

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
August 18, 2020**



**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
VIA ZOOM FOR BUSINESS  
MEETING ID #816 2838 4719  
PASSWORD 594303**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Adam Munguia called the public meeting to order at 6:00 PM via Zoom.

**6:00 PM PUBLIC BOND HEARING**

Chairman Munguia read the Public Bond Hearing notice. The purpose of the public bond hearing is to review the terms of a \$13.523 million dollar USDA grant and loan package to decommission the town of Epping's sewer lagoons #1 and #2 and to accept said funds. The vote is to be taken during a Special Town Meeting to be held on September 8, 2020.

The consensus of the Board of Selectman was this is the best possible option for the Town of Epping. The town needs to react to the administrative order from the state and wants to take care of the town infrastructure. Information is on the town web site and explained in the brochure along with the clarification on the savings from the solar project.

Chairman Munguia opened the Public Bond Hearing for public comment. Michael Vose from 75 Olde Bridge Lane mentioned this problem has been in the making for a long time. With the year 2020 being so challenging he thinks the Town of Epping is very "lucky" to receive these huge grants from the state and federal government. This is the lowest possible cost to solve the

issue at Water and Sewer Plant. Mr. Vose thanked those involved for their hard work and supports this bond.

After a 60 second pause for the public to comment, Chairman Munguia closed the Public Bond Hearing.

## **MINUTES**

Minutes from the August 10, 2020 Selectmen's meeting were submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Cody Belanger to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2020 Selectmen's meeting. Seconded by Selectman Joe Trombley. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Cody Belanger, Joe Trombley and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Selectman Bob Jordan abstained. Motion Carried.**

Minutes from the August 12, 2020 Selectmen's meeting were submitted for approval.

**Motion by Chairman Adam Munguia to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2020 Selectmen's meeting. Seconded by Selectman Joe Trombley. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Joe Trombley and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Selectman Bob Jordan and Cody Belanger abstained. Motion Carried.**

## **EOC UPDATE**

EOC Director DeAngelis reported the state cases of COVID-19 have increased by 13 new cases. He has created a town space procedure similar to the library, school and recreation. He has sent the policy to the Town Administrator to review and he will send to the Board of Selectmen.

## **6:30 MRI SCOTT MARSH**

Scott Marsh from MRI, the towns assessing contractor highlighted the recent town wide reevaluation numbers. The town is within the DRA guidelines and he will have more information at the end of September. He would like the board to accept the values so new letters can be sent out to residents. Once the final numbers are approved he can work on the MS-1 form the state needs to set the new tax rate.

**Motion by Selectman Trombley to approve the new values established by the assessors and to move forward with the MS-1 report. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Joe Trombley, Bob Jordan, Cody Belanger and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Motion Carried.**

## **EOC UPDATE con't**

EOC Director DeAngelis, Fire Chief Joe Lombardo, Officer Jay Newman met with Pam Tibbetts regarding the Block Party she would like to hold on Main Street. They measured the area to have a count of people. He will have a plan ready for the next meeting.

Selectman Jordan explained the engine issues with Ambulance #1. The repair would be very expensive and it is slated for replacement in 2021. Selectman Jordan has spoken to Sugarloaf Ambulance who built Ambulance #3 and it will take 8-10 months to build a new ambulance just like that one. The owner offered to lend the town an ambulance while the new ambulance was being built. Mutual aid can be called also. This also leaves West Epping without an ambulance while Ambulance #1 is out of service. There is a Truck Committee at the Fire Station to discuss the best way to build the new #1 ambulance.

## **FIRE CHIEF LOMBARDO REPORT**

Fire Chief Lombardo announced Epping Well and Pump donated a pump for the well at the West Epping Station. As the well is dry a new well needs to be drilled at an estimated cost of \$47,000. The donated pump will be able to be used in the new well to save some money. Water at the station is needed to wash, clean and disinfect the equipment and employees.

## **POLICE CHIEF WALLACE**

Police Chief Mike Wallace shared some department milestones. Richard Cote received a plaque for being with the Epping Police Department for 20 years along with Russ Hero for 10 years.

Chief Wallace asked for patience from residence as the state paves Route 27. Please drive with diligence and be careful.

Selectman Trombley asked Chief Wallace about officers not wearing masks while on call or in public. Chief Wallace replied his department did have a policy and the mask protocol has been revisited. Chairman Munguia asked to have that policy sent to the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator.

## **BUSINESS**

### **NE DRAGWAY**

Ron Heath from NE Dragway brought in a 2020 revised race schedule adding Friday afternoons from 1 PM – 5 PM. He is requesting 8 addition Friday night track rentals to make up for loss revenue from the late seasonal opening.

**Motion by Cody Belanger to approve the additional Friday afternoons from 1 PM – 5 PM. Seconded by Selectman Joe Trombley. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley, Cody Belanger and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Motion Carried.**

### **PLANNING BOARD**

Town Planner Brittany Howard reported the Planning Board discussed the long-range project proposed projects on Route 125 by the state. The Rockingham Regional Planning Commission would like to know if the Selectmen have any other concerns and agrees with proposed projects. The Planning Board has suggested bike access and a pedestrian path along Route 125. In the future for the long range plan the 5 corners in West Epping should be added. A letter needs to be written to accept and/or add to the list by September 1<sup>st</sup>. If the Selectmen have any items please let her know.

