

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
September 22, 2014**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gauthier called the public session to order at 6:15 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 Dwyer. Motion carried 4-0. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to exit the Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. 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 September 15, 2014 were submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to accept the minutes of September 15, 2014. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 4-0.

BUSINESS

FIRE BUDGET

Fire Chief Don DeAngelis presented the Fire Department's 2015 Budget with a 4.86% increase. Finance Director Lisa Fogg explained the combined worksheets with Ambulance which is now called Fire and Rescue. Selectman Dwyer asked if the raises were in the budget. Mrs. Fogg answered that the salaries for the 3 full time personnel, the Fire Chief and a half year for the new position are in the budget but not any raises. Discussion continued regarding different line increases. The amounts in the budget for the insurances are estimated as the rates have not been set yet.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to increase the Fire Chiefs salary to \$81,750 starting October 1, 2014. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0. Chairman Gauthier explained that this increase was part of the hiring process for Mr. DeAngelis.

Selectman Dwyer questioned the pay increases and what the process is for them in the 2014 budget. Selectman Dwyer would like to know how the Selectmen should put them in the budget. Discussion continued regarding a 1, 2 or 3% increase and calling the increase a raise pool versus merit pool.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to have a merit pool for all non-union employees and to have a 3% increase in each individual budgets for review. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

SAFETY COMPLEX

Fire Chief Don DeAngelis and Police Chief Michael Wallace discussed the Safety Complex budget. The report showed a flat budget but Fire Chief Don DeAngelis requested adding money for a door to be installed to separate his department from the meeting rooms. There is enough money in the budget this year to do this project along with replacing the carpet. The Safety Complex budget will remain a flat budget with no increase.

POLICE

Police Chief Michael Wallace reported that the Animal Control budget that increased by 13.01% due to more calls in town. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge spoke very highly of this department and how it saves the town money overall.

The Police Department budget has increased by 5.82% due to vehicle maintenance and fuel for more details through town. Discussion ensued regarding what type of vehicles make the best choice for the police and the price of maintenance. The union contract will be a warrant article. The budget showing a 3% merit raise for non-union personnel needs to be added to the budget. Police Chief Michael Wallace will investigate the price of a “little buddy” electrical sign. Information needs to be gathered to see if the purchase can be made from impact fees or a warrant article will need to be written.

CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge reported that the transition went smoothly from powering down and back up over the weekend when the electricity was shut off.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN’S REPORTS

Selectman Dwyer

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to increase Jennifer Guenard to \$16.23 per hour for her new position as Deputy Town Clerk and Tax Collector retroactive from September 3, 2014. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Selectman Dwyer reported that 3 Selectmen attended the Budget Committee. Hiring a full time person for the ETV position created was discussed. The position job description needs to be developed regarding working for the town and school.

Selectman McGeough

Excused

Selectman Yergeau

No report

Selectman Jordan

Selectman Jordan sends more best wishes to Selectman McGeough and a speedy recovery. Hopefully he will be home next week.

Selectman Gauthier

Selectman Gauthier asked when the meetings will be moved upstairs and the estimated cost of the move. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge reported that the equipment is state of the art and will cost an estimated amount of \$88,000. Access/AV has been notified and the move should be completed by the end of the year.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Thomas Gauthier, Chairman

Tom Dwyer, Selectman

Mike Yergeau, Selectman

Bob Jordan

Date _____