

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
November 3, 2014**



**ATTENDANCE**

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

**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 Jordan. Motion carried 5-0. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to exit the Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 5-0.**

**RECONVENE**

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

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Chairman Gauthier welcomed Selectman McGeough back and how good it is to see him.

**MINUTES**

Minutes from October 27, 2014 were submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to accept the minutes of October 27, 2014. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0-1. Selectman McGeough abstained.**

Minutes from October 29, 2014 were submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman McGeough to accept the minutes of October 29, 2014. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Gauthier explained that the meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup> was to approve the tax rate from the Department of Revenue Administration. The tax rate has not increased for 3 years and this year in only went up 15 cents to 24.42.

## **BUSINESS**

### **BUDGET**

The proposed amount of the 2015 budget that was discussed is \$5,703,465. The new health insurance amounts are included in the number. Selectman Dwyer noted that the town should be proud of all that has been accomplished; everyone has done a great job. Finance Director has been very conservative with the numbers and she has done a great job also. Chairman Gauthier asked the other board members if the highway budget should be reduced \$100,000 for roads so that a sidewalk plow/mower could be purchased. The town should be buying what we need and not what we want. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge thinks that the infrastructure of roads and public services such as fire and police should be safeguarded from any budget cuts. There was only \$22,400 in suggested cuts. Selectman Jordan and Selectman Dwyer both believe that if we stay on the same path, all the equipment purchases will plateau in 5 years.

**Motion by Selectman McGeough to accept the budget of \$5,703,465 with an additional \$80,000 for the sidewalk plow/mower totaling \$5,783,465 as the 2015 budget. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to adjust the Police Budget to include a 4% increase for the Police Chief instead of a 3% increase. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **HEALTH INURANCE**

The health insurance rates were announced. The health insurance rates for our current plan are increasing .2%, dental insurance rates remain the same for 2015 and short term disability rates have decreased 15%.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the health insurance rates and approve Chairman Gauthier to sign the enrollment form. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to forward the budget to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **WARRANT ARTICLES**

The warrant articles were going to be reviewed and discussed. As the Police Union contract has not been finalized, the warrant articles will be reviewed at a later day.

### **ETV**

Purchase Order to Access A/V for new and updated equipment needed to move ETV upstairs in the amount of \$88,148 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the purchase order to Access A/V needed to move ETV upstairs and update the equipment in the amount of \$88,148. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 5-0.** Selectman McGeough would like the Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge to be updated as the move progresses. ETV will be shut down for a week when the installation of the new equipment takes place. Selectman Dwyer requested that ETV is back up and running in time for the budget hearings in January.

## **CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS**

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

#### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained that the seasonal PT hires from last week, Fred St. Peter and Mark Nickerson reconsidered their hiring. Mr. Dodge explained that the Board of Selectmen decided to offer them \$25 an hour and Fred St. Peter accepted and Mr. Nickerson hasn't responded. Richard Pizz has been offered the seasonal PT position for \$25 an hour, both driving the towns plow trucks.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan offering Fred St. Peter and Richard Pizz the seasonal PT position for \$25 an hour, both will be driving the towns plow trucks. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS**

#### **Selectman McGeough**

Selectman McGeough thanked everyone for all the help while he has been out from his accident. The 2 policemen that were on the scene after his accident, they saved his life. The fire department did an outstanding job. Selectman McGeough thanked everyone for the letters and cards that were sent to him. Selectman McGeough announced voting was tomorrow – Vote.

#### **Selectman Yergeau**

Selectman Yergeau asked residents to get out and vote.  
Selectman Yergeau stated that he is glad to have Jim back.

#### **Selectman Jordan**

Selectman Jordan is glad to have Jim back also.  
Selectman Jordan said it is our right as an American to vote.

#### **Selectman Dwyer**

Selectman Dwyer welcomed Jim back.  
Selectman Dwyer explained that he has had residents tell him that the Board of Selectmen have been doing a good job.

#### **Selectman Gauthier**

Selectman Gauthier asked about which Selectmen would be working the polls. 3 Selectmen need to be there all day and after to sign the ballot boxes.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to appoint Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge as a proxy Selectman during the polls.**

Selectman McGeough would like to have the Board of Selectmen take over the managing of the DAR Park. **Motion by Selectman McGeough giving Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge permission to look into changing the ownership of the DAR Park. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

Selectman Gauthier mentioned that the Selectmen's schedule will go back to every other week. There will not be a meeting in two weeks.

**ADJOURN**

**Motion by Selectman Jordon to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 5-0.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joyce Blanchard  
Executive Secretary**

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**Thomas Gauthier, Chairman**

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**Tom Dwyer, Selectman**

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**James P. McGeough**

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**Mike Yergeau, Selectman**

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**Bob Jordan**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_**