

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

July 18, 2016



ATTENDANCE

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

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

MINUTES

Minutes from July 5, 2016 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Minutes from July 5, 2016. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

SIGNING OF PAYROLL MANIFEST

Payroll manifest for pay period ending 7/14/2016 in the amount of \$101,223.72 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the payroll manifest for pay period ending 7/14/2016 in the amount of \$101,223.72.60. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

SIGNING OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST

Accounts payable manifest for week ending 7/15/2016 in the amount of \$1,181,214.79; \$1,000,000 for school, \$114,639.73 Wolcott Paving and \$66,575.06 for the town was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest for week ending 7/15/2016 at 1,181,214.79. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

BUSINESS

DPW

Purchase Order to Cen-Com for video surveillance at the Transfer Station in the amount of \$996.20 for 2 month lease amount with a 36 month lease option was submitted for approval. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained that due to illegal dumping and to safeguard the town's property there is a need for

cameras on both sides of the Transfer Station right now. This can be in the budget next year as a purchase or continue as a lease.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the purchase order to Cen-Com for a video surveillance system at the Transfer Station in the amount of \$996.20 for a 2 month lease amount with a 36 month lease option. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

FIRE

Request for approval to hire David Devenish as a Firefighter at \$7.25 an hour, Samantha Larrabee as a Firefighter/AEMT at \$7.25 an hour and Zach Marcoux as a Firefighter at \$7.25 an hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to hire David Devenish as a Firefighter at \$7.25 an hour, Samantha Larrabee as a Firefighter/AEMT at \$7.25 an hour and Zach Marcoux as a Firefighter at \$7.25 an hour pending background checks. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

Fire Chief Don DeAngelis announced that lighting struck a house on Sydney Lane. Mutual Aid from surrounding towns arrived to assist with the fire. The family will have to live somewhere else for a time but the family is OK. An Epping Firefighter was burned on the leg but will be fine.

FINANCE

Request to write off the 2014 Spring Recreation Program balance owed of \$814.67 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the write off of the 2014 Spring Recreation Program balance owed of \$814.67. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

RECREATION

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Summer Grant to an Epping Child for one week of Summer Camp. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation on behalf of the Adam McPhee Memorial Foundation has offered to donate \$1,000 to the Recreation Program. The intent is to send 2 Children to 3 weeks of camp with the remaining money to go into the Recreation Financial Assistance account. The Board of Selectman need to accept the donation for these purposes.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to accept \$1,000 from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation on behalf of the Adam McPhee Memorial Foundation to send 2 Children to 3 weeks of camp with the remaining money to go into the Recreation Financial Assistance account. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

CHARITABLE & RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS

2016 Annual Charitable and Religious Exemptions were submitted for approval. There are 12 of them; Epping Historical Society, Post 51, One Sky Community, Rockingham Grange, Sullivan Lodge, Society of

Friends, Catholic Church, Providence Baptist Church, Amethyst House, Camp Hedding, Epping Bible Church and the Community Church.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the 2016 Annual Charitable and Religious Exemptions as read; Epping Historical Society Post 51, One Sky Community, Rockingham Grange, Sullivan Lodge, Society of Friends, Catholic Church, Providence Baptist Church, Amethyst House, Camp Hedding, Epping Bible Church and the Community Church. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

7:15 Public Hearing - Mud Run

Chairman Gauthier read the Public Hearing posting.

New England Dragway manager Joe Lombardo explained that this event is geared towards women and called Mudderella. This will be a longer run than normal so NE Dragway is closing the dragway for Friday and Saturday to set up for the race. Seth Simonian from the High Hopes Foundation is holding the liquor and will be on the premise the whole day. There will be professional bar tenders along with Epping Police in the tent. One drink will be free to those that enter with permission to purchase more.

Chairman Gauthier opened the Public Hearing. As there were not any comments from the audience, the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the exception to the Epping Bylaws concerning the sale of alcohol on July 30th at the Mudderella. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

ABATEMENT

2015 Abatement for Carrie Lowell on 29 Towle Road, Map and Lot 010-035 was submitted for approval. The abatement was retracted by the owner, no action needs to be taken on this abatement.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to take no action on the abatement for Carrie Lowell on 29 Towle Road, Map and Lot 010-035. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

2015 Abatement for Donald and Sharon Dickinson on 57 Leddy Drive, Map and Lot 036-015-001-030 was submitted for approval. Due to the building size and assessment being overstated, the assessor suggests this abatement be approved in the amount of \$440.98.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the \$440.98 abatement for Donald and Sharon Dickinson on 57 Leddy Drive, Map and Lot 036-015-001-030. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

2015 Abatement for West Epping Water Company, on Blake Road, Map and Lot 20-055 was submitted for approval. Due to a reduction already being applied and the property in litigation, the assessor suggested this abatement be denied. 2015 Abatement for Michael Sordillo on 2 Riverview Court, Map and Lot 27-76 was submitted for approval. Due to property records appearing to be correct and unable to reach the owners, the assessor suggested this abatement be denied.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to deny the abatement for West Epping Water Company, on Blake Road, Map and Lot 20-055 and to deny the abatement for Michael Sordillo, 2 Riverview Court, Map and Lot 27-76. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

