

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
May 3, 2021**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

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

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to exit the Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

RECONVENE

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

POLICE

Police Chief Michael Wallace gave a brief biography for the following promotions and new hire.

Police promotion for Richard Cote from Detective Sergeant to Captain effective on May 1, 2021, his pay will be adjusted from \$40.08 to \$42.85 per hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the police promotion for Richard Cote to Captain effective on May 1, 2021 at \$42.85 per hour. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Police promotion for Stephen Soares from Sergeant to Lieutenant effective on May 1, 2021 with his rate of pay being adjusted from \$37.76 to \$39.65 per hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the police promotion for Stephen Soares to Lieutenant effective on May 1, 2021 at \$39.65 per hour. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval to Hire Gregory Huard for a full-time police officer and school resource officer beginning May 18, 2021 starting at \$29.66 an hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the hiring of Gregory Huard for a full-time police officer and school resource officer beginning 5/18/21 starting at \$29.65 an hour. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DONALD DEANGELIS

EOC Director Don DeAngelis reported the number of COVID cases are falling due to the great vaccination rate in New Hampshire. Luckily there have not been any reported cases of COVID variants. The Governors office has not made any new changes in terms of public meetings and lifting mandates.

There have been 90 reported new positive COVID cases which makes 2,000 active cases in New Hampshire. In Rockingham County there are 39 active COVID cases reported. The total number in Epping as reported by the State of New Hampshire is 510. Although he believes there have been more and just not reported.

EOC Director Don DeAngelis said there should be new standards released from the Attorney General's Office this Friday.

FIRE CHIEF LOMBARDO

Chief Lombardo stated there have been 387 calls for service from the Fire and Ambulance Department. There was a residential fire in town last week that they are helping with. He is working on an opening plan for Watson Academy. EOC Director Don DeAngelis is working with the library on a re-opening policy.

Purchase Order to Logan Heating and Air Conditioning to rewire and fix the pump in the boiler room in the amount of \$2,100.00 was submitted for approval. Due to additional work that may be needed the amount was increased.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the purchase order to Logan Heating and Air Conditioning to rewire and fix the pump in the boiler room not to exceed \$3,800. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Purchase Order to Stryker Medical for 1 Life Pak in the amount of \$25,611.89 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the purchase order to Stryker Medical for 1 Life Pak in the amount of \$25,611.89. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL WALLACE

Chief Wallace announced that last Saturday 72.5 pounds of prescription drugs were brought in as part as the National Take Back Event. This is the most ever to be turned in.

Chief Wallace shared that all the officers have had training through the power DMS and police Academy 1 programs.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DONALD DEANGELIS con't

A grant for Emergency Management Performance to update the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) in the amount of \$4,000 was submitted for approval. This is a continuing plan for Government Operations. Chief DeAngelis explained this is a matching grant with the town paying \$4,000.

Motion by Selectman Trombley to accept the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented in the amount of \$4,000.00 to update the community's Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). Furthermore, the Board of Selectmen acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be \$8,000.00 in which the town will be responsible for a 50% match (\$4,000.00). Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Motion carried 4-0.

EOC Director Don DeAngelis mentioned the library re-opening plans are similar to the town hall for now.

NON-PUBLIC

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to seal the non-public meeting minutes in accordance of 91:A from May 3, 2021. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and Recreation Director Nicole Bizzaro discussed the Community Playground funding options. There is a grant available but it would push off the playground completion for a year. The grant also comes with “strings attached”. The playground would need to be maintained and available in perpetuity as a condition of the grant. Mrs. Bizzaro shared other funding options using the trust fund balances, donations and future fundraising ideas.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to move forward with gathering information on the playground, coming back to the board with a conceptual plan. Since the funding is available he doesn't think the grant would be necessary. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Request to hire Scarlett Demars and Aiden Blakney as Part Time After School Program Jr. Staff at \$9.00 an hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the request hire Scarlett Demars and Aiden Blakney as Part Time After School Program Jr. Staff at \$9.00 an hour. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Request to promote Allison Bisson and Jalyn Grandmaison to Lead Staff with new rates of pay of \$12.00 an hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the request to promote Allison Bisson and Jalyn Grandmaison to Lead Staff with new rates of pay of \$12.00 an hour. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Selectman Trombley to remove the abatements from the Consent Calendar. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Motion carried 4-0.

MRI Assessor Scott Marsh explained the large number of abatements is due to the recent

reevaluation. The abatement process is so the assessors can review all the information the owner provides.

