

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
July 12, 2021**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Yergeau called the public meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

ENTER IN TO NON-PUBLIC 91-A:3 II. (a) compensation (c) reputation

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to enter in to Non-Public Session in accordance with 91-A:3 II. (a) compensation (c) reputation. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Motion by Selectman Trombley to exit the Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

RECONVENE

Chairman Mike Yergeau reconvened the public meeting at 7:10 PM in the Town Hall meeting room and via ZOOM.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes from the June 28, 2021 Selectmen meeting was submitted for approval.

Payroll manifest for the pay period ending July 8, 2021 in the amount of \$155,342.96 was submitted for approval.

Accounts payable manifest for the week ending July 8, 2021 in the amount of \$1,449,923.01, (\$1,000,000.000 for the School, \$94,543.35 for the property liability insurance and \$355,379.66 is for the town) were submitted for approval.

Intent to Cut at map and lot 028-038-001 on Pleasant Street was submitted for approval.

Land Use Change Taxes for maps and lots 021-008-004, 021-008-005 and 021-008-013 in the amounts of \$12,500; 002-001-003, 002-001-009, 003-001-030, 003-001-031, 009-001-018, 009-001-019 and 003-001-025 in the amounts of \$13,000 along with 003-001-025 release of \$0.00 were submitted for review.

Annual Renewal of a Junkyard License for Epping Auto Salvage and Epping Auto Sales pending payment was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the Consent Calendar items as recommended. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Motion carried 5-0.

BUSINESS

7:15 PUBLIC HEARING – POLICE CANINE PROGRAM

Chairman Yergeau read the public notice to accept unanticipated revenue from the Stanton Foundation in the amount of \$27,000.00 for a Police Canine Program. Police Chief Michael Wallace said Officer Callahan would be the dog handler. The dog will be chosen in August and the canine academy training begins in September. The public hearing was open to the public. As there were not any public questions, the public hearing was closed.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to accept unanticipated revenue from the Stanton Foundation in the amount of \$27,000.00 for a Police Canine Program. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 5-0.

BUSINESS

POLICE

Purchase orders #340 to McMulkin Chevrolet for one 2020 Chevrolet Equinox in the amount of \$23,862.00, #341 to Adamson Industries to upfit the new Chevrolet Equinox in the amount of \$5,574.15 and #342 to Motorola Solutions for a cruiser radio and accessories in the amount of \$4,343.33 were submitted for approval.

Police Chief Michael Wallace will be decommissioning 2 vehicles this year. The Impala and the Fusion. The Fusion is not safe to drive anymore and did not pass inspection. As the department has 3 detectives he needs 2 vehicles. This money will be coming from the revolving

account. Selectman Gauthier would like to see a used vehicle purchased. Selectman Jordan does not support buying a used vehicle as he has seen to many vehicles with electrical issues. Discussion regarding the 5-year replacement plan, Police Department Budget and the Budget Committee will continue further in the meeting.

7:30 APPOINTMENT – REPRESENTATIVE CODY BELANGER

Representative Cody Belanger came before the Board of Selectmen to give an abbreviated “Concord Update” for the 2021 session. Mr. Belanger mentioned the state budget, state returns, schools, energy reforms and closing the Sununu Center.

He is also planning on holding office hours at the town hall for questions from residents, dates to be determined.

DPW

Purchase Order #343 to Mike Sanborn Excavation for crushing the entire asphalt pile in the amount of \$6,500.00 was submitted for approval. Road Supervisor David Reinhold explained he reuses crushed asphalt for edging, shim and multiple projects.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the purchase order #343 to Mike Sanborn Excavation for crushing the entire asphalt pile in the amount of \$6,500.00. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0.

7:45 PUBLIC HEARING - BUNKER AVENUE

Chairman Yergeau read the second Public Hearing Notice to solicit public testimony regarding the proposed plan to reverse the one-way traffic flow on Bunker Avenue. Selectman Gauthier thought this was postponed so a traffic study on Bunker Avenue and Moore Street could be accomplished. Police Chief Michael Wallace did not have a study ready but suggested an engineering study by completed. Road Supervisor David Reinhold contacted the State Department DOT and they are not concerned with the change but would like to know the final decision. Safety concerns were discussed with various solutions.

