass. Katherine Cooper, Town Moderator, Erika Robinson, Town Clerk and Grace Lavoie, Supervisor of the Checklist spoke against opening an hour early. Long and grueling voting days (not ending until midnight), recruiting volunteers, increased cost and the availability of absentee ballots were discussed.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to table the discussion opening the polling hours at 7 AM until June 14<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen John Cody, Tom Gauthier, Joe Trombley, Bob Jordan and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **FIRE CHIEF LOMBARDO**

Chief Lombardo stated there have been 326 calls for service from the Fire and Ambulance Department.

Chief Lombardo spoke to the American Legion and there will not be a parade this May. There will be a memorial at the graveyard and the river.

Chief Lombardo sent a duty crew to one of the town buildings to do a decontamination.

## **POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL WALLACE**

Chief Wallace reported on the exploding noise residents have been hearing. The police are close to finding the source and believe it is a cannon.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Minutes from the April 5, 2021 Selectmen meetings was submitted for approval.

Payroll manifest for the pay period ending April 15, 2021 in the amount of \$140,221.22 was submitted for approval.

Accounts payable manifest for the week ending April 15, 2021 in the amount of \$2,136,155.87 and week ending April 19, 2021 in the amount of \$5.78 were submitted for approval.

Elderly Exemption for Edward Ovitt at map and lot 038-010 was submitted for denial.

Veteran Tax Credit Application for Paul Lanouette at map and lot 017-019 was submitted for approval.

Land Use Change Tax for map and lot 035-025-012 in the amount of \$3,333.00 as submitted for approval.

Intent to Cuts for Nancy Mathes maps and lots 017-044 and 11-17 off of Dimond Hill Road and Sig Sauer map and lot 038-003 off of Exeter Road were submitted for approval.

Yield Tax to Nancy and Steven Mathes for maps and lots 17-44/11-17 in the amount of \$4,313.47 was submitted for approval.

Application to sell fireworks for Garry DeBlasis at the Joker Fireworks store on 9 Elm Street was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Consent Calendar items as recommended. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen John Cody, Tom Gauthier, Joe Trombley, Bob Jordan and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **BUSINESS**

### **FIRE**

Request to hire Ryan Boudreau as a part time FF/EMT at \$8.25 on call and \$14.50 on a call contingent of a favorable background check and Steven Turner as a Full Time Firefighter/Paramedic/EMS Coordinator and Lieutenant at \$25.00 an hour was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the hiring of Ryan Boudreau as a part time FF/EMT at \$8.25 on call and \$14.50 on a call contingent of a favorable background check and Steven Turner as a Full Time Firefighter/Paramedic/EMS Coordinator and Lieutenant at \$25.00 an hour. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Selectman John Cody and Tom Gauthier abstained. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

Rate of pay increase for Jonathan Markey from \$19.00 to \$19.50 and Adinara Challinor from \$16.50 to \$17.00 as they obtained their fire inspector certification was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the rate of pay increase for Jonathan Markey from \$19.00 to \$19.50 and Adinara Challinor from \$16.50 to \$17.00 as they obtained their fire inspector certification. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Selectman John Cody and Tom Gauthier abstained. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

Purchase Order #322 for 1 knox box and bracket in the amount of \$1,338.00 for ambulance 1 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Purchase Order #322 for 1 knox box and bracket in the amount of \$1,338.00 for ambulance 1. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Tom Gauthier, Joe Trombley, John Cody and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **POLICE**

**Motion by Selectman Trombley to table the police promotions and sergeant pay adjustment. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Joe Trombley, Tom Gauthier, John Cody, Bob Jordan and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **EARNED TIME MODIFICATION**

New earned time calculations for full time employees to be the same as the police union members was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Trombley to approve the new earned time calculations for full time employees to be the same as the police union members. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen John Cody, Bob Jordan, Tom Gauthier, Joe Trombley, and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Request to re-hire Emilie Leblanc as regular staff before and after school and summer camp at \$11.00 an hour was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the request to re-hire Emilie Leblanc as regular staff before and after school and summer camp at \$11.00 an hour. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen John Cody, Tom Gauthier, Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **RACING LICENSES**

Star Speedway and New England Dragway Motor Vehicle Licenses were submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Star Speedway and New England Dragway Motor Vehicle Licenses. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, John Cody, Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley, and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

## NON-BINDING ARTICLES

Non-Binding Warrant Articles 22, 23 & 24 regarding transparency in the Town of Epping bidding process, access to Epping Board meeting notices and Town of Epping communications.

