

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
October 13, 2020**



**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
IN PERSON MEETING AND VIA ZOOM FOR BUSINESS
MEETING ID #883 9978 9074
PASSWORD # 392872
PUBLIC COMMENT 608-9508**

ATTENDANCE

Chairman Adam Munguia and Selectman Joe Trombley and Mike Yergeau; Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge; Executive Secretary Joyce Blanchard; Selectmen Cody Belanger joined the meeting on Zoom. Selectmen Bob Jordan was excused.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Munguia called the public meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Epping Town Hall. This meeting was also available through Zoom for Business.

MINUTES

Minutes from the October 5, 2020 Selectmen's meeting were submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Joe Trombley to approve the minutes from October 5, 2020 Selectmen's meeting. Seconded by Selectman Mike Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

FIRE CHIEF LOMBARDO REPORT

Fire Chief Joe Lombardo gave the EOC report and updated the COVID numbers in the state; currently there is 9,208 cases, recovered is 8,014, deaths are at 456, current cases are 738, hospitalized is 752 with 17 still in the hospital. Cases being monitored is 3,500. There are 4 active cases in Epping which brings the total count to 37.

Fire Chief Joe Lombardo reported the Fire Department has been quiet.

Fire Chief Joe Lombardo requested the Board of Selectmen to accept the gift of a shower facility that was built in the bay area. Dennis Cloutier donated his time and materials for building the shower in the amount of \$5,500 to decontaminate the fire personnel after a call.

Motion by Selectman Joe Trombley to accept the gift from Dennis Cloutier in the amount of \$5,500 for building a shower facility in bay that will decontaminate the fire personnel after a call. Seconded by Selectman Mike Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

BUSINESS

YIELD TAX

Timber Tax Levy for Applehurst Farm, map and lot 015-014 in the amount of \$1,221.71 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Joe Trombley to approve the Timber Tax Levy for Applehurst Farm, map and lot 015-014 in the amount of \$1,221.71. Seconded by Selectman Mike Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

7:15 TOM DWYER – WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONER

Mr. Dwyer gave an informational update on the warrant article regarding the Sewer Lagoon Project the voters approved. Although he hasn't discussed this with the other Water and Sewer Commissioners he felt the findings from a meeting last week with DPW Director Dennis Koch, Water and Sewer Administrator Jim Pouliot, Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge and Finance Director Lisa Fogg needed to be discussed with the Board of Selectmen. The Selectmen will need to apply for a bond in the amount of \$5,730,000.00 as interim funding. This needs to be spent before the grant money is released. Sending out bid packages is the next step.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET REVIEW-POLICE, HIGHWAY AND TRANSFER STATION

Police Chief Michael Wallace reviewed the Police Budget for 2021. The police budget has increased 2% mostly due to the office equipment leases and the cruisers equipment increase. Finance Director reported the new rates for insurances; Health Insurance is up 6.4%, Dental stayed the same, Short Term Disability increased 21%, New Hampshire Retirement will increase 14% July 1, 2021 and Workman's Compensation hasn't been released yet. The animal control budget has a small increase for the cell phone. These numbers do not reflect COLA or Merit increases.

DPW Director Dennis Koch and Road Supervisor David Reinhold reviewed the Highway and Transfer Station Budgets. The Highway Budget has increased 10% largely due in part to adding knotweed control and crack sealing lines to this budget. The Engineering budget has increased due to the Railroad Avenue Project. Equipment rental has a substantial increase due to renting an excavator. These numbers do not reflect COLA or Merit increases.

The Transfer Station Budget has increased by 15% generally due to hauling services, recycling and an additional compactor. A discussion followed regarding the need to purchase an excavator versus renting it. The consensus of the board was they would like to see the addition put on the garage first before buying an excavator. Selectman Yergeau asked for a list of roads that will be fixed in 2021. These numbers do not reflect COLA or Merit increases.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gregory Dodge announced the Household Hazardous Waste day on Saturday, the 17th. You have to register on line this year, the cost is \$12.24, wear a mask and you won't have to leave the vehicle.

Town Administrator Gregory Dodge stated voting is 3 weeks away, November 3rd. The Town Clerk, Erika Robinson has had 953 requests for absentee ballots with 432 returned. On Friday October 30th at 9:30 the absentee ballots will be partially processed. The public is welcomed to observe in the upstairs meeting room.

Town Administrator Gregory Dodge explained the "send off" that was given to Brittany Howard. Tomorrow is her last day as she heads to Kennebunk Maine. We are all going to miss her.

Town Administrator Gregory Dodge said the New England Dragway had a large crowd this weekend that brought a lot of traffic. Questions are being asked about how many tickets were sold.

Town Administrator Gregory Dodge believed the library contractor stated the 1st phase of the library stairs were complete. The ramp and railings still needs to be done. Discussion continued with Selectmen Trombley stating items that are not complete with the library stairs; the handle rails, 1 ½ inch gap under the door, exterior trim not painted, on top of the door is 2 inches of insulation and the back side of the door is not painted.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Mike Yergeau

No Report

Selectman Cody Belanger

No report (couldn't be heard on ZOOM)

Selectman Trombley would like to revisit the ZOOM meetings and attendance as quorums are necessary.

Selectman Bob Jordan

Excused

Selectman Joe Trombley

Selectman Trombley is the representative to the Conservation Commission. He hasn't been able to attend the Tuesday meetings and has missed half of the meetings. He is going to ask if they can move their meetings to a different night as he would like to go.

Selectman Adam Munguia

Chairman Munguia asked everyone to please vote. There are guidelines in place for safe and secure voting. Wear a mask to keep yourself and others safe. There will be a place to vote without a mask but it does take longer.

ETV Operator Glen Fredericks asked about selling some outdated equipment as a direct sale. Town Administrator Gregory Dodge explained the procedures and as town assets they could be sold. The Selectman would need to see a list of the items to be sold. The town would advertise to sell as an equal opportunity to buyers.

ADJOURN

Motion by Selectman Joe Trombley to adjourn after 30 seconds. Seconded by Selectman Mike Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Adam Munguia, Chairman

Mike Yergeau, Selectman

Cody Belanger, Selectman

Joe Trombley, Selectman

Dated: October 19, 2020