

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**January 13, 2015**



**ATTENDANCE**

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

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

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

**RECONVENE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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 December 22, 2014 were submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to accept the minutes of December 22, 2014. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

Minutes from January 5, 2015 were submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to accept the minutes of January 5, 2015. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 3-0. Selectmen Jordan and Yergeau abstained.**

**BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Request for Approval to Hire for Russell LaFayette as a DPW Laborer at \$14.88 per hour was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the hiring of Russell LaFayette as a DPW Laborer at \$14.88 per hour. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

Purchase Order to Granite State Minerals for rock salt in the amount of \$15,000 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the purchase order to Granite State Minerals for rock salt in the amount of \$15,000. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **MS-60A – AUDITORS SCHEDULE**

NH Department of Revenue Administration MS-60A Auditor Option and Schedule was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the NH Department of Revenue Administration MS-60A Auditor Option and Schedule authorizing Chairman Gauthier to sign on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **PROPERTY TAX SALE/DEEDING**

Chairman Gauthier read the list of properties that the town has the right to take the deed to in lieu of taxes being paid; 6 Plumer Road, 38 Mill Street, Witham Road, French Road, 20 Ham Road, 85 Coffin Road #12, 85 Coffin Road #6, 27 Long Meadow Farm Lane, 421 Calef Highway, 156 Hedding Road, 85 Coffin Road #18, 51 Jenness Road, 3 and 5 French Road.

**Motion by Selectman McGeough to sign the deeds for 6 Plumer Road, 38 Mill Street, Witham Road, French Road, 20 Ham Road, 85 Coffin Road #12, 85 Coffin Road #6, 27 Long Meadow Farm Drive, 421 Calef Highway, 156 Hedding Road, 85 Coffin Road #18, 51 Jenness Road, 3 and 5 French Road. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to record the deeds for 38 Mill Street, 85 Coffin Road #6 and 27 Long Meadow Farm Drive. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 5-0.**

Selectman Dwyer explained that this is not an easy decision and he is having a hard time doing this. Every consideration has been made to give residents a chance to pay their taxes. Selectman McGeough commented that the town has gone overboard in trying to be fair and help these residents. Selectman Jordan stated that it is not fair to the other tax payers that do pay their taxes.

#### **VETERAN'S CREDIT**

Veteran's Credit for Dennis Shanley, 290 Calef Highway C27 Map and Lot 023-039-027-C was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the Veteran's Credit for Dennis Shanley, 290 Calef Highway C27 Map and Lot 023-039-027-C. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

Veteran's Credit for Jon Napper, 12 Beniah Lane, Map and Lot 022-037 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the Veteran's Credit for Jon Napper, 12 Beniah Lane, Map and Lot 022-037. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **ABATEMENT**

Abatement recommendation for Miguel V. Soto Sr., 36 Long Meadow Farm Drive, Map and Lot 015-001-016 in the amount of \$4,391 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the abatement recommendation for Miguel V. Soto Sr., 36 Long Meadow Farm Drive, Map and Lot 015-001-016 in the amount of \$4,391. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **JLM GRAPHIC CONTRACT**

Contract between JLM Graphics Design and Publishing Services and Town of Epping/School District for the 2015 and 2016 annual Town report at \$17.50 per page was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the Contract between JLM Graphics Design and Publishing Services and Town of Epping/School District for the 2015 and 2016 annual Town report at \$17.50 per page. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **ABATEMENTS**

Abatements for 3 French Road in the amount of \$2,967.63, 5 French Road in the amount of \$3,526.26 and 21 French Road in the amount of \$5,185.24 were submitted for approval. These are for 3 trailers that have been abandoned or partially dismantled by the property owner. The town is not responsible for any debris.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the abatements for 3 French Road in the amount of \$2,967.63, 5 French Road in the amount of \$3,526.26 and 21 French Road in the amount of \$5,185.24. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING – MUNICIPAL BOND WARRANT – LIBRARY EXPANSION**

Chairman Gauthier read the Public Hearing Notice to discuss the proposed municipal bond warrant article for the library expansion costing \$600,000. Charlie Goodspeed gave a summary of the design and why the construction cost will stay under the \$600,000. Mr. Goodspeed's student Tyler designed the expansion with rapid construction, inside adaptability and keeping the historical significance in mind. The design has been posted in the library with many positive comments made and suggestions. Discussion continued regarding the RFP and the construction contract staying under \$600,000. Questions and answers concerning the town's needs, bond and operation budget were considered.

The Public Hearing was opened to the public.

## **LIBRARY WARRANT ARTICLE**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) for the purpose of construction and original equipping of a 3,500 square foot addition to the existing library building at 151 Main Street and to authorize the issuance of not more than six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000.00) of bonds or notes for up to a ten (10) year term in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. There will be no tax impact in 2015.

As no one in attendance had any questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:48 PM.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to change the warrant article to read “up to a fifteen (15) year term” regarding the bond. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend the Library Addition Warrant Article. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **FINAL WARRANT ARTICLE REVIEW**

### **Article : BY PETITION: ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY ACTION**

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.

