

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
January 20, 2015**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gauthier called the public session to order at 6:45 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 4-0. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Motion by Selectman McGeough 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 January 13, 2015 as were submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to accept the minutes of January 13, 2015. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

SIGNING OF PAYROLL MANIFEST

Payroll manifest for pay period ending 1/15/2015 in the amount of \$90,764.23 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the payroll manifest for pay period ending 1/15/2015 in the amount of \$90,764.23. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

SIGNING OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST

Accounts payable manifest for week ending 1/16/2015 at \$856,593.21; \$750,000.00 for the school and \$106,593.21 for the town was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest for week ending 1/16/2015 at \$856,593.21. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

BUSINESS

2015 WARRANT ARTICLES

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TOWN OF EPPING

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

To the inhabitants of the Town of Epping, County of Rockingham, in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in town affairs:

FIRST SESSION

You are hereby notified to meet for the First (Deliberative) Session of the annual town meeting, to be held at the Epping Middle School Gymnasium, Epping, NH on the Third day of February 2015 being Tuesday, at seven in the evening (7:00 P.M.). The First (Deliberative) Session will consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each of the following warrant articles, and will afford those voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to each warrant article, except those articles whose wording is prescribed by state law.

SECOND SESSION

You are also notified to meet for the Second Session of the annual town meeting, to elect town officers by official ballot and to vote by official ballot on the warrant articles as they may have been amended at the First Session, to be held at the Epping Middle School Gymnasium, Epping, NH on the Tenth day of March 2015, being Tuesday, at eight o'clock in the forenoon (the polls are to be open at 8:00 A.M. and may not close prior to 7:00 P.M.) to act upon the following:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Article A: To choose necessary town officers for the ensuing year:

- Two Selectmen for three (3) years
- Three Budget Committee Members for three (3) years
- One Cemetery Trustee for three (3) years
- Two Library Trustees for three (3) years
- One Library Trustee for one (1) year
- Two Planning Board Members for three (3) years
- Two Board of Adjustment Members for three (3) years
- One Trustee of Trust Fund for three (3) years
- One Water and Sewer Commission Member for three (3) years

Article 1: Industrial Commercial Zone – Zoning Article 3

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance to remove an unnecessary commercial area overlay in the Industrial Commercial Zone. This overlay district was first established when the Zone was originally created, it references out dated map and lot numbers and is inconsistent with the intention of the Zoning Article. This change shall not affect the current boundary lines of the Industrial Commercial Zone.

[Recommended by the Planning Board 3-0]

Majority Vote Required

Article 2: Auto Dealerships – Zoning Article 6 Section 14.2

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance to remove the separation requirement of 2,000 feet between Auto Dealerships. The Board feels that no business should receive a protective radius from competition.

[Recommended by the Planning Board 3-0]

Majority Vote Required

Article 3: Wellhead Protection Area – Zoning Article 7

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance to add the newly purchased wells (in the area behind Wal-Mart) to the Wellhead Protection Area. These wells were approved for purchase at the Town Meeting last year.

[Recommended by the Planning Board 3-0]

Majority Vote Required

Article 5: Alternative Treatment Centers – Zoning Article 24

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance to create Article 24, Alternative Treatment Centers. This article shall define and determine where these centers can locate within the Industrial Commercial Zone, Article 3. These centers are defined as follows : a not-for-profit entity registered by the state that acquires, possesses, cultivates, manufactures, delivers, transfers, transports, sells, supplies, and dispenses cannabis (medical marijuana), and related supplies and educational materials, to qualifying patients. The State Law allows for these centers to locate in Zones that are not residential, the proposed article limits them to only the Industrial Commercial Zone.

[Recommended by the Planning Board 3-0]

Majority Vote Required

Article 5: Controlled Substance Distribution Centers – Zoning Article 25

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance to create Article 25, Controlled Substance Distribution Centers. These centers are defined as follows: A center or clinic which has been primarily established for the dispensing of controlled substances for those recovering from narcotic withdrawal/abuse. This article will limit these centers to Route 125 from the Brentwood Town line to Fogg/Coffin Road (previously Old Hedding Road) in the Industrial Commercial and Highway Commercial Zones. Currently these centers could locate in any zone except the Rural Residential Zone.

[Recommended by the Planning Board 3-0]

Majority Vote Required

Article 6: LIBRARY ADDITION

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 fifteen (15) 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 further, to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. There will be no tax impact in 2015.

[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 7-2]

3/5 ballot vote required

Article 7: 2015 OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Seven Million, Five Hundred Sixty Six Thousand and Seventy Eight Dollars (\$7,566,078.00). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Seven Million, Two Hundred Eighty Five Thousand, Two Hundred Sixty Nine Dollars (\$7,285,269.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0]
[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0]
Majority Vote Required

Article 8: POLICE UNION CONTRACT

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Epping and the New England Police Benevolent Association – Local #28, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year	Estimated Increases
2015	\$21,711.00
2016	\$15,008.00
2017	\$22,878.00

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty One Thousand, Seven Hundred Eleven Dollars (\$21,711.00) for the current budget year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels under the prior agreement. The total estimated aggregate cost for the three (3) years is One Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Twenty Seven Dollars (\$118,027.00). Note: This agreement has an automatic renewal or “evergreen” clause. If approved, the terms of this agreement shall continue from year to year. The estimated additional cost attributable to the evergreen clause after 2017 is \$23,795.00 per year.

