

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
October 12, 2021**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Joe Trombley called the public meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

BUSINESS

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the pay rate increase for Paul St. Cyr from \$23.05 to \$25.05 effective October 12, 2021. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to support the "Block Party" on September 30th 5 pm-8 pm on Main Street. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 3-0. The rain date will be September 31st.

BUDGET REVIEW

RECREATION/WATSON ACADEMY

Parks and Recreation Director Nicole Bizzaro reviewed the changes to the Watson Academy Budget. There were small adjustments to the trash hauling and water and sewer lines. Bills for maintenance on the elevator and woodpecker deterrent will be due before year end.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Watson Academy Budget and forward it to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 3-0.

Mrs. Bizzaro decreased the IT budget for the Recreation Budget. That line item has been rolled into the town contract. Office supplies and park maintenance amounts were reduced.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Recreation Budget and forward it to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 3-0.

LIBRARY

Chairman of the Library Trustees John Clark explained the library budget included a 2.8% increase for the staff. Other cost for supplies, heating and W&S are estimated as they were not opened for a full year. Last winter the library was closed nights. Regular hours didn't start until May or June. A new line for custodial services needs to be created.

Selectman Trombley feels strongly that all departments in the town should follow the same COLA conversion including the school. This year COLA is 1.8% for salary increases.

Motion by Selectman Trombley to reduce the library bottom line by \$635.00. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Motion carried 2-1. Selectman Gauthier voted nay.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Library Budget and forward it to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY/TRANSFER STATION

HIGHWAY BUILDING

DPW Director Dennis Koch and Road Supervisor David Reinhold presented the budgets. The increase in the Highway Building budget is due to using the garage at the Keefe site. There is a propane heater they would like to use to keep the building warm enough to store equipment.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Highway Budget of \$14,300.00 and forward it to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The highway budget increases and decreases were reviewed. Selectman Trombley would like a memo created that would explain the changes to the Budget Committee.

Chairman Michael Yergeau arrived at 7 PM.

Mr. Koch suggested the Culvert and Drain Material lines be part of the road reconstruction line.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to “0” the Culvert and Drain Material line. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Discussion followed and the motion was not acted on.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to remove the Culvert and Drain Material lines completely from the budget lines. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Selectman Trombley to increase the tree budget line from \$12,000 to \$15,000. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Motion carried 3-1. Selectman Yergeau voted nay.

Budget discussion followed regarding uniform savings by switching companies, price of salt, road construction (make a list of roads) and confusion over crack sealing versus paving. Mr. Reinhold will obtain numbers for purchasing a truck with this year’s equipment budget.

A lengthy discussion regarding hourly salary for highway personnel continued. There are two openings with no applicants. The low rate of pay is possibly a factor.

Motion by Selectman Trombley to shift \$10,000 from the part time salary line to the full-time salary line to be able to offer more hiring choices. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Selectman Trombley to carry the 1.8% cost of living to the salary line based on the salary of the four positions. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Reinhold suggested if the vacant openings are budgeted at a higher hourly rate of pay, the existing crew hourly pay will need to be increased.

STREET LIGHTING

Motion by Selectman Trombley to approve the Street Lighting Budget and forward it to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

TRANSFER BUDGET

Mr. Koch lowered the part-time salary line in the Transfer Station Budget due to working with 3 employees instead of 4. The stump dump side only needs one employee. Hiring has always been an issue due to working every weekend. Hiring a flex employee and/or weekend incentive pay would be less expensive than using a temp. agency. Increasing the hourly wage with COLA and raise the rate of pay for those who work already would be a solution.

Discussion continued reviewing the budget regarding recycling, tonage, trash compacter, building maintenance and the security system. Mr. Reinhold reported the recycling building needs a new roof. He has one price of \$13,000 to strip and shingle the roof. He will also get a price for a metal roof.

Selectman Trombley would like to improve security at the transfer station. Conversation concerning dump stickers, cameras and cost comparisons continued.

Motion by Selectman Trombley to add \$2,500 to the security line. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 3-1. Selectman Gauthier voted nay.

ADJOURN

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Mike Yergeau, Chairman

Joe Trombley, Vice Chairman

John Cody, Selectman

Tom Gauthier, Selectman

Date: October 18, 2021