

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
January 19, 2016**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gauthier called the public session to order at 6:30 PM at the Epping Town Hall.

ADJOURN TO NON-PUBLIC 91:A:3 II. (b)(e) hiring; litigation

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

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 4th, 2016 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to accept the minutes of January 4th, 2016. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 3-0. Selectman Yergeau and McGeough abstained.

Minutes from January 12th, 2016 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to accept the minutes of January 12th, 2016. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0. Selectman Yergeau abstained.

SIGNING OF PAYROLL MANIFEST

Payroll manifest for pay period ending 1/14/2016 in the amount of \$95,940.95 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the payroll manifest for pay period ending 1/14/2016 in the amount of \$95,940.95. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

SIGNING OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST

Accounts payable manifest for week ending 1/15/2016 at \$1,015,413.53; \$800,000 for the school, \$136,000 for the loader and \$79,413.53 for the town was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest for week ending 1/15/2016 at 1,015,413.53. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

BUSINESS

RECREATION

Request for approval to hire Marcella Francoeur as Lead Staff in the After School Program at \$10.00 an hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the hiring of Marcella Francoeur as Lead Staff in the After School Program at \$10.00 an hour pending the background check. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

Request for approval to hire Marc Nickerson as Loader Operator for snow removal at \$25.00 an hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the hiring of Marc Nickerson as Loader Operator for snow removal at \$25.00 an hour. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

2016 FINAL WARRANT ARTICLES

The 2016 Warrant Articles were presented for final approval. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained the wording change in Article 6 concerning the library addition. Due to the Budget Committee not recommending the Warrant Article that includes a bond this sentence was added, "Passage of this article shall override the 10 percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the budget committee".

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend Article 6 as written. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 3-2. Selectman Selectman Yergeau and McGeough voted nay.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge discussed Article 20 that will be a Petition Article.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to submit the 2016 Warrant Articles as written and sign for approval. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

CANDIDATES NIGHT

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend that Candidates Night be held on Wednesday February 24th at 7 PM after the date is verified with the moderator. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0. Candidates Night will be held upstairs at the Town Hall.

COMSTAR WRITE-OFF DISCUSSION

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge and Finance Director Lisa Fogg suggested that they review the Comstar Write-offs and report their findings to the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Gauthier disagreed and thinks that the Board of Selectmen should continue to review the reports.

TAX DEFERRAL

Elderly and Disabled Tax Deferral application for Joyce Coffey at 64 Mast Road, Map and Lot 031-015 was submitted for approval. MRI provided documentation showing that the property owner must be a resident "living in the home" to receive this benefit.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to deny the Elderly and Disabled Tax Deferral application for Joyce Coffey. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

DRA SALES RATIO ANALYSIS

The Department of Revenue Administration's provided an analysis of sale data. The state found that for the 2015 tax year, the town's overall assessment to sale price median ratio is 94.3%.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to accept the Department of Revenue Administration's sale price ratio of 94.3%. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 5-0.

ABATEMENTS

Abatement for Wilma Yowell, 38 Lamprey Village Drive, map and lot 029-075 in the amount of \$3,112.80 was submitted for approval. The Elderly Exemption was not applied in the assessing system.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the abatement for Wilma Yowell, 38 Lamprey Village Drive, map and lot 029-075 in the amount of \$3,112.80. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

Abatement recommendation from MRI regarding the 2013 appeal to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals on the property belonging to Robert Webber at 176 Exeter Road, Map and Lot 038-009 was discussed.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the abatement recommendation of \$11,285.55 without any statutory interest. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve Chairman Gauthier signing the abatement recommendation agreement letter on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

VETERAN'S CREDIT

Veteran's Credit for Christopher Walters, map and lot 016-043 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Veteran's Credit for Christopher Walters, map and lot 016-043. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 5-0.

PO - ETV

Purchase order for equipment from Access A/V to upgrade recording in the small meeting room and improve taping in the amount of \$25,068.95 was submitted for approval. Discussion regarding the upgrade, equipment and relocating the robotic camera to a tripod transpired with ETV Coordinator Glen Fredericks. Chairman Gauthier would like to see the robotic camera stay mounted on the wall using the wireless camcorder for those purposes mentioned instead. The purchase order would be reduced by \$800.00 to take out the tripod.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the purchase order for \$24,268.95 to Access A/V for the purpose of upgrading the recording in the small meeting room. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

ETV Coordinator Glen Fredericks replied to an audio issue. They are always working to make it better. He will update the inventory list and make sure Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge receives a copy. The picture quality that is seen at home as distorted is controlled by Comcast. He will call them again to update the signal that is lost between them and our equipment.

CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge presented a purchase order from Granite State Minerals for 500 tons of rock salt for the roads in the amount of \$25,865.00.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the purchase order to Granite State Minerals for 500 tons of rock salt for the roads in the amount of \$25,865.00. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 5-0.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge reminded the Board of Selectmen and the residents at home that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Watson Academy will be January 25 at 6:30. Open house with refreshments from the Senior Group will be after that until 8 PM.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced that the filing period for town positions opened today and will remain open until January 29th at 5PM.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman McGeough

No Report

Selectman Yergeau

No Report

Selectman Jordan

No Report

Selectman Dwyer

No Report

Selectman Gauthier

Selectman Gauthier announced that the Deliberative Session will be at the Town Hall on Feb 2nd at 7PM. More chairs will be needed.

ADJOURN

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Tom Gauthier, Selectman

James P. McGeough, Selectman

Mike Yergeau, Selectman

Tom Dwyer, Selectman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

Date _____