

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
November 9, 2020**



ATTENDANCE

Chairman Adam Munguia; Selectman Mike Yergeau, Cody Belanger 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 6:15 PM at the Epping Town Hall.

ENTER IN TO NON-PUBLIC 91:A II. (a) compensation, (b) hire

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 Trombley to exit the Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. 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

MINUTES

Minutes from the November 2, 2020 Selectmen's meeting were submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the minutes from the November 2, 2020 Selectmen's meeting. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

FIRE CHIEF LOMBARDO

Chief Lombardo was absent and Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge gave his report. As of noon today there have been 1,098 incidents, last year there were 1,094.

The COVID numbers in the state have increased but there have not been more hospitalizations or deaths. The COVID cases in Epping have tripled since October.

BUSINESS

SNOW PLOW CONTRACTS

Road Supervisor Dave Reinhold is requesting plow rate increases for this winter. His suggestion is to raise Donald Fogg and Randy Turpin hourly rates from \$25 to \$30 and Renee Victoria from \$75 to \$80 per hour. Discussion followed regarding increased number of roads, number of drivers and competitive rates.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the request to increase plow rates for Donald Fogg and Randy Turpin to \$30 and Renee Victoria to \$80 per hour. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

POLICE

The police department provided a list of vehicles that are in poor condition. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained the vehicles have not been put out to bid or the auction process. The police department is requesting the board's permission to donate the cars to the fire department for training purposes.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the request to donate the cars to the fire department for training purposes. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

BUDGET REVIEW

The 2021 Budget Worksheets were reviewed. The 2021 Budget reflects an increase of \$443,785.00 which is a 6% increase and an estimated tax impact of \$0.17. Each budget was reviewed for increases not including the nondiscretionary increases. Conversation regarding an additional canister for the Transfer Station and the excavator in the Highway Budget being a warrant article continued. The Building Inspector budget office supply and training amount lines were discussed.

CHARLIE GOODSPEED – LIBRARY RAMP

Mr. Goodspeed came before the board to share his and others concerns regarding the library ramp. He doesn't believe the ramp is needed due to the number of doors downstairs and that the lift is ADA compliant. The money to repair the ramp could have been saved. There is no longer street parking so the ramp and front door won't be used. There is also an issue with the rise at the front door that is not handicapped friendly. Mr. Goodspeed realizes it's too late with their request to stop the restoration as it has started already. Selectmen Trombley explained the Library Trustees decided to repair the ramp and followed up on the construction particulars. Discussion followed with other library updates.

BUDGETS REVIEW con't

Remaining budgets were reviewed. Suggestions were made to reduce the budget in Animal Control, Planning Board, Zoning and remove the motorcycle from the Police Budget. The legal services could be consolidated for all the town departments. Questions regarding the Tax Collector's budget concluded with a request for Erika Robinson to come to the next meeting. Selectman Belanger questioned the need to increase the Board of Selectmen stipend. Chairman Munguia will explain the need at the Budget Committee Meeting.

Motion to send the draft 2021 budget to the Budget Committee. This motion was not acted on.

EARNED TIME

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge discussed a one-time option to the Earned Time Policy for 2020. Due to COVID this year many employees have not used their earned time. Mr. Dodge is asking for those employees be able to bank 440 hours for 2021 and take the time in a reasonable time frame next year. A lengthy discussion followed for a one-time policy change.

Motion by Selectman Yergeau to approve a one-time policy change for employees to bank an extra 40 hours of earned time. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 4-0.

TIMBER TAX ABATEMENT

Timber Tax Abatement for Lloyd and Joan Perkins at 216 Pleasant Street, map and lot 028-047 in the amount of \$987.94 was submitted for approval. The timber company did not charge the Perkins the same amount the state charges.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the Timber Tax Abatement for Lloyd and Joan Perkins at 216 Pleasant Street, map and lot 028-047 in the amount of \$987.94. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 4-0.

RECREATION

Request to Hire Dylan Dulong as an After School Program Jr. Staff member at \$9.00 per hour was submitted for approval. No background check is needed as the applicant is under 18 years old.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the hiring of Dylan Dulong as an After School Program Jr. Staff member at \$9.00 per hour. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

WATER AND SEWER

A modification letter to the original loan agreement regarding the scheduled completion date was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the modification letter to the original loan agreement stating “completion date is hereby determined to be January 2, 2022; however, should the project...”. Seconded by Selectman Yergeau. Motion carried 4-0.

WATER TOWER LEASE

The Pleasant Street Water Tower Lease Agreement and a related Memorandum was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Belanger to approve the Pleasant Street Water Tower Lease Agreement and a related Memorandum. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced the Transfer Station, Dump and Town Hall will be closed Wednesday to honor all Veterans. Thank you Veterans.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge said the tax bill will be going out this week, look for them in your mail.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge asked for a motion to send the draft budget to the Budget Committee.

Motion by Selectman Trombley to send the 2021 draft budget to the Budget Committee for review. Seconded by Chairman Munguia. Motion carried 4-0.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge thanked the Board of Selectmen for the long day during elections.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Cody Belanger

No Report

Selectman Mike Yergeau

No Report

Selectman Joe Trombley

No Report

Selectman Bob Jordan

Excused

Selectman Adam Munguia

Chairman Munguia invited all Veterans and their families to the American Legion on Wednesday from 4 PM-8 PM for a spaghetti dinner to thank them for their service.

Motion by Chairman Munguia to donate \$500.00 from the Patriotic Purpose budget to the American Legion to help with the cost of the Spaghetti Dinner. Seconded by Selectman Belanger. Motion carried 4-0.

NON-PUBLIC

Motion by Selectman Belanger to enter into non-public RSA 91-A II. (a) Compensation and and to adjourn immediately thereafter. 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. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary

Adam Munguia, Chairman

Mike Yergeau, Selectman

Cody Belanger, Selectman

Joe Trombley, Selectman

Dated: November 16, 2020