

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
January 13, 2020**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Munguia called the public session to order at 7:00 pm at the Epping Town Hall.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

MINUTES

Revised Minutes from December 2, 2019 Selectmen's meeting was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to accept the revised minutes from the December 2, 2019 Selectmen's meeting. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Minutes from December 30, 2019 Selectmen's meeting was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to accept the minutes from the December 30, 2019 Selectmen's meeting. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 3-1. Selectman Jordan abstained.

PAYROLL MANIFEST

Payroll manifest for the pay period ending January 9, 2020 in the amount of \$129,616.20 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the payroll manifest for the pay period ending December 26, 2020 in the amount of \$129,616.20. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST

Accounts payable manifest for the week ending January 8, 2020 in the amount of \$381,311.84; \$163,746.00 is for the Annual Workers Compensation, \$12,746.77 for the Library Addition and \$204,819.07 for the town was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the accounts payable manifest for the week ending January 8, 2020 in the amount of \$381,311.84. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 4-0.

FIRE

Request for pay rate increase for Julie Labonte from \$13.50 to \$14.50 per hour for completing the EMT course was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the request for pay rate increase for Julie Labonte from \$13.50 to \$14.50 per hour for completing the EMT course. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Request for pay rate increase of Gabriel Burgess-Labonte from \$12.00 to \$12.50 per hour for passing the Fire Fighter 1 course was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the request for pay rate increase Gabriel Burgess-Labonte from \$12.00 to \$12.50 per hour for passing Fire Fighter 1 course. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Selectman Belanger asked for a 101 Gas Spill Update. Fire Chief DeAngelis has met with the State DOT, DES, Clean Harbors and the NH State Police. They will be building a landing between exit 6 and 7 to for heavy equipment. The heavy equipment will be used to remove trees and the soil. The project will take up to a year to replant the area and have it restored. As of now there have been dikes put out so the gas plume won't travel. The closest well is 1,200 feet from the spill area and it is no more than 100 feet wide. The area is being closely monitored.

7:15 PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Munguia read the public hearing notice to discuss the proposed municipal bond warrant article. The purpose is to design and construct a new water treatment plant at the Epping Crossing Site and a water main extension to provided municipal water to homes with private wells contaminated MtBE in the amount not to exceed \$8,500,000.

Water and Sewer Commission Chairman Tom Gauthier, Water and Sewer Commissioner John Dold, Underwood Engineering Dave Mercier and Water Administrator Jim Pouliot were available to answer any questions. Mr. Gauthier gave a brief summary of the warrant article and the importance of supporting this warrant article. Mr. Mercier explained the 2 part project. The water plant needs to be replaced due to the state lowering the arsenic levels and the water line needs to be installed to the houses with MtBE. The \$8,500,000,000 loan is hoped to be reduced to \$3,500,000 by federal and state grants from the State revolving Fund loan program. Discussion continued.

Chairman Munguia opened the meeting for public comment. Charlie Goodspeed was asked to speak for Representatives Mark Vallone and Michael Vose as they support this article. Resident Michael Fecteau who has multiple properties in Epping, some that are on the Water and Sewer system and some that are not. He is in favor of this article to keep the water healthy at local restaurants, schools and the safety of the town residents. This project will cost the town more if this doesn't pass as the state will make this mandatory and the grants may not be available.

Chairman Gauthier would like to send out a press release, not using tax payer's monies, but with the Selectmen's signatures showing support along with the budget committee and the W&S Commissioners.

As there were no more comments from the public, Chairman Munguia closed the public meeting.

RECREATION

Request to Hire Jacob Grandmaison for Before & After School Program Lead Staff at \$12.00 per hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the request to hire Jacob Grandmaison for Before & After School Program Lead Staff at \$12.00 per hour pending background check. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

DPW

Purchase Order to Granite State Minerals for road rock salt in the amount of \$46,750 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the purchase order to Granite State Minerals for road rock salt in the amount of \$46,750. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 4-0.