Abatements for 2020 from McDonalds, 56 Calef Highway, Aletta Henry at 20 Dutton Ave and 27 Chautauqua Ave and Robert Boisvert was submitted for denial.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to deny the abatements for 2020 from McDonalds, 56 Calef Highway, Aletta Henry at 20 Dutton Ave and 27 Chautauqua Ave and Robert Boisvert. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Abatements for 2020 from Carolyn Weaver, 18 Rayemma Drive in the amount of \$924.32, Robert Mendum, 421 Calef Highway in the amount of \$283.68, Arthur Kilman, 4 Preston Dive in the amount of \$683.20, Robert Goodrich, 16 Good Way in the amount of \$713.93, Carl Coombes, 290 Highway A-14 in the amount of \$189.12, Chris Hutchins, 14 Barker Avenue in the amount of \$198.58, Paul King, 21 Tilton Woods in the amount of \$981.06, Cheryl Hodgson, 153 Coffin Road #32 in the amount of \$163.12, Thomas Place, 290 Calef Highway B-13 in the amount of \$191.48, Richard Marcello, 10 Ledgewood Lane in the amount of \$687.92, Justine Hinkley, 3 Ledgewood Lane in the amount of \$593.36, Wayne Hathway, 14 Gatchell Way in the amount of \$430.20, Integrity Ventures, 55 Railroad Avenue in the amount of \$1,468.04, Jenna Rice, 14 Victoria Drive in the amount of \$267.13, John Fuller, 7 Public Circle in the amount of \$18.50, Cheryl Lee, 19 Pike Street in the amount of \$1,108 for 2019 and \$246.94 for 2020 were submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the 2020 abatements for Carolyn Weaver, 18 Rayemma Drive in the amount of \$924.32, Robert Mendum, 421 Calef Highway in the amount of \$283.68, Arthur Kilman, 4 Preston Dive in the amount of \$683.20, Robert Goodrich, 16 Good Way in the amount of \$713.93, Carl Coombes, 290 Highway A-14 in the amount of \$189.12, Chris Hutchins, 14 Barker Avenue in the amount of \$198.58, Paul King, 21 Tilton Woods in the amount of \$981.06, Cheryl Hodgson, 153 Coffin Road #32 in the amount of \$163.12, Thomas Place, 290 Calef Highway B-13 in the amount of \$191.48, Richard Marcello, 10 Ledgewood Lane in the amount of \$687.92, Justine Hinkley, 3 Ledgewood Lane in the amount of \$593.36, Wayne Hathway, 14 Gatchell Way in the amount of \$430.20, Integrity Ventures, 55 Railroad Avenue in the amount of \$1,468.04, Jenna Rice, 14 Victoria Drive in the amount of \$267.13, John Fuller, 7 Public Circle in the amount of \$18.50, Cheryl Lee, 19 Pike Street in the amount of \$1,108 for 2019 and \$246.94 for 2020 as recommended by the Assessing Department. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT CALENDAR con't.

Minutes from the April 19 and 26, 2021 Selectmen meetings was submitted for approval.

Payroll manifest for the pay period ending April 29, 2021 in the amount of \$145,174.11 was submitted for approval.

Accounts payable manifest for the week ending April 29, 2021 in the amount of \$1,269,847.85 (\$1,000,000 is the school payment and \$269,847.85 is for the town) were submitted for approval,

Elderly Exemptions for Bruce and Holly Downing at map and lot 009-011 and Lois Frost at 024-088-A were submitted for approval.

Veteran Tax Credit Applications for John Greenwood at map and lot 024-076, William Sauter at map and lot 024-037-016 and Richard Arrigo map and lot 015-003-027 were submitted for approval.

Veteran Total Disability Tax Credits for Matthew Prairie at map and lot 033-001 and William Sauter at map and lot 024-037-016 were submitted for approval.

Intent to Cuts for Dana Burt map and lots 003-013 + 27 off of Old Nottingham Road and Charles George Irrevocable Trust map and lot 034-042 off of Witham Road were submitted for approval.

Excavation Tax Assessment for Louis Beard off of Coffin Road over payment refund in the about of \$45.14 was submitted for approval.

Land Use Change Tax for Mark and Marilyn Farnsworth, map and lot 004-006 in the amount of \$100.00 as submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Consent Calendar items as recommended. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0. The Intent to Cut and Excavation permits were discussed and the Board would like them to be reviewed by Planner Kellie Walsh with a memo.

SHIRKIN ROAD COMMITTEE

The Fremont Skirkin Road Committee was discussed as the Epping Committee needed to be formed.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve Road Supervisor Dave Reinhold, Chairman of the Epping Board of Selectmen Mike Yergeau, Police Chief Michael Wallace, Town Planner Kellie Walsh, Dead River Company Doug Goodman, from the Commercial District and

resident Michelle Mylott to serve on the Epping Shirkin Road Committee. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

The Epping Shirkin Road Committee should meet before the next joint meeting on the May 24th.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge showed the Board of Selectmen the solar antique lights for downtown. This lantern looks odd with the solar panel on top but it fits the budget. To have electrical lanterns installed the road would need to be dug up and each lantern would cost \$3,000 which would be over budget for 6 lights.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the solar antique lights as long as the Historical Commission approves and after seeing more light options (preferably without the solar hat on top). Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced there will not be a Memorial Day Parade this year held by the American Legion. Services at the graveyard and bridge will still be held.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge let the public know the 2020 state form DP-8, Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief forms are at the town hall and on the town web site.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge reported the first day without a screener into the town hall went well. He believes 95% of the public stopped at the table to sign in.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge informed the board the joint letter with Fremont to Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) is being reviewed by Fremont. They will be returning the letter to Mr. Dodge by Friday with recommended edits. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge stated the Board of Selectmen have met with the Town of Fremont 3 times. The next meeting is on May 24th.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Tom Gauthier

Selectman Tom Gauthier would like to reverse the "one-way" travel on Bunker Avenue. He asked the board members to ride down that road and see if they think taking a right or left onto Main Street is an issue.

Selectman Bob Jordan

Excused

Selectman Joe Trombley

No Report

Selectman John Cody

Selectman Cody announced National Police Week is the week of May 10th and Emergency Medical Service week is the week of May 16th.

Selectman Mike Yergeau

Selectman Mike Yergeau is concerned about the road budget as the state has stalled regarding helping fix Railroad Avenue.

ADJOURN

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to adjourn after 30 seconds. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Mike Yergeau, Chairman

Joe Trombley, Vice Chairman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

John Cody, Selectman

Tom Gauthier, Selectman

Date: May 17, 2021