The Public Hearing was open to the public for comment. Jim Rogier from 27 Water Street and property owner on Bunker Avenue reported you can't see Bunker Avenue (east on Route 27) from the 4-way intersection. If the traffic pattern is changed he would like to see a no “thru traffic” sign installed that is enforced. Elisabeth Gustavson from 7 Bunker Avenue would like to see the traffic reversed for safety reasons. She believes pulling out on Route 27 will be much

safer than onto Main Street with all the walkers, bikers, Main Street traffic and parking. There were no other public comments and the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to change the direction of Bunker Avenue from Main Street to Water Street and posting a no thru traffic effective September 1, 2021. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion passed 5-0.

POLICE CON'T

Police Chief Michael Wallace said this is a replacement vehicle not an additional vehicle. It was the consensus of the Board that this was a good use of the funds but there is a concern the Budget Committee has put on a cap for the budget.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the purchase orders #340 to McMulkin Chevrolet for one 2020 Chevrolet Equinox in the amount of \$23,862.00, #341 to Adamson Industries to upfit the new Chevrolet Equinox in the amount of \$5,574.15 and #342 to Motorola Solutions for a cruiser radio and accessories in the amount of \$4,343.33. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-1. Selectman Gauthier voted nay.

FINANCE

Finance Director Lisa Fogg explained the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. The state needs to know if the town would like to apply for the allocation of \$736,596.00. There are many guidelines and stipulations when spending these funds. Some of the eligible uses (although there is new information every couple of days) are COVID-19 Pandemic related. They include, Response/Negative Economic Impacts, Workforce/Personnel-Premium Pay, Necessary Water and Sewer and Broadband Projects and Lost Revenue. The deadline to apply is August 18, 2021.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to apply for the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds of \$736,596.00 giving permission to Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge to sign any documents on the Selectmen's behalf. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0.

MS 535

Finance Director Lisa Fogg said this MS-535 is a state form that reports on the budget and completed by the town auditor. The towns fund balance and revenues all look accurate.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the state form MS-535 as recommend by the Financial Officer. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

FIRE

Fire Chief Donald DeAngelis reported the 2 new full-time employees started working this week.

There is a new AED installed in the hallway outside the Selectmen's office that staff members will be trained on Thursday.

Resignation from Timothy Labonte on the Epping Fire & Rescue Department effective July 21, 2021 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to accept with regret the resignation from Timothy Labonte on the Epping Fire & Rescue Department effective July 21, 2021. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 5-0.

Purchase Order #344 to Bergeron Protective Clothing for fire clothing gear in the amount of \$4,049.55 was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the purchase order #344 to Bergeron Protective Clothing for fire clothing gear in the amount of \$4,049.55. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0.

FREMONT

Administrator Gregory C. Dodge asked for direction on responding to the recent letter from Fremont regarding Shirkin Road. More time is needed before any response is given to Fremont concerning the letter. The Board will discuss further in non-public under legal.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator

No Report

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Tom Gauthier

Selectman Gauthier would like the pile of brush picked up in Central Cemetery.

Selectman Joe Trombley

Selectman Joe Trombley would like the Planning Board to contact the Board of Selectmen if any applications come in on Shirkin Road. The Town of Fremont appreciates being notified on any regional impact.

Selectman Joe Trombley asked Administrator Gregory C. Dodge if the signs for the Transfer Station are still behind schedule? Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge will check the status of the signs.

Selectman Joe Trombley requested having an update on the internet connection. His laptop kept losing the connection frequently.

Selectman Bob Jordan

Selectman Bob Jordan reported Engine #3 had been having electronic issues. As the engine had a new computer not too long ago, Selectman Jordan was able to get the bill cut in half.

Selectman John Cody

Selectman John Cody reiterated the importance of exit interviews. It helps keep a better pulse on the town knowing why employees are leaving. The interviews should be held by a member of the Select Board.

Selectman Mike Yergeau

Selectman Mike Yergeau agrees with Selectman Trombley about keeping Fremont in the loop regarding any Planning Board applications. Even though the Planning Board is run by town regulations the Board of Selectmen need to be communicated with.

Selectman Mike Yergeau stated the State will be funding the Railroad Avenue and the water line project. The Town of Epping will pay for the drainage and Water and Sewer Department will pay for the sewer line.

PUBLIC

Andrew Blake from 18 Treys's Way attended the meeting and is looking for a way to volunteer in town and be involved.

Motion by Selectman Trombley to enter in to Non-Public Session in accordance with 91-A:3 II. (e) legal and to adjourn immediately after. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Mike Yergeau, Chairman

Joe Trombley, Vice Chairman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

John Cody, Selectman

Tom Gauthier, Selectman

Date: July 12, 2021