

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
January 9, 2018**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

BUSINESS

WARRANT ARTICLES – FINAL REVIEW

Article 6: LIBRARY ADDITION

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) for the purpose of the construction and original equipping of a 3,500 square foot addition to the existing library building at 151 Main Street and to authorize the issuance of not more than six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000.00) of bonds or notes for up to a fifteen (15) year term in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further, to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. There will be no tax impact in 2018.

[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen]

[Not Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee]

3/5 ballot vote required

A brief discussion regarding the bond payment, tax impact of .09 cents and architectural plans followed.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend the Library Addition warrant article. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

ARTICLE 7: 2018 OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Seven Million, Nine Hundred Six Thousand, Five Hundred Four Dollars (\$7,906,504.00). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Seven Million, Five Hundred Thousand, Seven Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$7,500,714.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee]

Majority Vote Required

The operating budget has \$10,000 added for the MRI contract and the library budget has been reduced by taking out an additional full-time position with benefits.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend the 2018 Operation Budget of \$7,906,504 warrant article. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 20: 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 Jordan to recommend the Rockingham Community Action warrant article. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 21: 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 (RMCC) early intervention program that serves children from birth to three years of age with developmental delays or disabilities, 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 the Richie McFarland Children’s Center warrant article. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

ARTICLE 23: FIRE AND BRICK MUSEUM

To see if the Town of Epping will approve the transformation of the old Main Street Fire Station to be the future site of the Epping Fire and Brick Museum.

[Recommended by Epping Board of Selectmen]

Majority Vote Required

Motion by Selectman Jordan to recommend the Fire and Brick Museum warrant article. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 26: BY PETITION: AMEND BY-LAWS TO THE REGULATION AND LICENSING OF MOTOR VEHICLE RACE TRACKS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the “By-Laws to the Regulation and Licensing of Motor Vehicle Race Tracks” as adopted by Article 20 of the March 1971 Town Meeting and amended by Article 36 of the March 1976 Town Meeting as amended by Article 14 of the March 1977 Town Meeting as amended by Article 15 of the March 1986 Town Meeting as amended by Article 32 of the March 1994 Town Meeting as follows:

Amend Article I of the By-Laws that governs times and dates of operation to strike the October 30 date and replace it with October 31 and to;

Amend Article II of the By-Laws which reads, “Article II No alcoholic beverages of any kind shall be allowed on the race track premises to include general admission area, pit area and seating areas. Any person entering the race track premises shall be subject to search of his person and/or packages for alcoholic beverages. The race track owner and/or operator shall post signs advising of this Article II at each gate entrance used by the general public and at the main car entrance gate. Failure to knowingly comply with the signage requirements of this Article II shall be grounds for the revocation of the race track operational license and/or the imposition of fines in accordance with Article XVII of these Bylaws.”

To read as follows:

New Language – “Article II Only malt beverages, and no other alcoholic beverages, may be sold and consumed in restricted areas on race track property while the race track is open to the public for the purpose of viewing vehicular racing and other events as approved by the Board of Selectmen. No other alcoholic beverages shall be sold, consumed or allowed during such period of public viewing of vehicular racing or other approved events. No malt beverages shall be sold to anyone under the age of twenty-one years, and proper age identification shall be required prior to sale. The race track owner and/or operator, whoever is in direct charge of the race track property, shall post signs advising the public of this section at visible locations within the seating areas and at each entrance gate; said signs shall also state the penalty of violation of this section. Failure of the race track owner and/or operator to comply with this section shall be grounds for the revocation of the license. Any person in possession of alcoholic beverages outside of the restricted area in violation of this section may be summoned and subject to court prosecution as prescribed by law. The alcoholic beverages shall be seized and disposed of in compliance with State statutes, local law or regulations. The “restricted area” for the consumption of malt beverages shall comply with the statutes and all applicable laws and/or regulations of the State of New Hampshire.”

Amend Article XIII regarding overnight lodging, section b to allow recreational vehicles on premises no more than 48 hours prior to a scheduled event. The current language states 24 hours.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen]
Majority Vote Required

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained the changes as being able to sell malt beverage only in a restricted area and overnight lodging no more than 48 hours before an event.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend the amended bylaws to the Regulation and Licensing of Motor Vehicle Race Tracks warrant article. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 27: BY PETITION: CHAMBER CHILDREN’S FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) for the purpose of supporting services provided to residents by the Chamber Children’s Fund (CCF). The CCF raises funds to provide warm clothing and bedding to needy children in the 10 communities served by the Exeter Area Chamber. Since 1989 the CCF has helped thousands of children through clothing vouchers and direct aid through the schools. Epping children have received over \$60,000 in aid since 2009.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee]

Majority Vote Required

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend Chamber Children’s Fund warrant article. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 28: BY PETITION: ONE SKY COMMUNITY SERVICES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$6,800.00) to support One Sky Community Services in their efforts to provide vital support and services to those individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities who reside in the Town of Epping.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee]

Majority Vote Required

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to recommend One Sky Community Services warrant article. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-1. Chairman Gauthier voted nay as they are already tax exempt.

Article 5: WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,936,000 (gross budget) for the purpose of upgrading the wastewater treatment facility in accordance with the schedule submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1, in response to the Order for Compliance issued to the wastewater treatment facility on

June 9, 2016, that will qualify the Town for federal and state funds, and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) in the amount up to \$2,936,000; and further to authorize the Selectmen and the Epping Water and Sewer Commissioners as applicable, to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes, and to determine the interest rate thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to authorize the Selectmen and the Epping Water and Sewer Commissioners as applicable, to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, grants or other funds, if any which may be available for said project that may reduce the amount to be financed with bonds or notes, and to participate in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) RSA 486:14 established for this purpose, and to allow the Selectmen and the Epping Water and Sewer Commissioners as applicable, to expend such monies as they become available; and to authorize the Selectmen and the Epping Water and Sewer Commissioners as applicable, to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. It is anticipated that the Town will receive at least \$150,000 (and expects to receive a total of \$300,000) in principal forgiveness from the State Revolving Fund program. Without impairing the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is the intention of the Town that the bond or note repayment shall be paid for by sewer user rates, with no impact on the tax rate.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee]

3/5 Ballot Vote Required

7:15 PUBLIC HEARING - WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE

Chairman Gauthier read the Public Hearing Notice. DPW Director Dennis Koch explained the need for this upgrade. The DES has given Epping a list of upgrades that have to be taken care of. This upgrade would allow a building with an accurate septic receiving station to be built. Enough revenue would be raised from accepting septic trucks to pay for the bond. In the past an estimate was billed to the Septic Hauling Companies. The other need is purchasing and installing dewatering equipment. This would help by creating less solids for the lagoons. Water and Sewer Commission Michael King and Water and Sewer Operator Jim Pouliot explained the importance of this warrant article regarding DES and EPA involvement, revenue with hopefully no cost to the users.

Chairman Gauthier opened the Public Hearing, as there was not anyone in the audience the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to recommend the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade warrant article. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 4-0.

DPW Director Dennis Koch will be sending out a W&S Department informational pamphlet explaining the warrant article. There is also a 15 informational film being made for Channel 22.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge will have the Warrant to sign at the next meeting on Jan 16, 2018.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced the Public Hearing to be held on Wednesday January 10, 2018 at 6 PM.

ADJOURN

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Tom Gauthier, Chairman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

Michael Yergeau, Selectman

Tom Dwyer, Selectman

Date _____