VETERANS CREDIT

Veteran Credits for Wayne Seaman at map and lot 008-014-080 and Aaron Krull at map and lot 027-178 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Veteran Credits for Wayne Seaman at map and lot 008-014-080 and Aaron Krull at map and lot 027-178. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

EXETER REAL MED INC.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained the 5 year extension to the PILOT program in lieu of real estate taxes with the Exeter Hospital (Exeter Med Real). This is based on a past court case concluding the hospital qualifies for 10% charitable services. After a brief discussion and comments a motion was made.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to extend the PILOT program with Exeter Med Real for 5 years. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

LIBRARY

Resignation for Charlie Goodspeed as Library Trustee was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to accept the resignation for Charlie Goodspeed as Library Trustee with regret. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

The punch list for library addition was discussed. Selectman Trombley explained that most of the larger projects are outdoors and will need to be fixed in May and June. Mr. Goodspeed would like to be reimbursed for all the small items he has purchased. He will continue to work through the punch list with no charge for labor as a contractor is not needed. The lift will not be unlocked until the full amount of the bill is paid.

Motion by Chairman Munguia to pay the PO of \$6,045 so the lift will be paid in full. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

WARRANT ARTICLE REVIEW

ARTICLE 27: HIGHWAY GARAGE ADDITION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for the purpose of constructing a 50' x 75' addition to the existing Highway Garage. The Highway Garage is located at 129 Coffin Rd., Map 24, Lot 96.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to add Article 27: HIGHWAY GARAGE ADDITION to the warrant. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 3-1. Selectman Trombley voted nay as there aren't any plans or scope for the garage addition project is not complete. After a discussion with the Road Supervisor David Reinhold regarding the project Selectman Trombley changed his mind.

Motion by Chairman Munguia to rescind the previous motion. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to add Article 27: HIGHWAY GARAGE ADDITION to the warrant. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to recommend Article 27: HIGHWAY GARAGE ADDITION. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 4-0.

ARTICLE 5: NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND MTBE WATER MAIN EXTENSION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,500,000.00 (gross budget) for the purpose of design and construction of a new water treatment plant at the Epping Crossing site, and a water main extension to provide municipal water to homes with private wells contaminated with MtBE, 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 \$3,500,000.00; 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 and 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 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. \$5,000,000.00 to come from Federal and State grant funding. It is anticipated that the Town will receive up to \$350,000.00 in principal forgiveness from the State Revolving Fund loan program. It is the intention of the Town that the bond or note repayment shall be paid for by general taxation.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to recommend Article 5: NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND MTBE WATER MAIN EXTENSION. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 4-0.

ARTICLE 6: 2020 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 Nine Million, Two Hundred Thirty Three Thousand, Three Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$9,233,314.00). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Eight Million, Nine Hundred Sixty Eight Thousand, Five Hundred Eighty Nine Dollars (\$8,968,589.00), 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.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to recommend Article 6: 2020 OPERATING BUDGET . Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 4-0.

ARTICLE 19: APPOINTMENT OF A TOWN TREASURER

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to appoint a town treasurer in accordance with RSA 41:26-e, rather than electing a treasurer. This shall take effect on the date of the March 2021 Town Meeting.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to add Article 19: APPOINTMENT OF A TOWN TREASURER to the warrant. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to recommend Article 19: APPOINTMENT OF A TOWN TREASURER. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

ARTICLE 20: SOLAR LEASE/KEEFE SUPERFUND PROPERTY, EXETER ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement whereby the Town will lease land owned by the Town at the Keefe Superfund property on Exeter Road in Epping for a lease period not to exceed 45 years, on such terms as the Selectmen believe are in the best interest of the Town. The lease shall include the granting of such easements as may be necessary to operate the solar farm. The purpose of the lease is to allow New England Solar Garden Corp. (or such other company as the Selectmen may choose) to construct and operate a solar electric generating facility on the land, which will enable the Town to receive revenues from the tenant who will be using the property for the solar farm use.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to add Article 20: SOLAR LEASE/KEEFE SUPERFUND PROPERTY, EXETER ROAD to the warrant. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to recommend Article 20: SOLAR LEASE/KEEFE SUPERFUND PROPERTY, EXETER ROAD. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 21: BY PETITION: HIGHWAY WHEELED EXCAVATOR

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Six Thousand, Nine Hundred Dollars (\$206,900.00) to purchase a Wheeled Excavator with Ditching Bucket and Thumb. One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to come from the Highway Equipment Expendable Trust Fund and the remaining One Hundred Six Thousand, Nine Hundred Dollars (\$106,900.00) to come from taxation.