Selectman John Cody addressed these warrant articles saying with improving the web site and having it be more user friendly, these issues will all be taken care of.

## INTENT TO EXCAVATE

Intent to Excavate for Wayne Downs on map and lot 16-54 at 26 Hedding Road contingent on the restrictions given from the Planning Department was submitted for approval.

A lengthy discussion occurred regarding last year's Intent to Excavate approval, following the Planners Conditional Use Permit Regulations and individual Selectmen's opinions/comments.

**Motion by Selectman Trombley to deny the Intent to Excavate for not having enough information and having this on the next meetings agenda. Seconded by Chairman Yergeau. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, John Cody and Bob Jordan voting nay; Selectman Joe Trombley, and Chairman Mike Yergeau voting aye. Motion failed 2-3.**

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Intent to Excavate without any town regulations as it's landscape project. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen John Cody, Tom Gauthier and Bob Jordan voting aye; Selectman Joe Trombley, and Chairman Mike Yergeau voting nay. Motion carried 3-2.**

## OPENING TOWN HALL AND BUILDINGS

EOC Director Don DeAngelis is waiting for the AG's office to roll out a plan to open meeting spaces in municipalities. Selectman Trombley would like to see hybrid meetings taking place. In-person for the Board of Selectmen and on Zoom for any public following the EOC guidelines. The Fire Department determines occupancy for each building along with social distancing requirements. Selectman Gauthier and Selectman Cody would like to try and reopen the buildings. Parks and Recreation Director Bizzaro would like to know who to go to for the guidelines to follow. She needs to know for summer camp and to plan activities. Chief DeAngelis can help Director Bizzaro with following guidelines.

Town resident Robert Hodgman would like to see all the town buildings reopened.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to reopen the Town Hall as of May 3<sup>rd</sup> with the guidance from EOC regarding capacity and criteria on social distancing and wearing masks. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Tom Gauthier, Joe Trombley, John Cody, Bob Jordan and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to reopen the library and Watson Academy as of May 3<sup>rd</sup> based on guidelines from the EOC regarding capacity and criteria on social distancing, wearing masks and implemented in the SOP. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen John Cody Tom Gauthier, Joe Trombley, Bob Jordan and Chairman Mike Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.**

Selectman Tom Gauthier would like to announce “Epping Clean Up Weekend” on April 22-25. The Girl Scouts are going to help the Recreation Department clean the roads. The blue bags and gloves are here at the town hall for pick up.

## **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

### **Town Administrator**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge mentioned Epping Boy Scout Troop 136 is holding their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Electronics Recycling Fundraiser on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 9 am -2 pm rain or shine at the America Legion. The cost per item will be \$2 for smaller items and \$20 for larger equipment.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced as discussed, the Memorial Day Parade is cancelled. There will be services at the grave yard and the river.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge said the Fremont Skirkin Road Committee is meeting tonight. Mr. Dodge will contact the Fremont Town Administrator to make sure next Monday’s meeting is still scheduled.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge reminded the Selectmen to sign tonight’s paperwork tomorrow at the Town Hall.

## **INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN’S REPORTS**

### **Selectman Tom Gauthier**

No Report

**Selectman Bob Jordan**

No Report

**Selectman John Cody**

Selectman Cody will be attending the library meeting tomorrow night and the Budget Committee on Wednesday night.

**Selectman Joe Trombley**

No Report

**Selectman Mike Yergeau**

No Report

**PUBLIC**

Resident Robert Hodgman relayed a four RSA's for the Selectmen.

**ADJOURN**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 9:50 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**

**Date: May 3, 2021**