

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
March 12, 2018**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Gauthier called the public session to order at 6:45 pm at the Epping Town Hall.

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

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to enter in to Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to exit the Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

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 26, 2018 Selectmen's meeting was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to accept the minutes of February 26, 2018. Seconded by Selectman Munguia. Motion carried 4-0.

PAYROLL MANIFEST

Payroll manifest for pay period ending 3/8/2018 in the amount of \$118,856.50 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the payroll manifest for pay period ending 3/8/2018 in the amount of \$118,856.50. Seconded by Selectman Munguia. Motion carried 4-0.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST

Accounts payable manifest for week ending 3/8/2018 at \$248,423.11; \$52,288.54 for the Fire Truck Lease and \$196,134.57 for the town was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the accounts payable manifest for period ending 3/8/2018 at \$248,423.11. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

BUSINESS

FIRE

Request to Hire Brenda Silva for the PT position of Administrative Assistant at the fire department at \$16.50 an hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the hiring of Brenda Silva for the PT position of Administrative Assistant at the fire department at \$16.50 an hour pending background check. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

There was a discussion regarding purchasing a heater at the West Epping Fire Station and the quotes were reviewed.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the quote from Hartman Oil & Propane with the funds coming from maintenance. Seconded by Selectman Munguia. Motion carried 4-0. The purchase order will be completed later.

Fire Chief Don DeAngelis reported the new ambulance will be delivered soon and in 2 weeks he will have a purchase order to equip the ambulance. Chief DeAngelis will also have a purchase order for a new electronic dispatch system.

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

A Notice of Violation for 35 French Road, map and lot 002-010 was submitted for approval. This is regarding a resident living on the land that has life and safety risks.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Notice of Violation for 35 French Road, map and lot 002-010. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

TIMBER WARRANT

Timber Tax Levy for Bruce Rohr at 104 Pleasant Street, map and lot 029-045 in the amount of \$96.47, Ron Cote at 293 North River Road, map and lot 011-009 in the amount of \$1,325.20 and David Reinhold at 34 Diamond Hill Road, map and lot 005-027 in the amount of \$39.03 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Timber Tax for Bruce Rohr at 104 Pleasant Street, map and lot 029-045 in the amount of \$96.47, Ron Cote at 293 North River Road, map and lot 011-009 in the amount of \$1,325.20 and David Reinhold at 34 Diamond Hill Road, map and lot 005-027 in the amount of \$39.03. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

INTENT TO CUT

Intent to Cut for George Amarantides on 176 Pleasant Street, map and lot 028-039 was submitted for approval. A bond of \$1,023.50 has been paid which is 10% of the estimated timber to be cut.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Intent to Cut for George Amarantides on 176 Pleasant Street, map and lot 028-039. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

ELDERLY EXEMPTION

An Elderly Exemption for map and lot 023-039-017-A was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Elderly Exemption for map and lot 023-039-017-A. Seconded by Selectman Munguia. Motion carried 4-0.

TAX DEFERRAL

A Tax Deferral for map and lot 029-212 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Tax Deferral for map and lot 029-212. Seconded by Selectman Munguia. Motion carried 4-0.

ABATEMENT

Abatement for Kevin Bartlett, 31 Hamilton Drive, map and lot 015-003-028 was submitted for approval. Due to discrepancies the assessment was increased.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to deny the abatement for Kevin Bartlett, 31 Hamilton Drive, map and lot 015-003-028. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

Abatement for the Mary Fecteau Trust, 54 Church Street, map and lot 029-199 in the amount of \$2, 350.16 was submitted for approval. This home was damaged by a fire in February 2017 and has since been razed.

Motion by Selectman Munguia to approve abatement for Mary Fecteau Trust, 54 Church Street, map and lot 029-199 in the amount of \$2, 350.16. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

LAND USE CHANGE TAX

Land Use Change Tax for Prescott Orchards, maps and Lots 8-14-90 and 8-014-119 in the amounts of \$8,000, Douglas and Linda Simes, map and lot 35-25 in the amount of \$1,000 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Land Use Change Tax for Prescott Orchards, maps and Lots 8-14-90 and 8-014-119 in the amounts of \$8,000, Douglas and Linda Simes, map and lot 35-25 in the amount of \$1,000. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

RENTAL OF TOWN FACILITIES

Rental of the Kendall Chase Auditorium by Kassie Dubois for a baby shower on June 10th from 11am – 2 pm for 50 or more guests was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Yergeau to approve the rental of the Kendall Chase Auditorium by Kassie Dubois for a baby shower on June 10th from 11am – 2 pm for 50 or more guests. Seconded by Selectman Munguia. Motion carried 4-0.

