

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
June 14, 2021**



**ATTENDANCE**

Chairman Mike Yergeau; Selectmen Joe Trombley, John Cody, Tom Gauthier; Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge; Executive Secretary Joyce Blanchard. Selectman Bob Jordan was excused.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mike Yergeau called the public meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**ENTER IN TO NON-PUBLIC 91-A:3 II. (a) promotion/compensation (b) hire (c) reputation (e) legal**

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to enter in to Non-Public Session in accordance with 91-A:3 II. (a) promotion/compensation (b) hire (c) reputation (e) legal Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously.**

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

**RECONVENE**

Chairman Mike Yergeau reconvened the public meeting at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall meeting room and via ZOOM.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to remove the three abatements recommended for denial from the consent calendar. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.**

Minutes from the June 1, 2021 Selectmen meeting was submitted for approval.

Payroll manifest for the pay period ending June 10, 2021 in the amount of \$144,887.63 was submitted for approval.

Accounts payable manifest for the week ending June 10, 2021 in the amount of \$469,166.83, (\$293,382.16 is for the water treatment plant and \$175,784.67 is for the town) were submitted for approval.

Abatement for Echo Farms of Epping map and lot 003-001-015 is the amount of \$8,500 was submitted for approval. The Current Use bill was issued twice.

New Hampshire Retirement System certification form for a new full time Fire Department hire was submitted for approval.

Large Assembly Permit for Paul Arsenault at 108 Nottingham Square Road for a wedding to be held on August 28, 2021 from 3pm- 11pm was submitted for approval.

Intent to Cut for JPAC Builders on Railroad Ave, map and lot 029-224 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the rest of Consent Calendar items with 1 abatement as recommended. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **BUSINESS**

### **FIRE**

Fire Department promotion for Michael Nickerson to Lieutenant with a pay increase from \$20.00 to \$20.50 was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Fire Department promotion for Michael Nickerson to Lieutenant with a pay increase from \$20.00 to \$20.50. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **DPW-WOLCOTT PAVING**

Proposal from Wolcott Construction to pave the Sewer Plan, Fresh River Road, Shepard Lane, Bridle Lane, Rosewood Court, Ironwood Court, Debbie Lane, Benjamin Way, Long Meadow Drive, Nottingham Square Road and part of North River Road in the amount of \$440,312.00 was submitted for approval.

Road Supervisor David Reinhold explained why those roads were chosen to be paved.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the proposal from Wolcott Construction to pave the Sewer Plan, Fresh River Road, Shepard Lane, Bridle Lane, Rosewood Court, Ironwood Court, Debbie Lane, Benjamin Way, Long Meadow Drive, Nottingham Square Road and part of North River Road in the amount of \$440,312.00. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **7:15 JAMES HARDY**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge gave some history regarding the tree line in the town right of way at 277 Main Street, the Hardy Residence. The discussion of removing the trees has been ongoing and a meeting had recently taken place with Chairman Yergeau, Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge, Road Agent Dave Reinhold, James and Brant Hardy.

Attorney James Hardy came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the tree issue at 277 Main Street. Mr. Hardy clarified for the board the owners did not approach the town and are not pursuing the removal of any trees.

Road Supervisor David Reinhold explained the trees should be removed due to safety issues, the trees are in the town's right of way and he plans to build a sidewalk from the Fogg Road Development using offsite improvement funds.

Discussion followed regarding the safety issues (how many accidents have occurred), setting a precedence in replacing trees that shouldn't be in the town's right of way and using the monies for offsite improvements for a sidewalk that has not been finalized.

