

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
January 10, 2017**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gauthier called the public session to order at 7:05 PM at the Epping Town Hall.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

BUSINESS

Article 19: BY PETITION: ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY ACTION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand, Three Hundred Dollars (\$11,300.00) for the purpose of funding Rockingham Community Action for its work in providing fuel, utility, food, homeless and housing assistance, budgeting education and support to Epping residents in crises to move them toward self-sufficiency. **[Recommended by Board of Selectmen]**

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee]

Majority Vote Required

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend Article 19. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 20: BY PETITION: ROCKINGHAM NUTRITION & MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to enable Rockingham Nutrition & Meals on Wheels Program to continue to provide the meal service to elder, homebound and disabled Epping residents.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee]

Majority Vote Required

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend Article 20. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 21: 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.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen]
[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee]
Majority Vote Required

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend Article 21. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 22: BY PETITION: RICHIE MCFARLAND CHILDREN’S CENTER

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$6,600.00) for the Richie McFarland Children’s Center’s early intervention program that serves children from birth to three years of age and their families. This investment will support the cost of providing early childhood special education, pediatric therapies and family support services to Epping residents. RMCC is requesting level funding from the Town which helps support 5% of the annual cost of weekly home-based therapies.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen]
[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee]
Majority Vote Required

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend Article 22. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

Form MS-60A for the DRA explaining Roberts & Greene, PLLC is the accountant for the Town of Epping was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the form MS-60A giving permission to Chairman Gauthier to sign the form. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 23: NEW SAFETY FACILITY PHONE SYSTEM

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 Thirteen Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty Five Dollars (\$113,985.00) for the purpose of leasing a replacement phone system for the Safety Facility and to add new phones to the Emergency Operations Center and to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty One Thousand, Five Hundred Sixty Nine Dollars (\$31,569.00) for the first years lease payment. This new updated phone system will bring the police, fire and the emergency operations center in line with current technological capabilities.

[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen]
[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee]
Majority Vote Required

Police Chief Michael Wallace explained the need to replace the phones at the Police and Fire Station. The phone system is not current with technology and some items cannot be repaired. Chief Wallace discussed the

upgrades and the reasons for so many phones. Discussion continued regarding the price and lack of bids for the new phone system.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend Article 23. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 3-1. Chairman Gauthier voting not to recommend.

Article 24: BY PETITION: MAIN STREET SIDEWALKS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety One Thousand Dollars (\$91,000.00) to add sidewalks on Main Street from where they end at the elementary school driveway to the intersection of North River & Main & Plummer intersection.

[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee]

Majority Vote Required

Selectman Dwyer is the Petitioner and explained where the sidewalk would be built. Selectman Dwyer would like to create an atmosphere to walk around town. Sidewalks don't take away from the road size but tells people where to walk. He believes there is a lot of support for sidewalks in town and would like to ask the voters if they want sidewalks. Discussion continued regarding the pricing.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend Article 24. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion failed 1-3. Chairman Gauthier, Selectman Yergeau and McGeough voting not to recommend.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge asked the Board of Selectmen if they wanted to hold the Deliberative Session here at the Town Hall? All agreed that it should be held here. Mr. Dodge will ask the school to borrow some chairs.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge requested permission to go forward with obtaining a new web site. The present web site is not user friendly and is unattractive. We can use ETV funds as long as we link ETV productions to the site.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to move forward with a new web site for the Town of Epping. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained the \$700 interest fee from the new fuel program with WEX. Mr. Dodge has called and the interest fee will be waived but moving forward the payment policy with WEX will not be changed. Finance Director Lisa Fogg will make an ACH payment and it will show on the manifest.

Chairman Gauthier asked that the filing period for town elections be posted on the sign out front.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced the Public Hearing, at the Town Hall on Wednesday at 6PM.

ADJOURN

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Tom Gauthier, Selectman

Susan McGeough, Selectman

Michael Yergeau, Selectman

Tom Dwyer, Selectman

Date _____