

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

**May 16, 2016**



**ATTENDANCE**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Public Hearing opened with Chairman Gauthier reading the Legal Notice regarding the possibility of sidewalks. Mr. Gauthier asked the abutters to state their name; Tracy Dustin, Tammy Rogers, Tom O'Day, Raymond Mitrano, Joyce Blanchard and Grace Lavoie.

Public Works Director Dennis Koch and Road Supervisor David Reinhold presented the sidewalk project that was designed by UNH students. Last year Elm Street was on the list to be paved. The Board of Selectmen decided to have Elm Street surveyed in case sidewalks were added to the project. North Main Street was added to the survey. The maps of the sidewalks from Route 125 to Main Street were reviewed. The price for grinding and resurfacing Elm Street is \$166,234; with sidewalks using asphalt for curbing is \$214,319.50 and with granite curbing would be \$255,621.

Chairman Gauthier opened the meeting to the public. Abutters Ray Mitrano, 25 Elm Street wondered why we need sidewalks when the sewer system needs to be fixed. He explained that his sewer has backed up twice. He would also like to see the drainage issue addressed. If the sidewalks are voted in, use the granite for curbing and build them right the first time. Tom O'Day is in favor of the sidewalks on Main Street and in the school zone. He is concerned with the trees that need to be taken down and how much land will be taken. Mr. O'Day also agrees with the granite curbing. Joyce Blanchard, 26 Elm Street (also the Executive Secretary) thinks that there are other things that need to be worked on in Epping and the sidewalks are not high priority. Bob Sunderland from Epping Woods Road doesn't think the town has money to waste on sidewalks. Most kids get picked up at school or take the bus. There is so much in this town that needs to be done. Prescott Road needs a lot of work. Selectman Jordan explained that work on Prescott Road can't be done until the building at the orchards is complete. Anita Sunderland from Epping Woods Road agreed that there are other roads that need to be touched up. The sidewalks are in a small part of town and everyone uses the roads. Money needs to be spent wisely.

Chairman Gauthier closed the hearing to the public.

Discussion among the Board of Selectmen continued regarding the sidewalks. Selectman Jordan would like to see the sidewalks installed as the over 50 community can use the sidewalks as a safe place to walk. He also

stated that the sidewalks will interlink with the sidewalks to Walmart and Lowes. Those are popular areas that need to be linked. Selectman Dwyer is a proponent of the sidewalks and he asked for the study to be done. Elm Street sidewalks need to be built for pedestrians as there is no delineation for walkers. Walkers should be safer on sidewalks. Mr. Dwyer explained that money for this project was funded last year. The Town should do their due diligence in this regard. Chairman Gauthier doesn't understand why sidewalks on Elm Street starting at Route 125 is necessary, no one is going to cross Route 125. He is concerned about the "Old Goodrich" home and damaging their wall. A lot of trees will need to be taken down along Kathryn Williams's property. Taking down Paul Ladd's stonewall, parking on the road, blocking sidewalks while parking and taking 1/2 of residents lawns were some of his concerns. Selectman Dwyer voiced his disagreement to all these issues. Selectmen Yergeau doesn't want to build sidewalks unless the water and sewer pipes are updated. The inter-structure is all aged. Selectman McGeough wanted to know why this wasn't a warrant article. Selectman Dwyer explained that the money is in the road budget. Other comments and opinions were shared. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge commented that this might not be the time to build sidewalks.

**Motion by Chairman Gauthier to repair and reconstruct Elm Street at \$166,234 along with the drains for \$22,000. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to add a sidewalk to Elm and Main Street as presented for \$\$255,621 with the granite curbing. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer.**

**Motion by Selectman McGeough to postpone the talks of sidewalks and put it in as a warrant article. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion taken off the table.**

**Original motion voted on. Motion failed 2-3. Chairman Gauthier, Selectmen Yergeau and McGeough voted nay.**

## **NEW WELL PROJECT**

As the town wells are low in water, permission from the state to have the 2 new wells on line has been given. A filter system for arsenic is being looked into. Relief on the Hoar Pond wells should be seen soon.

Public Works Director Dennis Koch explained the agreement with Route 125 & 101 Investments, LLC. Mr. Koch is asking the Board of Selectmen to let Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge sign the agreement on their behalf. There is a need to release the discharge into the sewer line as backwash for the new wells. The developer has offered to pay the cost to install the sewer pipes and a pump station. When a building/business is constructed, the Water and Sewer Department will take over the pump station and offset the cost with future credits. There will be a backup generator for the pump station. The pump station is a 10x10 cabinet that will be fenced in.

**Motion by Selectman Jordan to have Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge sign the agreement on the Board of Selectmen's behalf and have Water and Sewer take ownership. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Works Director Dennis Koch clarified the comments on social media regarding the ballfields, stadium and motel in Brentwood. There has been some discussion with the Water and Sewer Commission. Many studies have to be done by the contractor before anything is final. There would need to be an agreement in place to share utilities. Discussion regarding wells, water production and sewer capacity continued.

**ADJOURN**

**Selectman Jordan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 5-0.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joyce Blanchard  
Executive Secretary**

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**Tom Gauthier, Selectman**

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**James P. McGeough, Selectman**

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**Mike Yergeau, Selectman**

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**Tom Dwyer, Selectman**

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**Bob Jordan, Selectman**

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