

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
December 27, 2020**



VIA ZOOM

EMERGENCY MEETING

In accordance with RSA 91-A Chairman Adam Munguia of the Board of Selectmen called this emergency meeting as action by the Board was necessary in the best interest of public health. The Selectmen had recently closed Town Hall due to a COVID outbreak and there were uncertainties as to whether or not it was safe for personnel to enter Town Hall on Monday December 28, 2020. It was imperative the Selectmen meet in an emergency session.

Note: This meeting was not posted as time did not allow. The Selectmen will reaffirm the votes taken at the January 12, 2021 meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Munguia called this emergency meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:04 PM via Zoom.

ATTENDANCE

Chairman Adam Munguia, Selectmen; Bob Jordan, Mike Yergeau, Cody Belanger and Joe Trombley. Also in attendance was Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD

At an emergency meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Saturday December 19, 2020 the Selectmen voted to close Town Hall to the public until January 11, 2021. The Board also voted that essential employees (as determined by the EOC Director and Town Administrator) were not to return until December 29, 2020 with the Board revisiting the issue at the meeting on December 28, 2020. Town Administrator Gregory Dodge had not posted the December 28, 2020 meeting and since the posting must be within 24 hours there was no time to do so and be compliant with RSA 91-A. The Board discussed the matter and decided to meet at 8:00 PM on December 28, 2020 and asked that the meeting be posted.

Motion by Selectman Cody Belanger to meet at 8:00 PM on December 28, 2020. Seconded by Selectman Joe Trombley. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Belanger, Trombley, Yergeau, Jordan and Munguia all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.

ACCESS TO TOWN HALL

The Board had considerable conversation relative to safely returning employees to Town Hall who had tested positive for COVID-19.

Motion by Selectman Cody Belanger to allow Lisa and Erika into Town Hall on Monday December 28, 2020 to process payroll and work on encumbrances and that they are to remain social distanced, wear masks and exit Town Hall together. Seconded by Selectman Joe Trombley. Discussion followed.

Motion by Selectman Cody Belanger to move the question. Seconded by Selectman Joe Trombley. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Yergeau, Trombley, Belanger, Jordan and Munguia all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0 to move the question.

Question was called with the following results - Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Yergeau, Trombley, Belanger, Jordan and Munguia all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0 on the original motion.

Motion by Selectman Cody Belanger that any employee who has tested positive for COVID-19 may only return to work with a negative COVID-19 test. Seconded by Selectman Joe Trombley with discussion. Chairman Munguia pointed out that positive cases could still test positive after recovery for months with Selectman Jordan agreeing saying that the re-tests skew the numbers and that is why it is not recommended. Selectman Belanger rescinded his motion as did the "second" Selectman Trombley.

Motion by Selectman Cody Belanger that recovered positive COVID employees returning to work do not have any contact with other employees and protect themselves with masks, isolate themselves and adhere to all safety precautions. There was no second however discussion continued on this motion. Town Administrator Dodge felt that he was being singled out and that the motion was too restrictive. Not agreeing with the direction the Board was going on this meeting, Town Administrator Dodge stated he could not continue to work under these proposed conditions and that he would leave his position after Town Meeting. Selectman Bob Jordan said that the Town Administrator was being premature on his decision as the Board was still in the discussion phase. Selectman Cody Belanger emphasized that there were seven (7) confirmed cases at Town Hall. This was not about him, the Town Administrator or anyone in particular. The restrictions needed to be in place to protect all of our employees. Employees should wear masks at all times and remain in their office with the door closed. Selectman Joe Trombley tended to not agree with Selectman Belanger. Selectman Jordan read from his doctor's note about returning to work. Selectman Belanger rescinded his motion and there was no second.

Discussion continued as to whether or not there was a need for the Town Administrator to return on December 28th. Selectman Trombley stating that Erika Robinson had no plans to go in on Monday the 28th. Selectman Mike Yergeau said that the Administrator wanted to work with Lisa on the encumbrances.

Motion by Selectman Cody Belanger that recovered employees returning to work must return with a doctor's note and coordinate with the EOC. There was no second however considerable discussion continued. Chief DeAngelis said that is not a requirement anywhere and that after 10 days a patient is out of quarantine. No second and thus no vote.

Selectman Bob Jordan said that Dennis Pelletier, Joe Lombardo and Chief DeAngelis would work on a “return to work” plan tomorrow, December 28, 2020.

Motion by Selectman Bob Jordan to allow the Town Administrator into Town Hall with an N95 mask to work on the encumbrances while the guidelines for returning to work were being formulated. Seconded by Selectman Cody Belanger. Selectman Belanger suggested that the motion be amended that all returning employees were to wear an N95 mask. Selectman Jordan accepted the amendment.

New Motion as amended:

Motion by Selectman Bob Jordan to allow all returning employees into Town Hall providing that they wear N95 mask and that the Town Administrator may work on the encumbrances while the guidelines for returning to work were being formulated. Seconded by Selectman Cody Belanger. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Belanger, Yergeau, Trombley, Jordan and Munguia all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.

TIME ALLOTMENT FOR MEETINGS

Selectman Cody Belanger put forth the following motion:

Motion by Selectman Cody Belanger to end the meetings on Monday and Tuesday after 3 ½ hours. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Since the meeting on Monday December 28, 2020 had a 8:00 PM start the Board did not want the meeting to go to 11:30 PM. This motion and the “second” were rescinded.

Motion by Selectman Cody Belanger that the Monday and Tuesday meetings were not to supersede two hours. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Belanger, Yergeau, Trombley, Jordan and Munguia all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman Cody Belanger to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Bob Jordan. Roll Call Vote; Selectmen Belanger, Trombley, Yergeau, Jordan and Munguia all voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Gregory C. Dodge
Town Administrator**

Adam Munguia, Chairman

Bob Jordan, Vice-Chairman

Mike Yergeau, Selectman

Joe Trombley, Selectman

Cody Belanger, Selectman

Dated: January 12, 2021

