

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
August 30, 2021**



ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Yergeau called the public meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

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

Motion by Selectman Gauthier 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.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes from the August 23, 2021 Selectmen meeting was submitted for approval.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2021 Selectmen meeting. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Jordan to raise pay for Phil Tatsoe from \$13.27 to \$14.60 and Joe Yates from \$14.91 to \$16.40 at the Transfer Station. Seconded by Selectman Gauthier. Motion carried 5-0.

BUDGET REVIEW

Selectman Trombley is asking from all the department heads their normal 2021 budget with additions they think they need to run their departments. Then he would like to see a budget with certain services cut along with a memo explaining those line items. Selectman Gauthier would like to know about “big ticket” items for each department.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge asked the Board of Selectmen if the Departments should include COLA increases and initiatives in their budgets.

Motion by Joe Trombley to include the 1.8% cost of living in the budgets. Seconded by Selectmen Jordan. Motion carried 5-0.

PARK AND RECREATION

Recreation Director Nicole Bizzaro reviewed the 2020 budget year to date. Not including the \$9,000 increase for the non-discretionary items there are not may changes to make in next year budget. Mrs. Bizzaro does not expect any big-ticket items for 2021 but the boilers are getting old. The LCHIP will be over at the end of the year. There might be an option for more funding through that program.

TOWN CLERK AND TAX COLLECTOR

Town Clerk and Tax Collector Erika Robinson reported there will be 3 elections in 2021, March, June and September. Overtime for the Deputy Clerk and Office Clerk versus compensation time was discussed as they work more hours during elections. A program addition of \$300 will provide the police access to dog information at any time. Mrs. Robinson stated her department won't need to order any big-ticket items in 2022.

Under Tax Collection Mrs. Robinson explained professional services were for mailing the tax bills out. Only half of the amount has been used thus far, the rest of the line will be used for the 2nd half of the billing.

HIGHWAY BUILDING

DPW Director Dennis Koch and Road Supervisor David Reinhold commented on the salary portion of the budget will be lower due to losing two employees. One of the Full-Time employees does a lot of the mechanical work on the various equipment is looking at retirement so the maintenance line should be increased. The engineering line hasn't been spent as the

plans for making a "T" stop at the end on Old State Road and Blake Road are being debated. The end of Ham Road onto State Route 27 also need a "T" stop.

Selectman Jordan left the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Hauling services, snow contractors, road striping, road signs, culverts and etc. along with the Transfer Station and Trash Disposal were reviewed.

FIRE

Fire Chief Donald DeAngelis discussed the overtime used to cover positions while employees worked the clinics for the state. The grant salaries and expenses will be removed as there is no longer a need going forward. The department has a new computer contract so that should be less and the revolving fund is in good shape.

SAFETY FACILITY

The Fire Department side of the safety facility needs to have the overhead doors replaced.

Chief DeAngelis would like to have a new Part-Time employee in the station at night at \$17.00 an hour. Right now, the response time is 10 minutes. Having someone at the station will improve the response time versus the on-call personnel at home making \$9.25. Discussion continued as this will increase the budget.

Chief DeAngelis would also like a \$1.00 raise for all his part-time employees.

POLICE

After the police budget was reviewed Chief Michael Wallace will be requesting 3 large ticket items: Body Cams at appx. \$300,000, software increases for policies and directives, training for the police academy and accreditation to reduce liability.

ANIMAL CONTROL

After a brief budget review and discussion:

Motion by Selectman Trombley to discontinue the Animal Control Budget and add one line in the police budget called Animal Control consolidating all the amounts to \$1,000. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

BUSINESS

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to have new signs installed on Bunker Avenue stating “new traffic pattern” and Enter or Exit. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Selectman Gauthier stated three-hour meetings should be the maximum amount of time for the meetings. After three hours he doesn't believe the time spent is productive. The next budget review should have a smaller number of departments heads present.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to accept the resignation of Russ Layfette with regrets. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator

No Report

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Tom Gauthier

No Report

Selectman Joe Trombley

No Report

Selectman John Cody

No Report

Selectman Bob Jordan

Excused

Selectman Mike Yergeau

No Report

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Mike Yergeau, Chairman

Joe Trombley, Vice Chairman

Bob Jordan, Selectman

John Cody, Selectman

Tom Gauthier, Selectman

Date: September 7, 2021