

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
June 22, 2015**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Bob Jordan called the public session to order at 7:00 PM at the Epping Town Hall.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

MINUTES

Minutes from June 8, 2015 as were submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to accept the minutes of June 8, 2015. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

SIGNING OF PAYROLL MANIFEST AND SIGNING OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST

Payroll manifest for pay period ending 6/18/2015 in the amount of \$103,803.93 and the accounts payable manifest for week ending 6/19/2015 at \$360,830.71; \$163,010 for the well land, \$99,855 for the highway bond and \$97,965.71 for the town was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the payroll manifest for pay period ending 6/18/2015 in the amount of \$103,803.93 and the accounts payable manifest for week ending 6/19/2015 at \$360,830.71. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

BUSINESS

FIRE

Fire Chief Don DeAngelis explained the details that he has been working on with Finance Director Lisa Fogg regarding adjusting the new hours. The employees are working 2 days on and 2 days off. Full timers are allowed to swap shifts within the same pay weeks as long as the person is equally qualified (i.e. paramedic for paramedic). Pay for a town holiday is time and one half hours for working a town holiday. If a full timer wants to take earned time on a holiday, they must find an equally qualified part-timer or per diem to substitute for them. Calculation of all earned time is in hours. The OT Policy remains unchanged. If the individual works after their 12 hour shift they are paid at an OT rate.

Vice Chairman Bob Jordan asked how the new hours were working in the Department. Fire Chief Don DeAngelis replied that the new schedule was "awesome".

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the recommendations as discussed; Full timers are allowed to swap shifts within the same pay weeks as long as the person is equally qualified (i.e. paramedic for paramedic). Pay for a town holiday is time and one half hours for working a town holiday. If a full timer wants to take earned time on a holiday, they must find an equally qualified part-timer or per diem to substitute for them. Calculation of all earned time is in hours. The OT Policy remains unchanged. If the individual works after their 12 hour shift they are paid at an OT rate. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

RECREATION SCHOLARSHIP

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve Financial Assistance to an Epping family for the Summer Recreation Program. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 3-0.

TAXES

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the late penalty interest rate of 18% be reduce to 12%. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

APPOINTMENT

Appointment for Sandy Goodspeed to the Conservation Commission for a 3 year Term was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the appointment for Sandy Goodspeed to the Conservation Commission for a 3 year Term. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

275 BIRTHDAY BASH DISCUSSION

Discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

NOTICE TO EXCAVATE

Mr. Beard attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting to explain what happened and that he wants to pay his bills and make this right. Mr. Beard, who with his wife has owned the sand pit at Map and Lot 023-102 off of Coffin Road since 1980 and he thought the pit was grandfathered. He has spoken to Mary Pinkham-Langer at the state and she helped him make out his Intents to Excavate that go back to 1998.

18 Notice of Intents to Excavate for Louise and William Beard on Coffin Road Map and Lot 023-102 from 1998-2016 were submitted for approval. Discussion regarding taxes and bonds continued.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve Intents to Excavate for the years 1998-2012. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to table the Intents to Excavate for the years 2013-2015 until the bond payments have been made. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

CURRENT USE APPLICATION

Current Use application for Douglas and Linda Simes at 65 Fremont Road, Map and Lot 035-025 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the Current Use application for Douglas and Linda Simes at 65 Fremont Road, Map and Lot 035-025. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

ABATEMENTS

Vice Chairman Jordan read the abatement descriptions from the Assessor regarding 6 abatements. The Blanchard abatement was due to discrepancies that were corrected. The 2 Murray Trust abatements were due to billing system errors as 3 lots were merged and the 3 utility abatements need to be reviewed by the town's utility appraiser, George E. Sansoucy.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the abatement for Joyce and Earl Blanchard at 26 Elm Street, Map and Lot 023-007 in the amount of \$175.82. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the abatements for Nelson J. Murray Sr. Trust at Calef Highway, Map and Lot 029-259 in the amount of \$2,396.83 and on 35 Jannell Court, Map and Lot 029-261 in the amount of \$934.07. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Selectman Yergeau to deny the abatements for Northern NE England Telephones, Map and Lot 040-500-002, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative Inc., Map and Lot 040-500 and Eversource Maps and Lots, 036-034, 023-185 + 185A and send them to George Sansoucy's office. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 3-0.

