

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
November 10, 2014**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gauthier called the public session to order at 6:30 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 Yergeau. 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 Dwyer. Motion carried 4-0.

RECONVENE

Chairman Gauthier called the public session to reconvene at 7:00 PM at the Epping Town Hall.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

MINUTES

Minutes from November 3, 2014 as were submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to accept the minutes of November 3, 2014. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

SIGNING OF PAYROLL MANIFEST

Payroll manifest for pay period ending 11/06/2014 in the amount of \$91,087.52 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the payroll manifest for pay period ending 11/06/2014 in the amount of \$91,087.52. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

SIGNING OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST

Accounts payable manifest for week ending 11/07/2014 at \$894,723.77; \$750,000 for the school and \$144,723.77 for the town was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest for week ending 11/07/2014 at \$894,723.77. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

BUSINESS

ABATEMENT

Abatement to Cloutier Pine and Pond for the mobile home at 290 Calef Highway B-8, map and lot 023-039-008-B in the amount of \$2,186.42 was submitted for approval due to in inventory agreement with the Town of Epping.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to table the abatement to Cloutier Pine and Pond for the mobile home at 290 Calef Highway B-8, map and lot 023-039-008-B in the amount of \$2,186.42. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 4-0. Selectman Dwyer would like to see the agreement.

DRA SALES RATIO

Memo from Municipal Resource Inc. assessor Scott P. Marsh explained the DRA Sales Ratio Survey.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the DRA information and set the new sale ratio at 99.2% . Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 4-0.

INTENT TO CUT

Notice of Intent to Cut for Charles Sanborn, 11 Fremont Road, map and lot 029-004 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the Notice of Intent to Cut for Charles Sanborn, 11 Fremont Road, map and lot 029-004. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

TIMBER TAX

Timber Tax Levy to Southeast Land Trust, Stingy River Road, map and lot 013-015 in the amount of \$94.26 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the Timber Tax Levy to Southeast Land Trust, Stingy River Road, map and lot 013-015 in the amount of \$94.26. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

VETERANS CREDIT

Veteran Credit Applications for David Szydlo, 59 Leddy Drive, map and lot 036-015-001-029; Ronald McKinnon, 31 Franks Way, map and lot 028-062-002; Donald Murphy, 290 Calef Highway D-9, map and lot 003-039-009-D and Bruce McPhee, 97 Meadowbrook Drive, map and lot 017-025 was submitted for approval starting in 2015.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the Veteran Credit Applications for David Szydlo, 59 Leddy Drive, map and lot 036-015-001-029; Ronald McKinnon, 31 Franks Way, map and lot 028-062-002; Donald Murphy, 290 Calef Highway D-9, map and lot 003-039-009-D and Bruce McPhee, 97 Meadowbrook Drive, map and lot 017-025 starting in 2015. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

RENTAL OF TOWN FACILITIES

Dianne Gilbert previously rented the Town Hall facilities to hold an educational Seminar, National Heritage Center for Constitutional Studies. The dates have changed and will now be held, January 10, 2015 every Saturday through February 7, 2015. The cost is still \$525.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the new rental hall agreement from Dianne Gilbert holding an educational Seminar, National Heritage Center for Constitutional Studies. The dates have changed and will now be held, January 10, 2015 every Saturday through February 7, 2015. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

911- FIRE DEPARTMENT

911 liaison with the Town of Epping, Henry Letourneau suggested naming a private driveway for 911 purposes from 64 Prescott Road in Raymond to 2 Linda Lane, Epping. The owner had agreed to this change.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve changing the private driveway. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

7:15 Southeast Land Trust

Brian Hart the Executive Director on the Southeast Land Trust of NH introduced Duane Hyde, the Land Protection Director of the Southeast Land Trust of NH. Mr. Hart explained the Conservation Projects in Epping along with a funding request. Two of the conservation projects that are underway in Epping are the Limperis Farm on Jacob Well Road and the Burley Farm on North River Road. The Limperis Farm will have a conservation easement on 50 acres; an easement on 27 acres with the remaining 134 acres being purchased, owned and managed by the Southeast Land Trust. There are 52 acres in Newmarket and Newfields that abut these acres that will be in the same situation.

