

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
January 14, 2014**



ATTENDANCE

Chairman Thomas Gauthier, Vice Chairman James McGeough, Selectmen Bob Jordan, Thomas Dwyer, Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge. Selectman Karen Falcone and Executive Assistant Joyce Blanchard were excused.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Thomas Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION

Chairman Gauthier explained that the purpose of this meeting was to review all petitioned articles that were submitted by the January 14, 2014 4:00 p.m. deadline and to make their recommendations. Four articles were presented.

ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY ACTION

Chairman Gauthier read the article, *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand, Three Hundred Dollars (\$11,300.00) for the purpose of providing financial assistance, budgeting education and support to Epping residents in crises to move them toward self-sufficiency.”* Chairman Gauthier recognized Thomas Carleton in the audience who spoke in support of the article. Mr. Carleton expressed that Rockingham County Community Action has offered assistance to Epping residents on at least 1,000 occasions with a value of nearly \$350,000.00. The Town of Epping dedicated its Town Report to the local food pantry who works with Rockingham Community Action. He went on to say that last year the efforts of Jennifer Yergeau and Linda Gauthier were lauded. Phyllis McDonough also expressed her appreciation for the good work of Rockingham Community Action in her annual report. He ended by asking the Selectmen to vote in favor of supporting this article. Keith Bates the Community Services Director for Rockingham Community Action was recognized to speak on the article. He spoke of the various programs offered and the “Gift of Warmth” program and expressed the worthiness of this organization and asked for the Selectmen’s support. Selectman McGeough stated that there was an unwritten policy that the Board not support an article if it was not passed by the voters in the previous year. Selectman Dwyer felt he should not be compelled to follow that policy since as a new Selectman he didn’t necessarily agree with the policy. He further expressed that over time there could be good reasons as to why the Selectmen should support these articles regardless if they passed in years past or not. After a short discussion, Selectman McGeough agreed that the Selectmen should abandon that policy. ***Selectman Tom Dwyer motioned to recommend***

the warrant article for Rockingham Community Action in the amount of \$11,300, second by Selectman Bob Jordan, MOTION CARRIED, 4:0:0.

LAMPREY HEALTH CARE SENIOR TRANSPORTATION

The article was read by Chairman Gauthier, *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$3,390.00) for the Lamprey Health Care Senior Transportation Program for the purpose of providing senior citizens and disabled Epping residents transportation to medical appointments, in addition to weekly shopping trips and a monthly day long recreational outing.”* ***Selectman Dwyer made a motion to recommend this article with a second from Selectman Jordan, MOTION CARRIED, 4:0:0.***

EPPING YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Chairman Gauthier read the article, *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) in support of the Epping Youth Athletic Association.”* ***Motion by Selectman Dwyer and a second from Selectman Jordan to recommend this article, MOTION CARRIED, 4:0:0.***

RICHIE MCFARLAND CHILDREN’S CENTER

This article was read by the Chairman, *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00) for the Richie McFarland Children’s Center’s early intervention program that serves children from birth to three (3) years of age and their families. This will support the cost of providing early childhood special education, pediatric therapies and family support services to Epping residents. RMCC bases the request on three hundred dollars (300.00) per child served which is less than 5% of the annual cost for the weekly home-based therapies. Although RMCC served twenty (20) children and their families this past year, we are requesting funding equal to the allocations approved last year by the voters since the average number of children served over the past fifteen (15) years is fifteen (15) children.”* ***Selectman Tom Dwyer motioned to recommend the petitioned article, seconded by Selectman Jordan, MOTION CARRIED, 4:0:0.***

CUMBERLAND FARMS-UNTIMELY DEATH

Selectman Jim McGeough expressed his dismay in the Attorney General’s office and County Attorney’s office decision not to upgrade charges on a subject who allegedly stole four cartons of cigarettes from the Cumberland Farms clerk on Christmas eve. Two hours after the theft the clerk died of an apparent heart attack. Mr. McGeough and other Selectmen stated they have a hard time accepting the fact that nothing more could be done. ***Selectman McGeough made a motion that a letter be sent to the Prosecution staff expressing the Board’s concerns. The motion was seconded by Selectman Jordan and discussion continued.*** Chairman Gauthier asked if the Town Administrator had a problem writing the letter to which he responded that he worked for the Board and if that was their vote he would proceed with writing the letter. Discussion continued and the Town Administrator suggested that the Board allow him to meet with and speak with the Police Chief to ascertain what had been done in this matter

and report back to the Board. With that, ***Selectman McGeough withdrew the motion and Selectman Jordan withdrew his second.***

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Dwyer motioned to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. with a second from Selectman Jordan, MOTION CARRIED, 4:0:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregory C. Dodge
Town Administrator

Thomas Gauthier, Chairman

James McGeough, Vice-Chairman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

Thomas Dwyer, Selectman

Date: _____