[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0]
[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0]
Majority Vote Required

Article 9: TOWN HALL IMPROVEMENT EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Town Hall Improvement Expendable Trust Fund.

[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0]
[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0]
Majority Vote Required

Article 10: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0]

Majority Vote Required

Article 11: TOWN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for the purpose of planning and funding the Town's 275th year long birthday celebration in the year 2016. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the end of our birthday year, December 31, 2016.

[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0]

Majority Vote Required

Article 12: 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.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0]

Majority Vote Required

Article 13: BY PETITION: CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00) for the purpose of supporting services provided to residents to access counseling and family support services, without regard to income from Child and Family Services. Child and Family Services provides accessible and affordable programs to children, youth, and their families leading to stronger family connections, improved school performance, and better citizenships. From July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014, Fifty Three (53) Epping residents received 1,194 hours of free and reduced services valued at over \$55,000 from Child and Family Services. These services protected children from abuse and neglect, strengthened families, prevented out of home placements, supported family reunification services, insured healthy birth outcomes and remediated early developmental delays in children 0-3.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 8-1]

Majority Vote Required

Article 14: PROSPECT CEMETERY

To see if the Town will vote to accept the transfer of the Prospect Cemetery Association's real estate (the Prospect Cemetery), its perpetual care funds and any other Association assets for the purpose of operating a town cemetery. This transfer of the Cemetery Association's property and assets has been approved by the Charitable Trusts Division of the NH Attorney General's Office.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0]

Majority Vote Required

Article 15: 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.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 7-2]

Majority Vote Required

Article 16: 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. **[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0]**

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 7-2]

Majority Vote Required

Article 17: 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.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0]

Majority Vote Required

Article 18: 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.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 7-2]

Majority Vote Required

Article 19: 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.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 7-2]

Majority Vote Required

Article 20: 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.

**[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0]
[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 7-2]
Majority Vote Required**

Article 21: 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.

**[Not Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0]
Majority Vote Required**

Article 22: 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.

**[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-2]
Majority Vote Required**

Given under our hand and seal and ordered posted this 20th day of January, 2015:

THE EPPING BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Tom Gauthier, Chairman

James McGeough, Vice-Chairman

Tom Dwyer, Selectman

Robert Jordan, Selectman

Michael Yergeau, Selectman

TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Tom Gauthier, Chairman

James McGeough, Vice-Chairman

Tom Dwyer, Selectman

Robert Jordan, Selectman

Michael Yergeau, Selectman

2015 Warrant Articles as written where submitted for approval. The Warrants Articles need to be posted by January 26, 2105.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve and sign the 2015 Warrant Articles. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

FINANCE

The 2015 MS-D Default Budget in the amount of \$7,285,269 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to accept the 2015 MS-D Default Budget in the amount of \$7,285,269. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

FIRE

Request to hire George Bryant for EMT at \$7.25 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the request to hire George Bryant for EMT at \$7.25 pending the background check. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

VETERAN'S CREDIT

Veteran's Credit for Donald Dickinson at 57 Leddy Drive, Map and Lot 036-015-001-030 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Veteran's Credit for Donald Dickinson at 57 Leddy Drive, Map and Lot 036-015-001-030. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

ELDERLY EXEMPTION

Elderly Exemption for Patricia White at 290 Calef Highway, Map and Lot 023-039-008-C was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Elderly Exemption for Patricia White at 290 Calef Highway, Map and Lot 023-039-008-C. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge reported that the Filing Period for town offices will start tomorrow on the 21st to January 30th at 5 PM.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained that the next Selectman's meeting will be on Feb 2nd, the day before the Town Deliberative Session. Mr. Dodge will try to keep the Agenda short.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge shared the Blue and Gold invitation from Pack 136 on February 20th at the Epping Elementary School starting at 6 PM. RSVP is needed by February 9th. If any of the Selectmen plan on going please let Mr. Dodge know.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman McGeough

Selectman McGeough wanted to let everyone know that the Police Explorers stood out in the cold at Market Basket this past weekend collecting money for their group. Mr. McGeough gave them a lot of credit. A thank you to Market Basket for bringing the Explorers inside to stand was given. Donations can still be made.

Selectman McGeough thanked the Police Department for a job well done. An arrest was made for a break in over the weekend and the property was recovered.

Selectman Yergeau

Selectman Yergeau invited everyone to the Deliberative Meeting on February 3rd. There is a lot of information that needs to be heard. If you can't come, please watch the meeting on TV.

Selectman Jordan

Selectman Jordan thanked the management at Market Basket for all their support and letting the Police Explorers stand inside this past weekend.

Selectman Dwyer

Excused

Selectman Gauthier

Selectman Gauthier requested information regarding the sidewalk plow demonstration. Mr. Dodge told the board that they were waiting for a bigger snow storm to do the demonstration.

Selectman Gauthier asked about the date for Candidates Night. February 25th at 7PM here at the Town Hall will be the date. Mr. Dodge is going to contact the moderator to make sure that date is OK with him.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Thomas Gauthier, Chairman

Tom Dwyer, Selectman

Mike Yergeau, Selectman

James P. McGeough, Selectman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

Date _____