The Land Trust has 300 acres of the Burley lands under contract to own the properties off of North River Road and a woodlot located off of Birch Road. The Southeast Land Trust of NH would like to relocate their office from Exeter to the farmhouse on "Turkey Hill" after it goes under extensive renovations. There are plans in bringing this farm back to a working farm with organized activities regarding agriculture and hiking.

The Harvey Family known as Applehurst Farm has entered into an agreement with the Land Trust giving the town two years to raise funds needed to complete the conservation easement for 1,114 acres off of Rundlett Road and French Road. Mr. Hart described the benefits to this easement as; outdoor activities such as hunting, hikers and cross country skiers etc., abuts over 1,000 acres of conserved land along the Pawtuckaway River which is part of the Land Trust vision to connect the Pawtuckaway State Park to Great Bay, conserve wildlife and plant habitat, wetlands and "high quality" watersheds and saving the town from road maintenance, plowing, fire and police protection for 284 house lots.

The Southeast Land Trust of NH would like the Board of Selectmen's support for the Applehurst Farm agreement along with a \$250,000 warrant article.

Selectman McGeough had several questions/comments. There is a big Beaver Dam that has flooded property that abuts the Burley property. This needs to be monitored. Duane Hyde commented that he hadn't heard about the beaver dam but will go out to look at it. When the Land Trust office moves their office to North River Road, will that property come off the tax rolls? The answer was yes, approximately \$7,000. Selectman McGeough reported that the Board of Selectmen has worked very diligently to keep the tax rate down. There had been a flat increase for 3 years; this year there was only a 15 cent increase. Selectman Gauthier thought that buying the easement for the Harvey property was a good deal.

Discussion continued regarding funding, warrant articles and if there would be a public hearing needed.

CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced the Holiday Schedule for the Town Hall; December 24 closed at noon, December 25 & 26 closed, December 31 (New Year's Eve) closed at 2 PM, and January 1, 2014 closed. January 2 will be opened regular hours.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained that the Transfer Station employee's would like to have Christmas Eve off and will work New Year's eve noon-4 PM.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the Holiday hours for the Town Hall and the Transfer Station. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge stated that there are 10-15 cords of wood in 12 ft. lengths that will be bid on at the Stump Dump. Delivery will be made in Epping. Dave Reinhold will number the piles and the numbers will be used for the bids.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to have Mr. Reinhold number the piles of wood and use the numbers during the bid process. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 4-0.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge would like to know who will be attending the Budget Committee meeting on Nov 19th, next Wednesday. The whole board will try to attend along with the Department Heads.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Dwyer

Selectman Dwyer would like to find out if the Budget Committee has any questions ahead of time.

Selectman Yergeau

Selectman Yergeau reported that there was a great turn out for the elections. Hopefully more people will vote in March and make their opinions heard.

Selectman McGeough

Selectman McGeough had two complaints about the well run elections. The handicapped section of the sidewalk is further down the sidewalk than where the handicapped parking is. There has been a letter sent to the school regarding that issue. There were many concerns regarding school being in session during voting. The parking and traffic was a nightmare. The security of the students was at risk with people in the building. These need to be addressed and Selectman McGeough's suggestion would be to have a teacher's workshop on the days of voting. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge is to contact the moderator to discuss these issues.

Selectman McGeough inquired about being ready for the winter and the snow. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge assured him that the town is ready.

Selectman McGeough would like to see a purchase order for the granite post that will be used at the DAR park next spring. They can be stored for the winter. He would like the purchase order on the next agenda.

Selectman Jordan

Excused

Selectman Gauthier

No Report

ADJOURN

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Thomas Gauthier, Chairman

Tom Dwyer, Selectman

Mike Yergeau, Selectman

James P. McGeough, Selectman

Date _____