7:30 APPOINTMENT

Tamar Roberts from Roberts & Greene, PLLC gave a brief synopsis on the 2014 Audit. For the full briefing please refer to the video. Mrs. Roberts apologized for the audit being complete late. That is not an excuse but she did have an employee leave without notice. Her small firm did the best they could and if Town of Epping would like to be released from the 3 year contract she will honor that. Finance Director Lisa Fogg reported that she was happy with the report and liked working with Tamar. Other than the report being late, Mrs. Fogg was happy with this company. Selectman McGeough had various questions regarding the audit, field work, clear communication and etc. Mr. McGeough will call Ms. Roberts with more questions.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to send the auditors concerns to the Water and Sewer Commissioners regarding the billing. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to accept the finance report as is. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge commented that Tamar and her firm were wonderful to work with. They will tighten up the communication next year and he is glad the board is keeping the firm.

7:45 ROLLING THUNDER

Robert McGuigan along with Scott and Becky Suchovsky are members from a group called “Rolling Thunder”, a non-profit organization, explained their mission that works out of the Epping Legion. Their primary mission is to educate the public about the many American Prisoners of War that are left behind following all wars. Their idea is to have a chair dedicated to the POW/MIAs at public venues. These chairs should be in prominent places and easily visible so the maximum number of people will see them. Each chair will be painted black with the POW/MIA insignia in white. A plaque or letter is usually included to explain its purpose and the chair remains empty to signify the absence of the POW/MIA member. Rolling Thunder considers a chair like this to be a strong symbol of the value, dedication, and patriotism to the Veterans that have served and are still missing.

Mr. Suchovsky offered the town a POW/MIA flag to fly at the DAR Park.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to accept the POW/MIA flag to fly at the DAR Park. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

Selectman McGeough explained the improvements at the DAR Park including the granite pillars with the names and the dates of some of the wars inscribed on them. Mr. McGuigan passed out pictures of what other towns have done to honor the POW/MIAs. Executive Secretary Joyce Blanchard offered to pay for the chair that will be dedicated in the Epping Town Hall to the POW/MIAs as her father was a POW. Town Administrator spoke in favor of having the chair in the Town Hall as more people will see it and it can be taken care of.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to accept the offer of Joyce Blanchard paying for the POW/MIAs Chair keeping the line of communication opened to find a designated spot in the Town Hall. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge has a quote of \$18,000 for the air conditioning of the upstairs auditorium, ETV, Recreation Office, Assessing and TA office. There was only one bid.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced that the Town Hall will be closed on Friday, July 3rd along with the Transfer Station being closed on July 4th.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge publicized the chairs that are for sale for a \$1.00. The wooden bottom has Epping stamped on it with a metal frame. There are some other aluminum chairs for sale also.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge presented a Rental of Town Facilities from Jeff Harris. There will be a Republican Forum to be held in the upstairs auditorium on July 29, 2PM-4PM.

Motion by Selectman Yergeau to approve the Rental of Town Facilities from Jeff Harris for the GOP meeting upstairs on July 29th, 2-4 PM. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 3-0.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge reminded the Board of Selectmen that the Rockingham County Commissioners have invited them to the Hilton Auditorium in Brentwood on July 16th at 6PM to discuss Dispatch Services. Mr. Dodge will be attending but needs to know who on the board would like to go.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge reported that the Police Department has another vehicle that he would like to receive sealed bids for. The car is a 2009 Dodge Charger with 124,000 miles and does not run.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the bid process for the 2009 Dodge Charger with 124,000 miles and does not run. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Dwyer

Excused

Selectman McGeough

Selectman McGeough asked for a Watson Academy update. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge informed the Board of Selectmen that work is on the way. There was a problem with the cement floor cracking. All the waivers from UNH and the students have been completed. Mr. Goodspeed will attend the next meeting for his update. Selectman Dwyer will be meeting with the building committee on Wednesday at 8:30 AM.

Selectman Jordan

No Report

Selectman Yergeau

No Report

Selectman Gauthier

Excused

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION R.S.A. 91-A:3 II (e) legal/litigation.

Chairman Gauthier and Selectman Dwyer attended the Non-Public Session.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to enter into Non-Public Session in accordance with R.S.A. 91-A:3 II (e) legal with the intent to adjourn immediately thereafter. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 5-0. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to seal the non-public minutes (legal) of June 22, 2015. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURN

Chairman Gauthier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Thomas Gauthier, Chairman

Mike Yergeau, Selectman

James P. McGeough, Selectman

Bob Jordan

Tom Dwyer

Date _____