7:30 APPOINTMENT – Tucker Nichols

Mr. and Mrs. Nichols on 121 Blake Road, Map and Lot 020-026-001 requested a variance to widen the opening of their driveway to the width of 35 feet. The extra width is needed for the tractor trailer Mr. Nichols drives to back into the driveway and off the road.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the variance for Mr. and Mrs. Nichols on 121 Blake Road, Map and Lot 020-026-001 to widen their driveway to 35 feet. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

TAX DEED

Chairman Gauthier read the 6 properties that the Town is taking by deed from taxes not being paid; Owner is Birch Road Realty Trust, Map and Lot 039-012 on Birch Road, Blackbriar Woods, LLC, Map and Lot 027-137-040 on Colt Lane, Buckingham Farms, Map and Lot 027-137 on Route 27, Constance Distefano, Map and Lot 034-037 on Witham Road, Holly Twombly, Map and Lot 023-047 on Epping Woods Road and Franz and Donna Summers, Map and Lot 020-002 on 22 Old Cart Path. These deeds will not be recorded until July 22. These owners have until July 22 at 4PM to make a tax payment in full.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the 6 properties that the Town is taking by deed from taxes not being paid; Owners are Birch Road Realty Trust, Map and Lot 039-012 on Birch Road, Blackbriar Woods, LLC, Map and Lot 027-137-040 on Colt Lane, Buckingham Farms, Map and Lot 027-137 on Route 27, Constance Distefano, Map and Lot 034-037 on Witham Road, Holly Twombly, Map and Lot 023-047 on Epping Woods Road and Franz and Donna Summers, Map and Lot 020-002 on 22 Old Cart Path. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

SELECTMAN VACANCY

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained RSA 669:63 and the Selectman's vacancy. Mr. Dodge requested the Board of Selectmen's guidance on filling the vacancy. Chairman Gauthier suggested accepting letters of interest until Friday at 4PM. On Monday if more than one letter arrives the Board will have a posted meeting to review the letters. At the meeting on August 1st a Selectman will be appointed and sit on the board for that meeting.

Motion by Chairman Gauthier to accept letters of interest for the vacancy on the Board of Selectmen until Friday. A meeting will be scheduled for next Monday if needed to review the letters. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained that with the tax deeding as of July 22, there is an inspection process that has a 30 day requirement. Those letters will be sent out as well. Tax deed waivers will be completed at the next meeting.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge discussed the problem with temporary dump passes for the Transfer Station and issuing yearly dump passes.

Motion by Selectman Jordn to charge \$5.00 for the annual Transfer Station stickers and \$5.00 for provisional temporary cards. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge has not had any feedback from the gentleman from Go Solar.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced that the fire truck was damaged during a Mutual Aid call in Newton. They will need to have them fix it.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge described the Recreation Bus having \$15,000 worth of damage. Selectman Jordan has talked to the Recreation Director Nicole Bizzaro regarding repairing the bus. It will be so costly to repair the bus it might be best to buy another one. There will be more to report as more information is given regarding a purchase.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge congratulated Fire Chief Donald DeAngelis for being highlighted in the New Hampshire Town and City, Up Close and Personal section.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge publicized the August 10th Windham Concert Band event. The 275th Birthday Committee has scheduled the concert outdoors at the Epping Legion starting at 7 PM. Please bring your own chairs. The last meeting for organizing the Birthday is this Tuesday, the 19th at 7 PM.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Yergeau

No Report

Selectman Jordan

Selectman Jordan offered to anyone wanting to donate to the James McGeough Memorial Fund to please drop off a check in the Selectmen's Office.

Selectman Jordan described the ambulance repair issue. Hopefully it will be in full service by next Wednesday.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained a letter sent by Cheryl Kilham from Raymond regarding Ham Road. She has requested painted stripes on the Epping side of Ham Road to connect to the Raymond line.

Motion by Chairman Gauthier to have a single stripe painted on Ham Road from Route 27 to the Raymond line. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

Selectman Dwyer

Excused

Selectman Gauthier

No report

SCHOOL SNOW PLOWING DISCUSSION

School Superintendent Val McKinney discussed the school snow plowing arrangement the school has with the town with Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge. Mrs. McKinney is thinking of going out to bid. Last year there was only 2 storms and \$40,000 was a lot for that. Chairman Gauthier commented that the cost was to offset the hiring of an additional employee to be free for plowing. The parking lots were sanded several times also. Selectman Jordan had a conversation with Mrs. McKinney regarding the process, prorating for storms and the budget. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge will contact Mrs. McKinney and talk to DPW then come back to the board with more information.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge is waiting for a full board of Selectmen to determine if there is any interest in pursuing the Recreation Center/Safety Center/Gym. If there is any interest in having one more joint meeting.

AUDIENCE

Walter Manter from Dearborn Road wondered what and how they plowed the schools years ago?

Chairman Gauthier mentioned that he received a phone call from a resident regarding New Lane being paved. Paving over New Lane to Apple Way was approved 5 years ago.

ADJOURN

Selectman Jordan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Tom Gauthier, Selectman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

Mike Yergeau, Selectman

Date _____