Motion by Selectman Jordan not to recommend Article 21: BY PETITION: HIGHWAY WHEELED EXCAVATOR. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

ARTICLE 22: BY PETITION: RESTORATION OF ANTIQUE LIGHTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to replace four (4) antique lights, one on Main Street at the corner of Water Street, two (2) on Main Street at the base of the hill of the Community Church and one at the intersection of Main Street and St. Laurent Street and to restore power to said lights so that they are in good working order.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to recommend Article 22: BY PETITION: RESTORATION OF ANTIQUE LIGHTS. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 23: 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 crisis to move them toward self-sufficiency.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to recommend Article 23: BY PETITION: ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY ACTION. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 3-0-1. Selectman Belanger abstained.

Article 24: BY PETITION: LAMPREY HEALTH CARE SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$3,390.00) for the Lamprey Health Care Senior Transportation Program.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to recommend Article 24: BY PETITION: LAMPREY HEALTH CARE SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 3-0-1. Selectman Belanger abstained.

Article 25: BY PETITION: ROCKINGHAM NUTRITION & MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand, One Hundred and Fifty Two Dollars (\$5,152.00) to enable Rockingham Nutrition & Meals on Wheels Program to continue to provide the meal service to elder, homebound and disabled Epping residents.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to recommend Article 25: BY PETITION: ROCKINGHAM NUTRITION & MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 3-0-1. Selectman Belanger abstained.

Article 26: 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 early intervention program that serves children from birth to three years of age and their families. This investment will support the cost of providing early childhood special education, pediatric therapies and family support services to Epping residents. This past year RMCC served twenty-four (24) children and their

families, and this request is for level funding which helps support 5% of the annual cost for weekly home-based therapies.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to recommend Article 26: BY PETITION: RICHIE MCFARLAND CHILDREN'S CENTER. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 3-0-1. Selectman Belanger abstained.

Selectman Belanger explained that even though he thinks these charities all do great work he feels that monetary support should not come from town taxation and that's why he abstained from voting instead of voting no.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge thanked the Board of Selectmen for attending all the recent meetings during the budget and warrant article process. The next meeting is tomorrow night to approve any petition warrant articles that may be passed in. On January 15th there is the Public Hearing, a quorum needs to be at the meeting to sign the warrant.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced the filing period for town offices will be Jan 22 – 31st at 5pm at the town clerk's office. The offices that are vacant are listed on the town web site and the town Facebook page.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Belanger

Selectman Belanger has been working on the town logo to make the image sharper. The font has been changed and made larger for easy reading.

Selectman Yergeau

Excused

Selectman Trombley

Selectman Trombley is glad the library has come out as well as it has. He was disappointed that he didn't know about the open house.

Selectman Jordan

Selectman Jordan reported his neighbor's storage shed burned in a fire and he lost all his winter fire wood. Selectman Yergeau has help him attain 2 cords of wood to replace some of the loss. If anyone else could help, please contact him. Mr. Jordan praised the fire department on a great job with a 2 AM fire.

Selectman Munguia

Selectman Munguia would like a head shot and a small biography of each selectmen for the town report.

Selectman Munguia commented on the library being a long project but he is happy it turned out so well.

Selectman Trombley took this opportunity to inform the public he was not an engineer nor an architect. He works for them but is not one.

ADJOURN

Motion by Selectman Belanger to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Adam Munguia, Chairman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

Cody Belanger, Selectman

Joe Trombley, Selectman

Dated: January 27, 2020