

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
August 4, 2014**



ATTENDANCE

Chairman Tom Gauthier; Selectmen Tom Dwyer, Bob Jordan, and Mike Yergeau. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge; Executive Secretary Joyce Blanchard; Selectman McGeough was excused.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gauthier called the public session to order at 7:15 PM at the Epping Town Hall.

ADJOURN TO NON-PUBLIC 91:A:3 II. (a)(b)(c)(d)(e) Personnel; reputation (e) legal

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to adjourn to Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. 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 Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

RECONVENE

Chairman Gauthier called the public session to reconvene at 7:30 PM at the Epping Town Hall.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

MINUTES

Minutes from July 21, 2014 were submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to accept the minutes of July 21, 2014. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0. Selectman Dwyer abstained.

SIGNING OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST

Accounts payable manifest for week ending 8/01/2014 at \$958,577.79, \$750,000 for the school and \$208,577.79 for the town was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest for week ending 08/01/2014 for \$958,577.79. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

SIGNING OF PAYROLL MANIFEST

Payroll manifest for pay period ending 7/31/2014 in the amount of \$102,623.85 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the payroll manifest for pay period ending 7/31/2014 in the amount of \$102,623.85 Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

BUSINESS

POLICE

Police Chief Michael Wallace read a brief biography on the recommendation of hiring Brendan O'Day. Request for approval to hire Brendan O'Day for a Full Time Police officer at \$18.73 an hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to hire Brendan O'Day as a Full Time Police officer at \$18.73 an hour. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 4-0.

Purchase Order to Eagle Point Gun for Epping Police ammunition in the amount of \$2,696.74 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the purchase order to Eagle Point Gun for Epping Police ammunition in the amount of \$2,696.74. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 4-0.

New Hampshire Retirement System Group II position certification for Brendan O'Day was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the New Hampshire Retirement System Group II position certification for Brendan O'Day. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Police Chief Michael Wallace discussed having a vehicle auction for the 1997 Cherokee with 181,000 miles, 2004 Taurus with 110,000 miles and 2009 Crown Victoria with 104,000 miles. Chairman Gauthier would like to ask the Code Enforcer if he could use the Cherokee in his department before auctioning the Cherokee off.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve auctioning the Taurus and Crown Victoria with a 30 day window in a sealed bid process having them opened by the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

7:45 DOT – David Scott, Prescott Road/Raymond Bridge

Mr. Scott discussed the Route 101 bridge projects and resurfacing the road from Candia to Epping. The Board of Selectmen will be invited to a meeting with the state late August or the first of September for more information. Mr. Scott works with bridge maintenance and is here to discuss the effect of rehabilitating the Raymond Prescott Road Bridge over Route 101 will have on Epping. The bridge will be closed for 2 months. Chairman Gauthier does not like this at all. It would take the police and fire departments double the time to respond and reach the residents in Epping that live in that part of town. Mr. Scott addressed the traffic as being 1,000 vehicles a day. Chairman Gauthier requested a one lane bridge with traffic lights. Emergency vehicles are the main concern. Bruce Chapman informed Mr. Scott and the Board of Selectmen that there is a gate that is locked that can be used as an option for emergency vehicles to access Prescott Road in Raymond from Route 101 on the other side of the bridge. Mr. Scott will look into that access to see if the state owns the property. Mr. Chapman thinks that the Town of Raymond owns it. Mr. Scott thinks this

could work if the Police and Fire Departments are happy with this plan, and that is if the bridge is approved to be fixed by the State of NH.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Susan McGeough and Robert Goodrich representing Selectman McGeough, Eunice Miller representing the Epping Garden Club and Jeff Conrad representing the Conservation discussed the DAR Park on the corner of Main Street and Route 27. Mrs. McGeough reported several items that need to be addressed at the park to make it presentable for the 275th Birthday for Epping in 2016, Memorial Day Parades and everyday use. Some of the ideas were replacing the tree that has gotten to big, the fence needs to be replaced, the plants are overgrown and Mr. Goodrich reported the brick walkway needs to be reset. The Legion needs to be contacted as they installed the fence. Mr. McGeough would like a new fence built with granite post and wars listed and inscribed on the posts. Mr. Conrad informed the board that the Conservation Commission has approved donating \$5,000 to this project. Discussion continued on what needs to be done. Ms. Miller will take the information back to the Epping Garden Club board for approval on their involvement. She will contact Stratham Nursery to design a plan for the park. Mostly the Epping Garden Club needs man power to make this happen. Mr. Conrad will have the Conservation Commission vote to approve the project and give the Selectmen oversight of the project at the DAR Park.

FIRE

Request for approval to hire Mark Pierce as a part Time Firefighter/EMT at 7.25 per hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the hiring of Mark Pierce as a part Time Firefighter/EMT at 7.25 per hour. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

Road Supervisor Dave Reinhold explained the purchase order on the sidewalk along with the new plans. There is a difference of 5 inches; we don't have a snow plow to take care of the sidewalk. Mr. Reinhold requested guidance regarding the sidewalk along Route 125. Discussion regarding an RFP for a new bid along with having guardrails on the back side of the sidewalk continued. Road Supervisor Dave Reinhold will contact Jones and Beach and request a price on a survey and construction plans for the next meeting, August 18th.

