

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
January 12, 2016**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gauthier called the public session to order at 7 PM at the Epping Town Hall.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

BUSINESS

WARRANT ARTICLES

Article 19: NEW POLICE OFFICER POSITION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Two Thousand, Seven Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$42,795.00) for the purpose of hiring an additional police officer position within the Police Department. The said amount to be used to fund the position for a six month period.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to add Article 19, New Police officer Position to the Town Warrants. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to recommend the Article 19, New Police Office Position. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 20: HIGHWAY TRUCK LEASE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Five (5) Year Lease/Purchase Agreement for One Hundred Thirty Thousand, Five Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$130,595.00) for the purpose of leasing and equipping one (1) 6 wheeled dump truck with sander, front and wing plows; and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Eight Thousand, One Hundred Eighty One Dollars (\$28,181.00) for the first years lease payment. This lease agreement will contain a non-appropriation clause.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to add Article 20, Highway Truck Lease to the Town Warrants. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend the Article 20, Highway Truck Lease. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion did not carry 2-2. Chairman Gauthier and Selectman McGeough voted nay.

Article 21: BY PETITION: DISCONTINUE PORTIONS 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 Lane 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 Jordan to not recommend the Petition Article 21, to Discontinue Portions of New Lane. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0 not to recommend.

Article 22: BY PETITION: NEW HAMPSHRE RESOLUTION TO GET BIG MONEY OUT OF POLITICS

By petition of 25 or more voters the Town of Epping, NH, to see if the Town will urge: That the next President and Congress fight big money politics and restore government of, by, and for the people by championing the We the People agenda:

1. Ban Super PAC's and overturn Citizens United
2. Expose secret donors and require full transparency
3. Ban bribes from big-money lobbyists and government contractors
4. Establish small-donor, citizen-funded elections
5. End gerrymandering and modernize voter registration
6. Close loopholes and enforce campaign finance laws

That the New Hampshire State Legislature support concrete legislation to enact the We the People agenda. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Selectmen to the NH Congressional Delegation and to New Hampshire's State Legislators, and the President of the United States informing them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.

Majority Vote Required.

No Comment by the Board of Selectmen

Article 23: 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. Chairman Gauthier commented that this is the same as last year.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend Petition Article 23, Lamprey Health Care Senior Transportation Program. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

2016 BUDGET

Chairman Gauthier attended last week's budget committee meeting where the Committee voted that the Board of Selectmen cut approximately \$160,000 from the proposed 2016 budget. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge along with Finance Director Lisa Fogg submitted a list of suggested areas in which to make the cuts and put the following recommendations forward they are;

- IT Department – Hardware Upgrades -\$1,100.00
- Safety Facility – FD2 Maintenance -\$14,000.00
- Police Department – Health Insurance -\$2,000.00
- Fire Department – Training -\$3,000.00
- Fire Department – Equipment -\$6,000.00
- Highway Department – Road Reconstruction -\$40,000.

The Total decreases equal \$108,895.00. This brings the General Fund Proposed Budget to \$5,914,000.00 with a \$130,535.00 or a 2.26% increase.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained that the Budget Committee understood the proposed budget to be increased by 6.6% but it was actually a 4.1 increase. Mr. Dodge clarified the Budget Committee's motion to have no more than a 3% increase in the Town Budget. Discussion continued with Chairman of the Budget Committee Adam Mungia and Vice Chairman Heather Clark regarding the budget, and the default budget. Given the vote of the Budget Committee the proposed cuts were greater than the 3% voted by the Committee. Mr. Dodge said that we (the Town) should have clarified the actual proposed increase since that was the percentage used to suggest the recommended cut.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to increase the default budget by \$12,000 for the Watson Academy with a total of \$7,270,768. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend the operating budget of \$7,489,529 and the new default budget of \$7,270,768. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion not voted on.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to amend the default budget and add the \$16,750 for the cemetery having the total of \$7,287,518. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 7: 2016 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 appropriation 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, Four Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand, Five Hundred Twenty Nine Dollars (\$7,489,529.00). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Seven Million, Two Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand, Five Hundred eighteen Dollars (7,287,518.00), 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 operation budget only.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend Article 7, 2016 Operating Budget. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0

RECREATION

Recreation Director Nicole Bizzaro reported that the checklist at Watson Academy has been finalized. The Certificate of Occupancy should be ready by tomorrow. Ms. Bizzaro would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony on January 23rd. Chairman Gauthier requested having he ribbon cutting on a weeknight. The Watson Academy Open House Ribbon cutting ceremony will be on January 25th, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM.

ADJOURN

Selectman Dwyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Tom Gauthier, Selectman

Tom Dwyer, Selectman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

James P. McGeough, Selectman

Date _____