

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
June 28, 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 6:30 PM.

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

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

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

RECONVENE

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

PRESENTATION

Deputy Fire Chief Joe Lombardo presented Joyce Blanchard with a certificate of commendation for her "assertive action during a life-threatening emergency".

CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes from the June 14, 2021 Selectmen meeting was submitted for approval.

Payroll manifest for the pay period ending June 24, 2021 in the amount of \$179,021.40 was submitted for approval.

Accounts payable manifest for the week ending June 24, 2021 in the amount of \$509,111.35 and week ending July 1, 2021 in the amount of \$2,000,000.00, (\$135,000.00 for the Trust Fund Warrants, \$140,415.00 for the Land Bond, \$79,452.00 for the Library Bond, \$154,244.35 is for the town and the \$2,000,000.00 is for the school) were submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Consent Calendar items as recommended. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-1. Selectman Jordan abstained.

BUSINESS

RECREATION

Requests to promote Brett Couture and Elizabeth Koutroubas from Lead Staff to Assistant Camp Directors at \$15.00 an hour, Emily LeBlanc from Jr. Before and After School Staff to Regular Staff at \$12.00 an hour and Morgan Shanley from Jr. Staff to Regular Summer Camp Staff at \$12.00 an hour along with rate of pay increases for Sarah Kirby to \$13.00 an hour, Olga Purington to \$15.50 and Rebecca Gagnon to \$17.50 an hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to approve the requests to promote Brett Couture and Elizabeth Koutroubas from Lead Staff to Assistant Camp Directors at \$15.00 an hour, Emily LeBlanc from Jr. Before and After School Staff to Regular Staff at \$12.00 an hour and Morgan Shanley from Jr. Staff to Regular Summer Camp Staff at \$12.00 an hour along with rate of pay increases for Sarah Kirby to \$13.00 an hour, Olga Purington to \$15.50 and Rebecca Gagnon to \$17.50 an hour. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to amend the above motion to include having the promotions and rate of pay increased starting June 12th. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0.

Recreation Director Nicole Bizarro requested the Board of Selectmen to accept a playground specific donation of \$1,000.00 from John Ver Ploeg at Epping General Dentistry and a \$100.00 anonymous donation to buy a picnic table for Mary Blair.

Motion by Selectman Trombley to accept the playground specific donation of \$1,000.00 from John Ver Ploeg at Epping General Dentistry and a \$100.00 anonymous donation to buy a picnic table for Mary Blair. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 5-0.

FIRE

Fire Chief Don DeAngelis was informed by the State that 3,800 residents in town have had their first vaccination and 48% of the town's population has had both vaccines. As of June 30th the Department of Health and Human Services will take over all COVID related issues.

Request to hire Robert Grinnell for a part time firefighter at \$9.25 an hour and \$14.00 on a call per hour was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the request to hire Robert Grinnell for a part time firefighter at \$9.25 an hour and \$14.00 on a call per hour pending background check. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0.

A grant for Emergency Management Performance to update the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) in the amount of \$4,000 was submitted for approval. This is a continuing plan for Government Operations. Chief DeAngelis explained this is a matching grant with the town paying \$4,000.

Motion by Selectman Trombley to accept the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented in the amount of \$4,000.00 to update the community's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). Furthermore, the Board of Selectmen acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be \$8,000.00 in which the town will be responsible for a 50% match (\$4,000.00). Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

BLAKE ROAD

Deputy Fire Chief Joe Lombardo requested permission to use town resources (Road Supervisor, David Reinhold) to dig a test pit for a cistern on the corner of Blake Road and Prescott Road.

Motion by Selectman Jordan permitting Road Supervisor, David Reinhold to dig a test pit for a cistern on the corner of Blake Road and Prescott Road. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0.

7:15 PUBLIC HEARING – BUNKER AVENUE

Chairmen Yergeau read the Public Hearing Notice and asked the Board of Selectmen for comments. Selectman Gauthier asked for the change of direction on Bunker Avenue due to the blind spot pulling onto Main Street. Road Supervisor David Reinhold said it would make plowing easier to reverse the direction on Bunker Avenue and added this project would cost approximately \$2,000.00. Chairmen Yergeau opened the Public Hearing to the public.

