

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
October 28, 2019**



ATTENDANCE

Chairman Adam Munguia; Selectmen Joe Trombley, Mike Yergeau, Bob Jordan and Cody Belanger; Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge; Executive Secretary Joyce Blanchard.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Munguia called the public session to order at 6:00 pm at the Epping Town Hall.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

MINUTES

Minutes from October 21, 2019 Selectmen's meeting was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to accept the minutes from the October 21, 2019 Selectmen's meeting. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0-1. Selectman Jordan abstained.

Minutes from October 24, 2019 Selectmen's meeting was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to accept the minutes from the October 24, 2019 Selectmen's meeting. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

BUSINESS

TAX RATE

Chairman Munguia read the Tax Rate Breakdown for 2019; Municipal is \$5.91, County is \$1.15, Local Education is \$18.18 and State Education is \$2.46 totaling the tax rate to \$27.70.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to accept the Tax Rate Breakdown for 2019 to \$27.70. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 5-0.

TAX WARRANT

Chairman Munguia read the second issue Tax Warrant due December 9, 2019 of \$10,530,145.10, Ten Million, Five Hundred Thirty Thousand and One Hundred and Forty Five Dollars and Ten Cents.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to accept the second issue Tax Warrant due December 9, 2019 of \$10,530,145.10. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 5-0.

DEFAULT BUDGET

Finance Director Lisa Fogg explained the 2020 Default Budget including Water and Sewer. The General Fund portion of the Default Budget is \$260,363.00 less than the 2020 proposed budget. The Default Budget for the General Fund is \$7,076,142. The total Default Budget including Water and Sewer is \$8,626,386.00.

Motion by Selectman Yergeau to accept the Default Budget totaling \$8,626,386.00. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

REVENUE

Finance Director Lisa Fogg reported the 2020 Revenue Budget has increased by \$103,755.00 over last year's estimates, which is a 4% increase. The total General Fund estimated revenue is \$2,778,680.00

Motion by Selectman Belanger to accept the General Fund estimated revenue as \$2,778,680.00. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 5-0.

WARRANT ARTICLES

Chairman Munguia explained how the budget surplus helps the residents in various ways. After a lengthy discussion Articles 14-20 were reviewed. The number of the Articles may be changed on the ballot.

ARTICLE 14: ACCRUED BENEFITS EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Accrued Benefits Expendable Trust Fund.

ARTICLE 15: TOWN HALL IMPROVEMENT EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Town Hall Improvement Expendable Trust Fund.

ARTICLE 16: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE 17: WATSON ACADEMY REPAIRS EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Watson Academy Repairs Expendable Trust Fund.

ARTICLE 18: RECREATION FACILITIES EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Recreation Facilities Expendable Trust Fund.

ARTICLE 19: LANDFILL CLOSURE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town of Epping will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE 20: FIREWORKS CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town of Epping will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Fireworks Capital Reserve Fund.

The various articles were discussed, explained and questioned. The general consensus was to increase Article 19 to \$20,000 and not include Article 20 in this year’s ballot.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge informed the board the state increased the Veteran’s Credit to \$750.00. Does the Board of Selectman agree to an article to increase the Veteran’s Credit to \$750.00? The general consensus was to create an article to increase the Veteran’s Credit to \$750.00.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge said the Blind Exemption of \$15,000 is among the lowest of the local communities. The Board agreed to an article increasing the Blind Exemption to \$30,000.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge has been informed that the Police Department will have a warrant article to expand the locker room. Police Chief Michael Wallace needs to provide a plan of the expansion.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge has not heard of any other articles. Maybe Water and Sewer will have one and the charities are calling for the petition dates.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Accounts Payable Manifest for a change order for Drywall in the amount of \$6,308.00 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest for a change order for Drywall in the amount of \$6,308.00. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 5-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge

No Report

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Belanger

Selectman Belanger reminded residents about the Brewfest this Saturday at the New England Dragway.

Selectman Belanger was asked to seek a letter of support from the Governor's Office regarding a grant Water and Sewer is applying for.

Selectman Belanger said it was unfortunate the tax rate is going up.

Selectman Trombley

Selectman Trombley is trying to connect with the Fire Chief to review the roof bids.

Selectman Jordan

Selectman Jordan thanked Selectman Trombley for being willing to work the Fire Chief on the roof bids.

Selectman Yergeau

Selectman Yergeau reported Underwood Engineers will be attending the Water and Sewer meeting tomorrow night to review W&S funds.

Selectman Yergeau stated at the next Planning Board meeting there will be a public hearing regarding the town CIP.

Selectman Munguia

Selectman Munguia announced Trick or Treat will be on Thursday 5 pm -7 pm.

Selectman Munguia reminded everyone that the clocks are set back with weekend.

ADJOURN

Motion by Selectman Jordan to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Adam Munguia, Chairman

Mike Yergeau, Selectman

Cody Belanger, Selectman

Joe Trombley, Selectman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

Date _____ 11/4/19 _____