## **RECREATION**

### **HIRES**

Request to Hire Samantha Hamilton for After School Program Lead Staff at \$12.00 an hour and Anya Mojica, Mikhail Ozols and Rachel Robinson for After School Program Jr. Staff at \$10.00 an hour was submitted for approval. Background checks are not necessary for under 18 years of age. There will need to be a waiver for nepotism completed for Rachel Robinson as she is the daughter of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector Erika Robinson.

**Motion by Selectman Bob Jordan to hire Samantha Hamilton for After School Program Lead Staff at \$12.00 an hour and Anya Mojica, Mikhail Ozols and Rachel Robinson for After School Program Jr. Staff at \$10.00 an hour. Seconded by Selectman Cody Belanger. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Joe Trombley, Cody Belanger, Bob Jordan and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Motion Carried.**

## REMOTE LEARNING CLASSROOM PROGRAM

Recreation Director Nicole Bizzaro introduced and explained the Remote Learning Classroom Program. The new SAU Superintendent Bill Furbush came to her regarding a learning environment for teacher's children. This will help with the school opening and support the teachers while they come back to teach. The staff will be employed by the Epping School District. The cost will be \$25 a day payable to the Epping School District. The remote learning will take place in the upstairs classrooms that has its own bathroom. The students will utilize the back door for drop offs. There will not be any cross over or disruption of the recreation programs. The cleaning protocol follows the Governor's Task Force Guidelines. Mr. Furbush added these plans to open school are a "moving target" but he's thankful this plan can help the community. Selectmen Trombley reviewed the time frame for drop offs, overlapping schedules and the number of children allowed for the before and after school program versus how many children upstairs in the learning classroom. Ms. Bizzaro explained the reason why the school district receives the money is they will be providing the staff for the classroom.

**Motion by Cody Belanger to approve the 2020 Remote Learning Classroom Program Plan for teachers. Seconded by Selectman Joe Trombley. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley, Cody Belanger and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Motion Carried.**

## RAFFLE

Raffle Permit for the American Legion for the year 2020 to raise money for charitable causes playing a variety of games was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Cody Belanger to approve the Raffle Permit for the American Legion for the year 2020 to raise money for charitable causes. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Joe Trombley, Bob Jordan, Cody Belanger and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Motion Carried.**

## ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

### Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge noticed reviewing the Recreation 2020 Modified Before and After School Plan had been missed. We can review that next week.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge brought forth a Notice of Intent to Excavate for Michael Fecteau regarding his 7 acre lot off of Church Street. Selectman Trombley had concerns as he knew Mr. Fecteau had been before the Planning Board regarding permits, invasive plants and

water proximity. Planner Brittany Howard answered Mr. Fecteau has submitted a road bond for Church Street, sprayed the invasive species and has contacted Conservation. Hours have been set for excavation not to intrude with school hours. He will be excavating and hauling dirt from Church Street as not to be near the river. Ms. Howard added this is a taxation form from the state.

**Motion by Selectman Joe Trombley to approve the Intent to Excavate for Michael Fecteau on Church Street contingent on all his other permits required are in place before moving dirt. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Cody Belanger, Joe Trombley, Bob Jordan and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Motion Carried.**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge congratulated Rich Cote on his 20 years and Russ Hero on his 10 years with the police department. Mr. Dodge hired them when he was Chief of Police and they have been a great addition to the Police Department and public servants to the Town of Epping.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge said that he will not bring anymore “add ons” (favors) from residents to the Selectmen meetings unless they’ve had 48 hours’ notice.

## **INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN’S REPORTS**

### **Selectman Cody Belanger**

Selectman Belanger is in support of the plan to reopen the schools. He thanked the school for having meetings with parents.

### **Selectman Joe Trombley**

Selectman Joe Trombley asked for an update regarding roof repairs and the solar panels at the town hall. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge replied Watson Academy will be reroofed on Monday and the town hall will be done Wednesday. The cost to remove the solar panels is \$600. They will be tested to see if they are working.

Selectman Joe Trombley requested Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge to coordinate with Don when the granite shows up for the library steps. Mr. Dodge has reached out to Charlie Goodspeed to have a contract in place with Seth Donaldson before any reimbursements are made.

**Selectman Mike Yergeau**

Excused

**Selectman Bob Jordan**

No Report

**Selectman Adam Munguia**

Selectman Adam Munguia thanked and congratulated Officers Cote and Hero for a job well done.

**ADJOURN**

**Motion by Selectman Bob Jordan to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Cody Belanger. There was a 30 second pause in case a resident wanted to call in. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Joe Trombley, Cody Belanger, Bob Jordan and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Motion Carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Joyce Blanchard  
Executive Secretary**



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**Adam Munguia, Chairman**

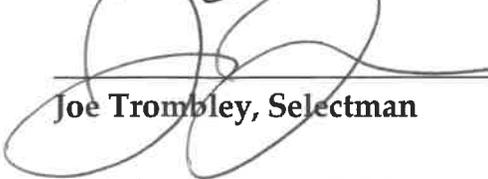
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**Bob Jordan, Selectman**



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**Cody Belanger, Selectman**



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**Joe Trombley, Selectman**

**Dated: August 24, 2020**