Elisabeth Gustavson is asking the Board of Selectmen to agree to this change. As she lives on Bunker Avenue she has had several close calls trying to exit Bunker Avenue onto Main Street. There are bike riders, walkers, runners (of all ages) and parked cars. She has almost hit someone and her son-in-law almost hit a bicyclist. She would also like to see a sign saying, "No Thru Traffic".

Jim Rogier owns property on Bunker Ave. and he is of the opinion that it is a bad situation whether you pull out onto Main Street or Water Street. As the town would be trading one bad situation for another he does not support this idea.

John Ver Ploeg owns a business on Main Street and discussed the handicapped parking. The handicapped parking is on Bunker Avenue and should be closer to the businesses on Main Street for accessibility. Mr. Reinhold stated the handicapped parking spots are placed depending on the curb cuts.

Further discussion regarding a traffic and safety study, more enforcement stopping the use of Bunker Avenue as a short cut, speed bumps and visibility continued. The Public Hearing was closed at 8:15.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to table the Bunker Avenue discussion for 2 weeks giving the police time to do a traffic study on Moore Street and Bunker Avenue. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 5-0. The abutters will be notified of the second Public Hearing.

FINANCE

Ambulance write-offs for residents in the amount of \$35,476.92, write offs for non-residents in the amount of \$264.65, transfers to collections for residents who received insurance payments directly in the amount of \$11,069.33 and transfers to collections for non-residents in the amount of \$23,028.04 was submitted for approval. Write off grand total is \$60,838.94.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the ambulance write-offs for residents in the amount of \$35,476.92, write offs for non-residents in the amount of \$264.65, transfers to collections for residents who received insurance payments directly in the amount of \$11,069.33 and transfers to collections for non-residents in the amount of \$23,028.04. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 5-0.

ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge reminded the Board of Selectmen when the Board was being reorganized the Planning Board Chair had not been appointed.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier appointing Heather Clark as the Rockingham Planning Commission Representative. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0.

ABATEMENTS

Utility abatements for maps and lots 023-185, 036-034, 040-500-002 and 040-500 were submitted to deny from the town's utility appraiser.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to recommend the utility abatements for maps and lots 023-185, 036-034, 040-500-002 and 040-500 to be denied based on the town's utility appraiser recommendation. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 5-0.

LIBRARY

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge explained the Harvey-Mitchell Memorial Library trustees would like to name the library rooms after citizens of Epping. The Trustees are seeking permission from the Board of Selectmen to do so using their own discretion.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve allowing the Library Trustees to name the library room at their discretion. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 5-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge has spoken to the Historical Society regarding replacing the lights downtown. They liked the solar lights that had the solar panel included. They give out less light but are also less costly. Mr. Dodge will get the final pricing and come back before the board with a purchase order.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge will be out of the office Thursday and Friday. The Town Hall will be closed Monday for the holiday.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge reported the keys to the Keefe site and the building will be turned over to the town. There are some beehives owned by a private citizen on site. The

building will be utilized by the Highway Department for storage. The outer gates are locked but the alarm system has been deactivated. The police department has been notified for patrols.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge presented retired Captain Newman with a plaque from the Board of Selectmen at his retirement party Saturday. Mr. Newman sends his appreciation.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Tom Gauthier

Selectman Gauthier announced the Transfer Station will be closed this Sunday.

Selectman Joe Trombley

Selectman Joe Trombley would like to revisit and discuss the dump sticker pricing and enforcing the Epping residents only policy.

Selectman Joe Trombley apologized for not attending Captain Newman's retirement party but wished him congratulations.

Selectman John Cody

Selectman John Cody reported the three week wait on books at the library due to contamination is over. The doorway that is part of the expansion is schedule to be finished after the slight delay. Mr. Cody is very impressed with the summertime line up. He thanked the fire department for helping fill the water tank for the Flower Committee to use at the library. The entry way will be done in July with the "special" bricks. The patio bricks will be done later.

Selectman John Cody congratulated Captain Newman on his retirement. Just because he retired Mr. Cody is sure he won't forget his desire to help others.

Selectman Bob Jordan

Selectman Bob Jordan wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July, enjoy and stay safe.

Selectman Mike Yergeau

Selectman Mike Yergeau thanked Mr. Newman for his 22 years of service.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 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