Keith Bates from the Rockingham Community Action explained the funding use for this article. The Raymond Outreach Center served 899 contacts with Epping residents during the past year. Rockingham Community Action helped with fuel assistance, electrical bills, Veteran’s programs, security loans for rent along with other programs.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend the Rockingham Community Action Petition Warrant Article. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Article : BY PETITION: EPPING YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

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 to recommend the Epping Youth Athletic Association Petition Warrant Article. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Article : BY PETITION: LAMPREY HEALTH CARE SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

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.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend the Lamprey Health Care Senior Transportation Petition Warrant Article. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Article : BY PETITION: RICHIE MCFARLAND CHILDREN'S CENTER**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) for the Richie McFarland Children's Center's early intervention program that serves children from birth to three years of age and their families. This investment 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-five (25) children and their families this past year, we are requesting funding according to the average number of children served over the past five (5) years which is twenty (20) children.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend the Richie MacFarland Children's Center Petition Warrant Article. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Article : BY PETITION: ROCKINGHAM NUTRITION & MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Four Dollars (\$4,464.00) to enable Rockingham Nutrition & Meals on Wheels Program to continue to provide the meal service to elder, homebound and disabled Epping residents.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend the Rockingham Nutrition & Meals on Wheels Program Petition Warrant Article. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Article : BY PETITION: DISCONTINUE A PORTION OF NEW LANE**

To consider whether to discontinue a portion of New Lane, a Class VI highway, which was closed subject to gates and bars pursuant to Warrant Article 18 of the 1970 Epping Town Meeting, as depicted on the approved Subdivision Plans for Prescott Orchards, recorded at the Registry of Deeds as Plan D-34467. The Section to be discontinued runs from the intersection of New Lane with Macintosh Land and continues through Tax Map 14 Lots 14-59, 60, 68, 82, 122 and Tax Map 8 Lot 14-67 and ends on Tax Map 14-14. The Land shall revert to the ownership of Prescott Orchards Land Development, LLC. This discontinuance shall resolve the title issues on this property. There is no tax impact for the taxpayers of Epping. This Warrant Article does not land lock the abutters from Prescott Road to the intersection of New Lane with Macintosh Lane.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend the Discontinue a Portion of New Lane Petition Warrant Article. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Motion failed 0-5. Selectmen do not recommend.**

**Article : BY PETITION: REOPEN A PORTION OF TOWLE ROAD**

To see if the Town will vote to reopen, as a Class V Highway, the portion of Towle Road, formerly known as High Road, northerly from the junction of Witham Lane to the Epping/Lee Town Line. The above portion of roadway is now a Class VI highway, subject to gates and bars pursuant to vote of Town Meeting, March, 1970.

**Motion by Selectman McGeough to recommend the Reopen a Portion of Towle Road Petition Warrant Article. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 3-2. Selectmen McGeough and Jordan voted nay.**

Town Administrator asked to revisit the Harvey's Kennard Hill Forest Project Warrant Article. Brian Hart from Southeast Land Trust requested taking out the line; Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) will come from the Conservation Commission's LUCT Escrow Account. Council for the Town of Epping has said to leave the warrant article as written. DRA has been asked for their opinion and the office is still waiting their judgment. The article could still be changed at Town Deliberative Session.

**Article : HARVEY'S KENNARD HILL FOREST PROJECT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) to support the acquisition of a conservation easement to permanently conserve the Harvey's Kennard Hill Forest, so-called, (identified as Epping Tax Map 1, Lots 1 & 2; Map 2, Lot 9; Map 8, Lot 3; and Map 9, Lot 4), consisting of approximately 890 acres of land located off Nottingham Square Road, French Road, Blake Road, and Rundlett Road in Epping. Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) will come from the Conservation Commission's LUCT Escrow Account with the balance of Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$230,000.00) to come from taxation; and further, in connection with such acquisition to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend for said purposes any funds from private, state, and federal sources, as they may become available. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the acquisition of the conservation easement on the Harvey's Kennard Hill Forest has been accomplished, or by June 30, 2017 whichever is sooner.

Selectman McGeough requested revisiting the Recreation Center/Epping Elementary Gymnasium/Emergency Shelter warrant article.

**Article : RECREATION/EES GYM/SHELTER STUDY**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) for the purpose of having a site survey, engineering reports and an architectural design for a joint Recreation Center/Epping Elementary Gymnasium/Emergency Shelter at the Epping Elementary School.

**Motion by Selectman McGeough to reduce the sum to Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for the site survey. Seconded by Selectman Jordan.** After discussion the motion was withdrawn and not acted upon.

**CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained that the Warrant Articles will be presented at next week's meeting in order.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge presented an Intent to Cut for Southeast Land Trust on Mast Road, Maps and Lots 031-019 + 032-001 for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the Intent to Cut for Southeast Land Trust on Mast Road, Maps and Lots 031-019 + 032-001. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge described a piece of property on Mast Road that was taken by tax deed. A neighbor has shown interest in purchasing the property. Mr. Dodge asked for the Selectmen's consent to go forward with a bid or auction for this property. Selectman Dwyer would like to see a list of properties that fall under the same category.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge stated that the next Selectmen's meeting will be on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup>. The Town Hall will be closed Monday the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge invited everyone to the Public Hearing at 6 PM on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS**

### **Selectman McGeough**

**Motion by Selectman McGeough to sell the old folding chairs and the rack that holds them. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 5-0.**

Selectman McGeough would like permission from the board to speak to the public, commercial and residential owners for donations regarding having new town signs made and installed in time for the 2016 town birthday.

**Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve Selectman McGeough representing the Board of Selectmen while speaking to the public, commercial and residential regarding donations for new town signs to be made and installed in time for the 2016 town birthday. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Selectman Dwyer**

Selectman Dwyer wished Mr. Dodge a happy birthday. The Town Hall is closed on Monday for the holiday. The Budget Hearing is Wednesday. The budget has increased and if you want to speak on the subjects, residents should come to the meeting.

### **Selectman Jordan**

No Report

### **Selectman Yergeau**

Selectman Yergeau explained that there will be a lot of information given tomorrow night at the Budget Hearing. Please come to the meeting or listen at home.

### **Selectman Gauthier**

Selectman Gauthier wished Mr. Dodge a Happy Birthday!

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**ADJOURN**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 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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**Mike Yergeau, Selectman**

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**James P. McGeough, Selectman**

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**Bob Jordan, Selectman**

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