7:30 ECHO/NH DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NETWORK

Stephanie Scherr founder and director of Echoaction.org spoke of educating the Select Board and the public in her presentation regarding the Granite Bridge pipeline, please see the presentation on the town web site. Susan Durling reviewed health issues and introduced the “physicians for social responsibility” web site.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge discussed the recent social media postings. He is dismayed that misinformation regarding tax impacts, surplus money and how it is spend is being incorrectly discussed. Please call the town hall to ask questions and receive the correct the information.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge stated voting will be in the Middle School as scheduled during the snow storm. There are no provisions in the law for cancellation. There were over 100 absentee voters today. What the public doesn’t realize is they are perjuring themselves if they voted absentee if they were not housebound or out of the state. The Secretary of State even called to tell us not to give out ballots. There was a very belligerent resident and if Mr. Dodge was rude today trying to keep some sort of privacy for voters he apologizes. It was a very chaotic at the clerk’s office.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge watched the ETV tape of the meeting 2 weeks ago regarding HB 1381. The Board of Selectmen and Representative Michael Vose handled the subject very well. Mr. Vose reported the bill had not come before the House yet but understands there will be a motion to table HB 1381.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced the boiler in the Town Hall is in need of replacement as it is leaking water. This is not an emergency but needs attention. The cost will be \$21,000 and there is \$22,000 in the budget.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge said this will be Tom Gauthiers last meeting and thanked him for his leadership. Mr. Dodge has enjoyed his friendship professionally and personally. He has enjoyed working with Mr. Gauthier and having his leadership, he will be missed.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Munguia

Selectman Munguia asked everyone to vote tomorrow even though it is going to snow. There are a lot of decisions to be made. The Board of Selectman discuss all the issues and concerns here in a public meeting and never on social media.

Selectman Munguia commented that HB 1381 is a terrible bill and needs to be axed.

Selectman Yergeau

Selectman Yergeau thanked Tom for his 19 years of service.

Selectman Yergeau hopes everyone comes out to vote tomorrow, 8 am – 7 pm.

Selectman Jordan

Selectman Jordan presented Chairman Gauthier with a plaque and cards from the board and employees. Mr. Gauthier has been his friend, colleague and mentor. It has been an honor to serve as a vice-chairman to Tom and it's sad to see him go.

Selectman Dwyer

Excused.

Selectman Gauthier

Chairman Gauthier responded to all the kind comments by saying he has had a blast. It has been 99% fun but it is time for new people, new and fresh ideas. Mr. Gauthier thanked all the employees, past and present. They all do a good job and sometimes it's not easy getting along with rude residents. After he thanked his wife, he thanked all the voters for having faith in him and for all the support.

AUDIENCE

Resident Mark Vallone from 252 Blake Road is concerned about the town receiving enough information regarding the Liberty Utilities Gas proposal. They were before the Planning Board on March 8th with a deadline to be an intervenor as March 9th. Mr. Vallone feels the state is pushing this through and a project with this size gas tank needs be closely watched. He would apply to be an intervenor but he thinks it should be someone from a government agency, town board or a business. Selectman Munguia is interested in finding out if he can apply late as an intervenor for the Board the Selectmen.

Mr. Vallone also thanked Tom Gauthier for his years of service.

Mike Fecteau from 117 Railroad Ave. thinks there should be more information regarding Unitil and the Liberty Utilities Gas proposal available. Chairman Gauthier told him the presentations are on the town website and copies are in the Selectmen's office. Mr. Fecteau discussed the confusing warrant articles, there was no tax impact given or the cost of items regarding surplus. Mr. Dodge explained the budget process is a

3 month process with public hearings, presentations and deliberative sessions. Miscommunication the day before the elections is a problem. The warrant articles are scrutinized by town council and the DRA on the language that can be used in the warrant articles. Selectman Yergeau explained the DRA says the town has to have a surplus.

State Representative Sean Morrison has concerns with the misinformation he is hearing about Liberty Utilities. He urges everyone to wait for the open house so everyone can ask and get factual answers to all their questions.

State Representative Michael Vose explained the site evaluation for the Granite Bridge project won't be until December so there is plenty of time for Epping to become intervenors.

Susan McGeough from Prescott Road reported Liberty Utilities came before the Planning Board on March 7th which was the deadline for intervenor requests which she found odd. Mrs. McGeough requested the town moderator be available to moderate the open house. There are a number of other towns that are concerned with the pipeline, not just Epping. She thinks it would be appropriate to have them come to the open house as this will have regional impact with quality of air & water.

Mrs. McGeough congratulated Tom Gauthier for being a Selectman for 19 years.

ADJOURN

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Tom Gauthier, Chairman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

Mike Yergeau, Selectman

Adam Munguia, Selectman

Date _____