

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
March 13, 2017**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ENTER IN TO NON-PUBLIC 91:A:3 II. (b)(2) Hiring

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to enter in to Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 3-0. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously. Selectmen Yergeau and Jordan arrived late.

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

PUBLIC SESSION

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 the February 27, 2017 Selectmen's meeting was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to accept the minutes of February 27, 2017. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

PAYROLL MANIFEST

Payroll manifest for pay period ending 3/9/2017 in the amount of \$97,080.45 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the payroll manifest for pay period ending 3/9/2017 in the amount \$97,080.45. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST

Accounts payable manifest for week ending 3/10/2017 at \$104,601.31; \$10,242.08 for the WEX Bank and \$94,359.23 for the town was submitted.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the accounts payable manifest for period ending 3/10/2017 in the amount \$104,601.31. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

BUSINESS

POLICE

Purchase Order to Adamson Industries to equip the 2013 Explorer in the amount of \$4,604.45 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the purchase order to Adamson Industries to equip the 2013 Explorer in the amount of \$4,604.45. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief Michael Wallace requested a promotion of Stephen Soares to a Full Time Sergeant as of April 1, 2017 at \$33.84 per hour. A written test and oral board interview was part of the testing process.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the promotion of Stephen Soares to a Full Time Sergeant as of April 1, 2017 at \$33.84 per hour. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

FIRE

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve all the Fire Department hires together in one motion.

Request for approval to hire Laurie Borgella, Joe Lombardo and Madison Johnson as Part Time EMT's at \$7.25 an hour and Donald Tilbe Jr. as a Per Diem Firefighter/EMT at \$13.00 an hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the hiring of Laurie Borgella, Joe Lombardo and Madison Johnson as Part Time EMT's at \$7.25 an hour and Donald Tilbe Jr. as a Per Diem Firefighter/EMT at \$13.00 an hour pending background checks. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

Fire Chief Donald DeAngelis updated the board with the number of calls this past year; 40% of the calls were for the Fire Department and 60% were ambulance calls. There were 20 structure fires with 3 buildings lost.

RECREATION

Request for approval to hire Amy Chase as a Lead Staff Before and After School Program at \$10.00 an hour and Connor Lawton as a Jr. Counselor for the After School Program at \$8.00 an hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the hiring of Amy Chase as a Lead Staff Before and After School Program at \$10.00 an hour and Connor Lawton as a Jr. Counselor for the After School Program at \$8.00 an hour. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 5-0.

CELL PHONE POLICY

The cell phone policy has been discussed and reviewed by the Board of Selectmen.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the cell phone policy. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Selectman Dwyer asked for the history of the policy and why this needs to be in effect. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained that at present 8 people are getting a reimbursement from the town and using their own phone. Department heads will decide which personnel needs a town cell phone with the Selectmen having the final decision. **Motion carried 5-0.**

ABATEMENT

Tax abatement for Steven Gagnon on French Road, Map and Lot 002-002 in the amount of \$835.27 was submitted for approval. This abatement is due to a stream dissecting the property and the shape of the lot being irregular.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the tax abatement for Steven Gagnon on French Road, Map and Lot 002-002 in the amount of \$835.27. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 5-0.

VETERAN CREDITS

Veteran Credits for Allen Laughlin at map and lot 014-010-011, Joseph Lombardo at map and lot 028-045-003, Benjamin Keeler at map and lot 030-015 and Brian Novak at map and lot 021-019-003 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the Veteran Credits Allen Laughlin at map and lot 014-010-011, Joseph Lombardo at map and lot 028-045-003, Benjamin Keeler at map and lot 030-015 and Brian Novak at map and lot 021-019-003. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

INTENT TO CUT

Intent to Cut for Camp Hedding off of Route 27, Map and Lot 024-026 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the Intent to Cut for Camp Hedding off of Route 27, Map and Lot 024-026. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

TIMBER TAX

Timber Tax for Willard McPhee on Prescott Road, map and lot 021-029 in the amount of \$985.04 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to approve the Timber Tax for Willard McPhee on Prescott Road, map and lot 021-029 in the amount of \$985.04. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION

2017 Rockingham Planning Commission Appointment for Planner Brittany Howard and DPW Dennis Koch was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to approve the Appointment for Planner Brittany Howard and DPW Dennis Koch to the Rockingham Planning Commission having Chairman Gauthier sign on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained the storm debate between the Secretary of State and the Attorney General's office. There is no provision to say "not to hold voting", so the Town of Epping will be voting, the polls will be open 8am-7pm at the Middle High School Gym.. The Governor is encouraging towns to hold voting. Many absentee ballots were handed out today. Mr. Dodge did suggest to vote early as the storm is to worsen in the afternoon.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge asked the Board of Selectmen for guidance whether to close the Town Hall. Staff was told they could stay home and use their own time. Chairman Gauthier thinks the Town Hall should remain open to help with phone inquiries.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge thanked Selectman Susan McGeough for filling in on the board at a difficult time. He has worked with her for years on various boards and is sad to see her leave the Board of Selectmen. Good Luck on the Planning Board.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Dwyer

Selectman Dwyer asked who will be here at the Town Hall as there will be a skeleton crew. The Clerk's Office will be open. Selectman Dwyer will be working at the polls all day. Selectman McGeough will be there to open the polls, Chairman Gauthier and Selectman Jordan will be there as soon as possible in the afternoon and to close the polls.

Chairman Gauthier stated he thinks Epping is doing the right thing by holding the elections. The School used their phone tree to spread the word the voting will be open. Selectman Yergeau explained the state does not have an emergency plan in place with provisions for closing a polling place.

Selectman Dwyer wanted the public to know that all hires are reviewed in non-public before they are accepted for hire. There is a process in place for review.

Selectman Dwyer thanked Selectman McGeough as it was a pleasure working with you as well as working with Jim.

Selectman Jordan

Selectman Jordan said it was an honor serving with Selectman McGeough and thanked her for honoring Jim's memory, thank you for your service.

Selectman Jordan thanked Selectman Yergeau for his service and wished him luck at the polls.

Selectman Yergeau

Selectman Yergeau thanked Selectman McGeough for stepping up and serving on the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Yergeau suggested that voters try to vote in the AM before the storm gets too bad.

Selectman McGeough

Selectman McGeough has enjoyed working with the Board and the staff at the Town Hall. She is proud to finish what Jim had wanted her to do.

Selectman Gauthier

Chairman Gauthier stated it was a privilege to work with Jim and Susan over the years and presented Selectman McGeough with flowers as a thank you.

ADJOURN

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Tom Gauthier, Chairman

Tom Dwyer, Selectman

Susan McGeough, Selectman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

Michael Yergeau, Selectman

Date _____