

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN and WATER/SEWER COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
July 14, 2020**



**JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS  
VIA ZOOM FOR BUSINESS  
MEETING ID# 8504733 8550  
PASSWORD 944311**

**ATTENDANCE**

Chairman Adam Munguia; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Mike Yergeau, Cody Belanger, Joe Trombley. Water/Sewer Commission Chairman Tom Gauthier; Commissioners John Dold, Tom Dwyer. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge, Water/Sewer Administrator Dennis Koch, Water/Sewer Chief Operator Jim Pouliot.

**GUESTS**

State Representative Mark Vallone, State Representative Mike Vose, Dave Mercier of Underwood Engineering, John Dunster – Solar Project Representative.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chairman Bob Jordan called the public meeting to order at 6:00 PM via Zoom. Chairman Adam Munguia joined the meeting shortly thereafter.

**SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLE**

W&S Chairman Tom Gauthier asked Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge what the Board of Selectmen had done relative to the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Dodge explained that the Selectmen voted on July 13, 2020 to file the petition for a Special Town Meeting with the Superior Court. He said that the petition cannot be filed until July 24, 2020 and though we will ask for an expedited hearing there is no way to determine how long before the Court would rule. In the interim the Budget Committee has been notified along with the Town Clerk, Town Moderator and Supervisors of the Checklist. Attorney John Ratigan is researching time frames for hearings and deliberative session etc. He did say that the Selectmen could have explored an avenue by which deliberative session would be bypassed but the Selectmen did not feel comfortable doing so. Time is of the essence for this Special Town Meeting to happen and the Town is doing its best to insure all mandates are followed.

Chief Operator Jim Pouliot then gave a brief overview of the project. The sewer lagoons have to be decommissioned as per an administrative order issued by the EPA. Lagoon #1 is to be completed in 2021 and lagoon #2 2032. USDA funding has become available and confirmation came late but the Town needs to act on/or before September 30, 2020 which is the end of the Federal fiscal year. The USDA has committed \$7.3 million in grant money for the project along with a \$5.7 million loan and a CDBG grant of \$500,000 that is still yet to be approved. The interest rate is 1.125% with an estimated annual payment of \$225,000.00. Should the Town not pass this special article then millions of dollars in funding could be lost. Once the decommissioning is complete it is planned to build a solar farm with estimated costs savings of \$180,000 in electrical expenses. The repayment of the loan would be on the users of the system.

Dave Mercier of Underwood Engineering followed up with a summary of the project stating that this is a great deal for the Town. The project is approximately 55% funded by the grant. It is estimated that the first payment would not be until 2022.

John Dunster gave a brief overview of the proposed solar project.

Representatives Vallone and Vose said that this was a great deal for the Town and expressed how impressed they were in all the work that went into seeking and receiving the funding of this project. There were follow up questions from the Selectmen and Commissioners.

Jim Pouliot wanted to get a “mailer” out to the public to educate the voters on this project.

**Commissioner Tom Gauthier made a motion to send an informational mailer out to the public at a cost not to exceed \$1,000. Seconded by Commissioner Dold. Roll Call Vote; Gauthier and Dold both voting aye. Commissioner Dwyer had signed out of the meeting prior to this vote.**

With no further discussion the Selectmen did have one business item to address.

#### **TOWN HALL/WATSON ROOF BIDS**

At the Monday (July 13, 2020) meeting of the Board of Selectmen the Board wanted to wait one more day to see if the vendors who bid on the roof would respond the specific questions asked of the Board. To date only one of the three bidders filed answers. The Board asked that the Town Administrator reach out to each vendor one last time to see if the questions posed would be addressed and that the Board would take action at the July 20, 2020 meeting regardless if a response was received or not. This was the consensus of the Board.

#### **ADJOURN**

**Motion by Bob Jordan to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Joe Trombley. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Munguia, Jordan, Yergeau, Belanger, Trombley all voting aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregory C. Dodge  
Town Administrator

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Adam Munguia, Chairman

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Tom Gauthier, Chairman (W&S Commission)

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Bob Jordan, Selectman

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John Dold, W&S Commissioner

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Mike Yergeau, Selectman

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Tom Dwyer, W&S Commissioner

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Cody Belanger, Selectman

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Joe Trombley, Selectman

Dated July 20, 2020