**Motion by Selectman Trombley to defer any work on this project and revisit the site in a year with the exception of reasonable maintenance. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **7:30 JEN ROY**

Mrs. Roy was before the Board of Selectmen 5 weeks ago regarding the petition in March to change the polling hours to 7 AM. The petition was not worded correctly but the petition passed. The consensus of the Board of Selectmen is to support the intent of the petition for an early opening of the polls. Discussion on the HR1 bill and how if the bill passes will affect the Clerk's Office and the voting process continued. Town Clerk Erika Robinson explained if the HR1 bill passes there will be enough time to vote and an extra hour in the morning may not be necessary.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to table voting on opening the polls at 7 AM until the last meeting in November (November 29<sup>th</sup>). Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.** This will also give the board time to see what will happen with HR-1 in Congress and if it passes.

## **SENIOR BANNERS**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained the Senior Class banners were to be on the telephone poles until July 1st. The school has requested leaving the graduation senior banners on the telephone until the end of August.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Senior Class banners on the telephone poles and removing them the end of August. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **RECREATION**

Request to Hire Isabella Snyder as a Regular Staff Summer Camp Counselor at \$11.00 per hour was submitted for approval.

**Motion by Selectman Cody to approve the Request to Hire Isabella Snyder as a Regular Staff Summer Camp Counselor at \$11.00 per hour. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **CONSENT CALENDAR con't**

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to table the three abatements that were submitted for denial. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.**

Moving forward the "noise ordinance" hours should be stated on the Large Assembly application form.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier authorizing Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge to sign the Wolcott Proposal on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.**

## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

### Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge discussed the bat droppings in front of the town hall. He requested permission to hire a boom to fix the screens in the bell tower.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier authorizing Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge to secure a lift not to exceed 4 hours. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.**

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge asked if the Board of Selectmen would like to continue with ZOOM/hybrid meetings. The Governor's orders have been lifted, whereas a quorum must be physically present. Selectman Trombley thinks we should keep the ZOOM meetings as it offers a better service to the residents of the town. Mr. Trombley offered to be the ZOOM monitor on his lap top during the meetings. The consensus of the board was to keep the ZOOM/hybrid meetings as it improves communication.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge will repost the Public Hearing on June 28<sup>th</sup> regarding Bunker Avenue with ZOOM information.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge said the Budget Committee would like the Board of Selectmen to attend the meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>. He will post that as a meeting.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge announced SELT will be have an open house/ribbon cutting this Wednesday at 3:30 at North River Road. They would like you to RSVP.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge updated the board on a situation where encroachment on town property has occurred. As it's a legal matter he believes a survey should be done.

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to authorize Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge to procure the price and availability for a survey for this property. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.**

## INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

### Selectman Tom Gauthier

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to send letters from Epping Board of Selectman explaining their displeasure regarding HR1 to US Delegation. Seconded by Selectman Trombley.**

**Motion carried 4-0.**

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to close the Transfer Station on Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.**

Selectman Gauthier congratulated the 2021 graduates and wished them good luck in the future.

### Selectman Joe Trombley

Selectman Joe Trombley said he would be attending the SELT open house.

Selectman Joe Trombley announced the Conservation Commission are looking for trail stewards.

### Selectman John Cody

Selectman John Cody congratulated the High School seniors.

Selectman John Cody reported what a fantastic job the all the Police and Fire Departments did this weekend at the race track. It was a great event with very few emergencies. Great job!

### Selectman Bob Jordan

Excused

### Selectman Mike Yergeau

No Report

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to enter in to Non-Public Session in accordance with 91-A:3 II. (a) promotion/compensation (b) hire (c) reputation (e) legal and to adjourn immediately thereafter. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Roll call vote was taken with Selectman Gauthier, Selectman Cody, Selectman Trombley and Chairman Yergeau all voting aye. Motion carried 4-0.**

**Motion by Selectman Gauthier to seal the non-public minutes of June 14, 2021. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried. 4-0.**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.  
Respectfully Submitted,**

**Joyce Blanchard  
Executive Secretary**

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**Mike Yergeau, Chairman**

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**Joe Trombley, Vice Chairman**

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**John Cody, Selectman**

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**Tom Gauthier, Selectman**

**Date: June 28, 2021**