

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
September 19, 2017**



ATTENDANCE

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

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

MINUTES

Minutes from the September 11, 2017 Selectmen's meeting was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to accept the minutes of September 11, 2017. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

BUSINESS

Request for approval to hire Ronald Clayton for a part time transfer station attendant at \$12.75 an hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to hire Ronald Clayton for a part time transfer station attendant at \$12.75 an hour with a local background check and waiving the background check fee. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained the waivers are so Mr. Clayton can start work and training this weekend.

BUDGET REVIEW

The Board of Selectmen began the process of reviewing the proposed 2017 Budget. Finance Director Lisa Fogg joined the Board at the head table. Selectman Yergeau joined the meeting in progress.

FIRE BUDGET

Fire Chief Donald DeAngelis reviewed the 2018 Budget. The amount of the proposed budget in the revolving fund is \$81,800. These items and amounts will not show in the regular budget. The money in the revolving fund comes from ambulance revenue. There were no changes made in revolving fund amounts.

The regular budget for 2018 in the amount of \$949,820 is \$3,450 less than last year. Discussion regarding increasing the part time salaries before hiring more full time personnel continued.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to forward the 2018 Fire Department budget of \$949,820 to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 5-0.

Fire Chief Donald DeAngelis requested permission to use the Revolving Fund as of January 1, 2018.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer effective January 1, 2018 the Fire Chief may expend from the Revolving Fund without prior approval from the Board of Selectman as long as the amount does not exceed \$1,500 and the purchase is for “ambulance services”. Seconded by Selectman Munguia. Motion carried 5-0.

SAFETY FACILITY

The Safety Facilities budget for 2018 in the amount of \$71,400 was reviewed. Fire Chief Donald DeAngelis explained the \$2,000 dollar increase was going to be used for a shed to house the lawn mower, rakes and etc. Other than the \$7,000 for the new phone system the amounts have stayed the same.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to forward the 2018 Safety Facility budget of \$71,400 to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Jordan for discussion.

Discussion about reducing the heating fuel line by \$2,000 so the shed could be purchased occurred.

Motion by Chairman Gauthier to reduce the heating fuel line by \$2,000. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to forward the 2018 Safety Facility budget of 69,400 to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Police Chief Michael Wallace explained the Animal Control budget is a flat budget.

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to forward the 2018 the Animal Control budget of \$7,205 to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

POLICE

Police Chief Michael Wallace reviewed the 2018 Police Department budget. He explained the increase in the Salary line is for 11 paid holidays for himself, 1 Captain, 3 Sergeants and the Administrative Assistant. He explained that this would be a onetime yearly benefit in December.

Motion by Chairman Gauthier to reduce the 2018 Police Department budget salary line by \$18,919.12 and take out the 11 paid holidays for the Police Chief, 1 Captain, 3 Sergeants and the Administrative Assistant. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer for discussion.

A lengthy discussion continued regarding working the holiday, receiving double time for the holiday or time and half which would be paid from the overtime budget. Selectman Munguia thought the Budget Committee would expect justification for this benefit. The vote was take: **Motion carried 5-0.**

Motion by Selectman Dwyer to increase the Vehicle Maintenance line by \$6,000 to \$25,000. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

There wasn't any other changes in the discussed 2018 Police Department budget but as the salary line needs to be corrected other lines will be affected. The bottom line budget will be voted on at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge clarified the next budget review meeting on October 2nd will be to discuss the Highway, Transfer Station and Recreation Departments. On October 9th Chairman Gauthier will not be here for the meeting and October 9th and 16th Mr. Dodge will be excused.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge discussed Warrant Articles for this March. As of now there will be an Article from the Fire Chief for a door overhang to relieve the ice damming and for safety purposes, library renovation and the police union contract.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge reminded Chairman Gauthier and Selectman Jordan of the police union meeting this Thursday night at 5pm.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Munguia

Selectman Munguia stated the Budget Committee will be meeting tomorrow night.

Selectman Yergeau

No report

Selectman Jordan

Selectman Jordan thanked all those that worked/volunteered Sunday at the "End 68 Hours Hunger" Touch a Truck event. It was well attended, raised \$3,300 and was a great day.

Selectman Dwyer

Selectman Dwyer informed the residents that he and several board members along with Mr. Dodge attended a DOT 10 year plan Public Hearing in Kingston. The Epping project discussed was the widening of Route

125 from Route 27 to Route 87 in 2022-2025. They attended the DOT Public Hearing to share the Epping citizens' concerns. Any citizen may attend and speak at these public hearings.

Selectman Gauthier

Selectman Gauthier wanted to know if the hiring of snow plow contractors have started yet. The holiday schedule for the Transfer Station should be set soon.

ADJOURN

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Tom Gauthier, Chairman

Adam Munguia, Selectman

Tom Dwyer, Selectman

Michael Yergeau, Selectman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

Date _____