

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
August 3, 2020**



**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
VIA ZOOM FOR BUSINESS  
MEETING ID #838 8691 5035  
PASSWORD 437872**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Adam Munguia called the public meeting to order at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

**MINUTES**

Minutes from the July 27, 2020 Selectmen's meeting were submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Bob Jordan to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2020 Selectmen's meeting. Seconded by Selectman Cody Belanger. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Mike Yergeau Joe Trombley, Cody Belanger, Bob Jordan and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Motion Carried.**

**EOC UPDATE**

EOC Director DeAngelis reported he has been working with the school to review COVID related safety, social distancing, school capacity and screening at the schools doors. The Library is trying to reopen and will try to follow the same safety procedures at the town hall. Staff from ETV will have a ZOOM meeting with Chief Lombardo and Mr. DeAngelis to create a plan to disinfect the equipment and staff safety while on site. The meeting is at 8:30 AM.

The COVID information calls have slowed down. Most of the calls now that are being dealt with are about returning from vacations, doctor's appointments and quarantine. There are 397 active cases in NH.

### **FIRE CHIEF LOMBARDO REPORT**

Fire Chief Lombardo stated that he and EOC Director Don DeAngelis will be having a meeting with the library regarding reopening. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge has sent over a copy of the town hall safety procedures. The library will also be using 4 air purifiers.

The Fire Department explained their emergency purchase. The stove in the kitchen had a gas leak and a pipe needed to be replaced.

The department has had 738 calls which is 19 more calls than last year.

Fire Chief Lombardo said there have been 23 COVID cases in Epping.

### **POLICE CHIEF WALLACE**

Police Chief Mike Wallace remarked that Officers Bolton and Callahan have both been sworn in and have started with the department. There will be 2 new officers graduating from the Police Academy on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Unfortunately they can't attend graduation this year due to COVID regulations.

Chief Wallace has met with the school superintendent and they are working on a MOU for the SRO before school opening.

Purchase Order to Lockers.com for 3 women's lockers in the amount of \$2,632.14 was submitted for approval. Chief Wallace explained the need and expense of the lockers. These lockers need to fit certain requirements for Police.

**Motion by Selectman Bob Jordan to approve the purchase order to Lockers.com for 3 women's lockers in the amount of \$2,632.14. Seconded by Joe Trombley. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Mike Yergeau, Joe Trombley, Cody Belanger, Bob Jordan and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Motion Carried.**

### **7:15 PAM TIBBETTS**

Mrs. Tibbetts came before the board asking permission to hold a Halloween Block Party on October 31<sup>st</sup>. She is celebrating her barber shop "Checkers" 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and would

like to give back to the town. She is asking to close Main Street from Route 27 to Bunker Ave. and hang a sign strung across Main Street. She has obtained her landlords approval and would like to move forward with several ideas. Safety will be first with 6' distancing markers, providing masks and hand sanitizing stations. There will not be cost to the attendees and the whole town is invited. Mrs. Tibbetts is hoping to have food, games, crafts, music and etc. She is hoping other businesses and people will join in on the fun. Some other ideas is a costume contest with prizes, pumpkin displays and food trucks. There will be at least 2 Policemen hired along with 2 bathrooms provided.

Conversation regarding safety and the challenge to police if this draws a larger crowd than planned continued. This will have to be a weather permitting event as holding it earlier in the month is not an option. Even though this is a positive idea there are many parameters that will need to be met. Mrs. Tibbetts will need to meet with the Police Chief, Fire Chief and the Emergency Management Director to discuss a safety plan, look at the area, traffic details and the number of rest rooms. After the meeting with town officials and if a plan can be made Mrs. Tibbetts will need to come back before the board.

## **BUSINESS**

### **TAX DEEDING**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained the tax lien list that was provided. The recommendation is to approve and sign the tax deed waivers. Tax Collector Erika Robinson described the property owners of the liens as all homes with land and no mortgages. She suggested starting payment plans. Mr. Dodge said payment plans do not work. In the past the town has tried to work with payment plans and owners never follow through. Discussion regarding burden on other tax payers, responsibility of having a home and paying taxes and taking out a mortgage to pay taxes continued.

Mrs. Robinson clarified the waiver procedure. Signing these stop the deeding process and the certified notices from being sent. They can be reversed at any time if no payments are made.

**Motion by Selectman Cody Belanger recommending the signing of the tax deed waivers. Seconded by Chairman Adam Munguia. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Mike Yergeau, Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley, Cody Belanger and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Motion Carried.**

Further discussion occurred regarding contacting owners and budgeting for litigation for evictions if necessary.

