

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
November 16, 2020**



**ATTENDANCE**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Adam Munguia called the public meeting to order at 6:30 PM at the Epping Town Hall.

**ENTER IN TO NON-PUBLIC 91:A II. (a) promotion**

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to enter in to Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to exit the Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

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

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**NON PUBLIC**

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to seal the non-public meeting minutes in accordance of 91:A from November 16, 2020. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.**

## MINUTES

Minutes from the November 9, 2020 Selectmen's meeting were submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2020 Selectmen's meeting. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.**

## PAYROLL MANIFEST

Payroll manifest for the pay period ending November 12, 2020 in the amount of \$117,234.31 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the payroll manifest for the pay period ending November 12, 2020 in the amount of \$117,234.31. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.**

## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST

Accounts payable manifest for the week ending November 12, 2020 in the amount of \$1,154,783.93 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the accounts payable manifest for the week ending November 12, 2020 in the amount of \$1,154,783.93; \$1,000,000.00 is for the school and \$154,783.93 is for the town. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.**

## EOC CHIEF DON DEANGELIS

Chief DeAngelis is going forward with the CGOP (Continuing Government Operations Plan). This is a grant that will be available to the Town of Epping to cover cost.

Signing of papers for the FROST Plan (First Responders Optional Surveillance Testing) will happen tomorrow. This is a once a month card testing for COVID-19 for the Police and Fire Department.

Chief DeAngelis reported the numbers of COVID-19 cases are going up in NH. There are 3,334 active cases at present in NH. One Quarter of that number has been in just the last two weeks. The number of COVID-19 cases in Epping has dropped from 22 to 19. The staff and the EOC Department are still monitoring.

The new quarantine regulations regarding of a negative test result were reviewed. Any vacations out of New England will require a 14-day quarantine before being tested and allowed back to work. Critical employees can return to work if approved with a mask, medical screening and quarantined at work. There are more guidelines for people who travel for work.

## **FIRE CHIEF LOMBARDO**

Chief Lombardo reported as of today there have been 1,126 incidents which is 5 more than last year at this time.

Chief Lombardo explained the changes in the training curriculum. Training will be held in the bays versus in the in-training room. There is more space in the bays for social distancing.

The Seacoast Regional Health Network is organizing the West Epping Station for the vaccination program. Epping is assisting with staging and logistics of the equipment and materials. There are no start dates yet.

## **POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL WALLACE**

Police Chief Wallace would like to send 2 cruisers to auction. There was some confusion as the Board of Selection had already given the Fire Department permission to use 5 vehicles as training vehicles. Chief Lombardo only needs 3 of the vehicles for training.

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to revise the previous motion to include the police vehicles to go to Adamson for auction and/or to the Fire Department for training purposes. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **BUSINESS**

### **POLICE**

Police Chief Wallace requested approval for Russ Hero to be promoted to Detective effective December 1, 2020. Chief Wallace reported Detective Hero will stay in the school system as the SRO Officer until the appropriate candidate can fill the position.

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the promotion for Russ Hero to Detective effective December 1, 2020. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **BUDGETS**

The Library, Recreation, Watson Academy, Town Clerk, Election and Tax Collector, Street Lighting Budget, Safety Facility, Police and Fire & Rescue were discussed and reviewed with Department heads without changes. The budgets had the 2.1% COLA added. The ongoing goal to have copiers on the same lease schedule was discussed. Trash hauling for Recreation has increased as having a dumpster is the best option. Town Clerk and Tax Collector Erika Robinson stated there are less people buying dump stickers and that is a town revenue. She suggested the possibility of raising the price of a dump sticker. Chairman Munguia would like to discuss increasing the dump sticker price to help cover the dump closing at a later meeting.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge and Town Clerk and Tax Collector Erika Robinson have discussed and are looking for a RSA that if you are in lien status with taxes you can choose to not let a person register a vehicle.

Road Supervisor David Reinhold and DPW Director Dennis Koch updated the Highway Budget with a 2021 Paving List. Discussion including the Engineering line for Railroad Ave and Acre Street continued.