Road Supervisor Dave Reinhold discussed prices on backhoes and loaders. He's been trying to find money in the budget to solve the equipment problem. The need is greater for the backhoe in the summertime; the loader is only worth \$9,000 but needs a center pin and a head gasket and they need that in the winter. Renting, warrant articles or leasing were all discussed and debated. Mr. Reinhold was told to have a meeting with Finance Director Lisa Fogg and Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge to look at the budget and come back to the next meeting with some suggestions.

Road Supervisor Dave Reinhold reported the need for a seasonal PT driver at \$18-\$20 an hour for the extra truck. They need another truck for snow plowing as he has lost 2. One of the trucks is retiring and going to the state auction in September. Mr. Reinhold asked for guidance regarding for the Safety Complex driveway and parking lot. It should be ground, reclaimed, redone and dropped down to fix all the problems. The estimate for this is \$100,000 but Mr. Reinhold doesn't know what budget to take it out of; safety complex

budget or the highway budget? He has discussed the issue with the Police Chief Mike Wallace. Chairman Gauthier asked if the project could wait 1 or 2 years to be done. Mr. Reinhold replied that he has done some patching but it is soft. Selectman Dwyer would like to see the wording of the Safety Complex Revolving Fund to see if some of that money could be used for this project. Chairman Gauthier replied that money can only be used for equipment and to pay down the mortgage.

EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS

Request for Tax Exemption Applications for 2014 religious, education or charitable properties at Hedding Camp Meeting Association – Map and Lot 024-026, American Legion Post #51 – Map and Lot 030-010, Epping Bible Baptist Church – Map and Lot 021-002, Amethyst Foundation – Map and Lot 024-008, Epping Historical Society – Map and Lot 029-166, Major General John Sullivan Lodge #2 - Map and Lot 029-119, Rockingham Grange – Map and Lots 022-114-& 116, Epping Community Church – Map and Lots 029-026 & 112, West Epping Friends Quaker Meeting House – Map and Lots 027-149, Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester – Maps and Lots 028-042 & 030-065, Providence Baptist Church – Map and Lot 026-032 and One Sky Community Services – Map and Lot 013-029 were submitted for approval.

Selectman Dwyer disclosed that he is a member of the Hedding Camp Meeting Association and Chairman Gauthier disclosed that he is on the Board of the Epping Community Church. The remaining members of the Board of Selectmen allowed them to vote on the Exemption Applications.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Tax Exemption Applications for 2014 religious, education or charitable properties at Hedding Camp Meeting Association – Map and Lot 024-026, American Legion Post #51 – Map and Lot 030-010, Epping Bible Baptist Church – Map and Lot 021-002, Amethyst Foundation – Map and Lot 024-008, Epping Historical Society – Map and Lot 029-166, Major General John Sullivan Lodge #2 - Map and Lot 029-119, Rockingham Grange – Map and Lots 022-114-& 116, Epping Community Church – Map and Lots 029-026 & 112, West Epping Friends Quaker Meeting House – Map and Lots 027-149, Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester – Maps and Lots 028-042 & 030-065, Providence Baptist Church – Map and Lot 026-032 and One Sky Community Services – Map and Lot 013-029. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 4-0.

ABATEMENTS

Abatement for Doris Sargent at 19 Cate Street Map and Lot 022-091 per a previous agreement with the Board of Selectmen to abate the interest of \$113.41 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the abatement for Doris Sargent at 19 Cate Street Map and Lot 022-091 per a previous agreement with the Board of Selectmen to abate the interest of \$113.41. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

INTENT TO CUT

Intent to Cut from Leanne Campbell on Route 27, Map and Lots 030-46-001, 74 and 80 and from Southeast Land Trust of NH on Stingy River Road, Map and Lot 013-015 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Intent to Cut from Leanne Campbell on Route 27, Map and Lots 030-46-001, 74 and 80 and from Southeast Land Trust of NH on Stingy River Road, Map and Lot 013-015. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge shared a letter from the Raymond Regional Round Table. The Board of Selectmen are invited to a meeting that they are having next Monday, August 11th at 7 PM. Mr. Dodge will be attending, if any board members would like to go please let him know and he will RSVP.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained that Lois Straw would like to start a trust with a \$1,000 donation for the Dow Family Cemetery to be used as maintenance.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the \$1,000 donation from Lois Straw for the Dow Family Cemetery to be used as maintenance. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge wanted the Board of Selectmen to know that the electrical work on the second floor starts this week.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman McGeough

Excused

Selectman Yergeau

No Report

Selectman Jordan

Selectman Jordan hopes Selectman McGeough feels better soon.

Selectman Jordan congratulated Brendan O'Day as the newest member of the Police Department.

Selectman Jordan wanted to personally comment on the Market Basket stalemate and he is hoping for a quick resolution. We have a Market Basket in town and it is affecting employees, residents and businesses are off by 30%.

Selectman Dwyer

Selectman Dwyer inquired if the town had heard anything regard Watson Academy and LChip grant. The town will not hear anything until October or November.

Selectman Gauthier

Selectman Gauthier read a statement ending the practice of payment plans regarding tax liens. See attached.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Thomas Gauthier, Chairman

Tom Dwyer, Selectman

Mike Yergeau, Selectman

Bob Jordan

Date _____