## **DPW – RECYCLING**

Road Supervisor David Reinhold came before the board to report the increased prices on recycling through Dumpster Depot. Mr. Reinhold is asking for guidance whether the Town of Epping should continue to recycle. It was the consensus of the board to have recycling. Mr. Reinhold mentioned it would be less expensive if his staff did the hauling with our own truck and there are other companies to work with. Selectman Trombley would like to see a contract as we don't have one now. Mr. Reinhold will research other companies, pricing with a contract, hauling and return to the board with the information.

Selectman Jordan mentioned the bamboo/knotweed is growing at the fire station on the Boy Scout lot. He was wondering if that was on the list to be taken care of. Mr. Reinhold said it's a money issue at this point. Chairman Munguia would like to see an estimate. When a list is compiled the abutters will need to work with the town on their properties. Mr. Reinhold stated there is only 2-3 months to get this taken care of this year.

## **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced the Water and Sewer Department are holding informational meetings for the Special Warrant Article on August 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at 40 Lagoon Road from 10 AM–2 PM. Attorney Ratigan suggested the Board of Selectmen hold 2 informational meetings of their own. After many options, it was decided to have a special meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM before the Budget meeting via Zoom. A Public Bond Hearing will be posted in the newspaper and held on August 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM via Zoom.

## **MS 535**

The MS 535 state financial report of the budget was submitted for signatures and approval. As this document needs to be reviewed, the MS 535 will be on next week's agenda.

## **ELECTION**

Discussion on Election Day September 8, 2020 included controlling the number of people in the building, social distancing, mandatory masks, temperatures, drive up voting, off site options and absentee ballots. Town Clerk Erika Robinson responded that she is not comfortable with letting the ballots off site and not in her control as she is responsible for them. Traffic flow and the amount of booths will need to be planned. The Secretary of State says the ballots should be

made available for all to vote. Mrs. Robinson requested permission to order signs to put up through town encouraging absentee voting.

**Motion by Selectman Joe Trombley to purchase signs encouraging absentee ballot voting, not to exceed \$500.00. Seconded by Cody Belanger. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Mike Yergeau, Joe Trombley, Cody Belanger and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Selectman Bob Jordan had momentarily left the meeting. Motion Carried.**

## **MEETINGS AT THE TOWN HALL**

Chairman Munguia is not in favor of meetings in person at the Town Hall at this time as Zoom meetings are serving the purpose. ETV will be working on their safety policy protocols with the Emergency Management Director. Mr. Munguia wants to make sure our ETV Crew are safe as well as the speakers.

ETV employee Glen Fredericks asked about the School Board meeting at the Elementary School on Thursday. Will the safety policy protocols be in place in time for Thursday's meeting? He would like to ask everyone at the podium to wear a mask. Mr. Fredericks asked for gloves and masks be supplied.

**Motion by Selectman Joe Trombley to proceed with the School Board meeting on Thursday as long as Fire Chief Joe Lombardo and Emergency Director Don DeAngelis have approved the process and is in agreement with the school. Seconded by Chairman Adam Munguia. Discussion continued regarding public gatherings. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Mike Yergeau, Cody Belanger, Bob Jordan, Joe Trombley and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Motion Carried.**

Civil War Roundtable member Mr. Hodgeman was hoping to use the upstairs auditorium for their September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. As a process is not in place for public gatherings the auditorium is still not to be used. Safety plans for evacuation, sanitizing, number of people and screening all need to be discussed further. Emergency Management Director Don DeAngelis will need to work with the Board of Selectman regarding a plan to open the upstairs auditorium.

## **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

### **Town Administrator**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge said the library is set to open on August 10<sup>th</sup> as long as Fire Chief Joe Lombardo, Emergency Management Director Don DeAngelis and Building Inspector Dennis Pelletier gives their OK.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge asked for a motion to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

**Motion by Selectman Cody Belanger to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Bob Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Joe Trombley, Mike Yergeau, Cody Belanger, Bob Jordan and Chairman Adam Munguia all voting aye. Motion Carried.**

## **INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS**

### **Selectman Cody Belanger**

No Report

### **Selectman Joe Trombley**

No Report

### **Selectman Mike Yergeau**

Selectman Mike Yergeau asked the community of town water users to be conservative with their water use. The part needed to fix the water issue will be in next week. Hoar Pond Well is very low.

### **Selectman Bob Jordan**

Selectman Bob Jordan congratulated Fire Chief Joe Lombardo on his well-earned retirement from the New England Dragway. The Governor presented him with a proclamation. NE Dragway will miss him but the Town of Epping is glad to have him.

### **Selectman Adam Munguia**

Selectman Adam Munguia congratulated the 2020 graduates from Epping High School along with their family and friends.

Selectman Adam Munguia will have a permit raffle from the American Legion to reissue.

**ADJOURN**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 10:32 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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**Mike Yergeau, Selectman**

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**Cody Belanger, Selectman**

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**Joe Trombley, Selectman**

**Dated: August 10, 2020**