

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
October 4, 2021**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes from the September 20, 2021 Selectmen meeting was submitted for approval.

Payroll Manifest for the pay period ending September 30, 2021 in the amount of \$133,499.13 was submitted for approval.

Accounts payable manifest for the week ending September 30, 2021 in the amount of \$1,462,287.23, (\$1,000,000.00 is for School, \$203,813.53 is for Wolcott Paving and \$258,473.70 is for the town) were submitted for approval.

Land Use Change Taxes for maps and lots 030-042-002 in the amount of \$32,500, 030-042-003 in the amount of \$35,000, 021-008-012, 011, 009, 001, 003-001-033 in the amounts of \$12,500 and 002-001-002 in the amount of \$13,000 was submitted for approval.

Intent to Cut for Erica Martel/Applehurst Farm, maps and lots 001-001, 008-003 and 009-004 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to remove the minutes from the September 20, 2021 Selectmen meeting from the consent calendar. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2021 Selectmen meeting. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0-1. Selectman Jordan abstained.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the remaining Consent Calendar items as submitted. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 5-0.

BUSINESS

DPW

Purchase Order to Stantec for October Sampling the Epping Landfill and yearly reporting in the amount of \$5,950.00 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Purchase Order to Stantec for October Water Sampling at the Epping Landfill and yearly reporting in the amount of \$5,950.00. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 5-0.

FIRE

Purchase Order to Fire Tech & Safety for a battery powered chainsaw in the amount of \$1,975.00 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Purchase Order to Fire Tech & Safety for a battery powered chainsaw in the amount of \$1,975.00. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

Fire Chief Donald DeAngelis would like to add a Warrant Article that covers a pay adjustment for all the Part Time Employees at the Fire Department.

7:15 TIM GREENE – AUDITOR

Mr. Greene from the town auditors Robert and Greene discussed the 2020 Financial Report. He reviewed and explained last years six opinions and stated those “units were clean”. Mr. Greene briefly read over the exhibits covering items such as fund balance, expenses, revenues, governmental funds, W&S funds etc. The General Fund has a value of 2.12 Million dollars. Mr. Greene suggested the town create a Fund Balance Policy with the intention of following the “not less than 5%, not over 17%” recommendation and what would happen if the percentage did fall out of that range.

PERSONNEL POLICY

Selectman Trombley would like to have two categories within the Bereavement Leave Personnel Policy. He stated he would like to offer employees bereavement leave for spouses, children and parents 40 hours bereavement time to use within a 14-day period. The remaining immediate family members would have 16 hours offered to be used within a 7-day period. The policy would still include the addition paid or unpaid leave for individual cases. A lengthy discussion followed with many opinions shared. The final motion follows:

Motion by Selectman Trombley to grant Bereavement Leave with pay upon the death of a spouse, child, parent or sibling a period of 40 hours to be used in a 14-day period. Family members including grandparents, aunts and uncles and a relative domiciled in the employee's household will be offered 16 hours to be used within a 7-day period. If additional time is needed, the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen and/or Department Head may use their discretion on an individual basis to allow additional leave. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 3-2. Chairman Yergeau and Selectman Gauthier voting nay.

WEB SITE

Selectman Cody would like to see a better web site for the Town of Epping. He hoped the school could get involved as part of a class. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge is working with School Board member Ben Leavitt regarding creating a new town web site. It was the consensus of the board that a new web site is needed.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier requesting Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge to gather information and pricing on web designs. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced the antique lights have been installed on Main Street.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge discussed the budget review next Tuesday, October 12th. The Library will be on the schedule for 6pm if their budget is finalized, followed at 7 PM for the Highway/Transfer Station Budget and 8 PM will be the Recreation /Watson Budgets.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge publicized the Household Hazardous Waste Day on October 16th, 8 AM- 1 PM in Exeter. The information is on the town web site.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Tom Gauthier

Selectman Tom Gauthier thinks the new antique lights look fabulous.

Selectman Joe Trombley

Selectman Joe Trombley spoke to Police Chief Mike Wallace regarding signs that records the speed and data on certain roads. Some roads have speed issues. Discussion regarding using telephone poles for the signs or having to use our own poles continued.

Selectman Bob Jordan

Selectman Bob Jordan sent his condolences to Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge and his family regarding their recent loss of a loved one.

Selectman John Cody

No Report

Selectman Mike Yergeau

Selectman Mike Yergeau reported there was Executive Council meeting last Monday. Representative Vose asked about the Shirkin Road issue. The state said they would drop off some plans.

Selectman Mike Yergeau said the walk through on Railroad Avenue went well. The designs and test pits are done and the plan is moving right along.

PUBLIC

Steve Ozols reported the meetings are not listed on ETV. Glen Frederick, ETV Assistant explained the equipment has been sent away for repairs. The equipment should be reinstalled next Monday.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to enter in to Non-Public Session in accordance with 91-A:3 II. (a) compensation. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll call vote was taken with Selectman Gauthier, Selectman Cody, Selectman Trombley, Selectman Jordan and Chairman Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.

RECONVENE

Chairman Yergeau reconvened the public meeting at 9:15 PM.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to seal the non-public minutes. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURN

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Mike Yergeau, Chairman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

Joe Trombley, Vice Chairman

John Cody, Selectman

Tom Gauthier, Selectman

Date: October 12, 2021