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to reduce the highway equipment line by \$61,000 and reduce the equipment rental by \$10,000 and move the total of \$71,000 into the road reconstruction line. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.**

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to reduce the cell phone line by \$200.00. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.**

There was a conversation regarding the Transfer Station hauling service, trash disposal and the compactor. DPW Director Dennis Koch requested an increase of \$4,000.00 to Trash Disposal line making the total \$150,000.000. Road Supervisor David Reinhold has priced the new garage building and he would like to wait until next year to see if the prices will readjust. Selectman Trombley would like Mr. Reinhold to price out the new garage building.

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to increase the trash disposal line total to \$150,000.000 as requested. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.**

During the Police Budget review Selectman Trombley questioned the motorcycle being used as there is limited accessibility. He is concerned with the increased and unnecessary risk. Police Chief Wallace defended the need for the motorcycle being part of the police force and no action was taken to remove the motorcycle from the budget.

**Motion by Selectman Belanger to reduce the Animal Control budget to \$4,500.00. Seconded by Selectman Trombley.** Discussion continued with Police Chief Wallace trying to secure the

full budgeted amount. He stated if the town has any animal problems the price is usually very high. **Motion carried 3-1-0. Chairman Munguia voting nay.**

**Selectman Belanger left the meeting at 10:05 PM**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge requested motions on previously made changes to the budget.

**Motion by Selectman Trombley to approve moving the legal expenses from the Planning and Zoning Budgets and adding it to the Legal Expense budget line. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Motion by Selectman Trombley to approve reducing the General Assistance heating budget line by \$1,500.00. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Motion by Selectman Trombley to add \$4,000.00 to the Conservation budget line. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Motion by Selectman Yergeau to approve reducing the Building Inspection Dues and Subscriptions budget line to \$100.00. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Motion by Selectman Yergeau to send the 2021 budget of \$7,782,340.00 to the Budget Committee for review. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **WATER CAPACITY & ALLOCATION AGREEMENT**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained this water allocation is from a water credit agreement made in 2014. The water usage agreement is for 19,575 gallons a day.

**Motion by Selectman Yergeau to approve the Water Capacity & Allocation Agreement giving Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge permission to sign the document on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **NE DRAGWAY SOLAR PROJECT**

**Motion by Selectman Yergeau to table the NE Dragway Solar Project approval. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **VETERANS CREDIT**

Veterans Credits for Reid Reasor, map and lot 017-006-024, Barber Jarrod, map and lot 016-012 and Christopher Coleman, map and lot 015-003-021 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Yergeau to approve the Veterans Credits for Reid Reasor, map and lot 017-006-024, Barber Jarrod, map and lot 016-012 and Christopher Coleman, map and lot 015-003-021. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 3-0.**

Veteran Credit for Michael F. Morasco, map and lot 022-070 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Chairman Munguia to deny the Veteran Credit for Michael F. Morasco, map and lot 022-070 due to he doesn't own the property. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.**

## **ABATEMENTS**

Abatements for Albert & Joyce Witham in the amount of \$68.71, Roy Hurlbert in the amount of \$65.35 and the Town of Epping in the amount of \$2,572.03 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Yergeau to approve the abatements for Albert & Joyce Witham in the amount of \$68.71, Roy Hurlbert in the amount of \$65.35 and the Town of Epping in the amount of \$2,572.03. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 3-0.**

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### **Town Administrator**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge suggested not having a meeting next week as it is the Thanksgiving Holiday. Selectman Trombley stated after budget season he would like the meeting schedule to be every 2 weeks again.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced the Budget Committee meeting is this Wednesday at 7 PM.

## **INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS**

### **Selectman Cody Belanger**

Excused

**Selectman Mike Yergeau**

No Report

**Selectman Joe Trombley**

No Report

**Selectman Bob Jordan**

Excused

**Selectman Adam Munguia**

Chairman Munguia read a statement directing the public to the abatement process regarding the new assessments.

**ADJOURN**

**Motion by Selectman Trombley to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:45 PM.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Joyce Blanchard  
Executive Secretary**

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**Adam Munguia, Chairman**

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**Mike Yergeau, Selectman**

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**Cody Belanger, Selectman**

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**Joe Trombley, Selectman**

**Dated: November 30, 2020**