

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE
November 8, 2021**



ATTENDANCE

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

Motion by Selectman Trombley to enter in to Non-Public Session in accordance with 91-A:3 II. (a) compensation (legal). Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0. Roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously.

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

RECONVENE

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

BUSINESS

RECREATION

Parks and Recreation Director Nicole Bizzaro explained the handicapped bus is overheating, has rusted floor boards and other issues. The mechanic told her after a \$1,500 repair it will not pass inspection in March. After many phone calls looking for a replacement bus, Mrs. Bizzaro found a 2016 bus with 14,200 miles and the asking price is \$39,500.00. She is requesting the Board of Selectmen's approval on this purchase. This will be paid for through the revolving

fund and the funds are in place for the purchase. Discussion continued regarding leasing a vehicle, purchasing brand new or renting a bus when needed.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the bus purchase not to exceed \$39,500.00 checking for a trade in on the old bus. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

BUDGET REVIEW

POLICE

Police Chief Michael Wallace came before the board with the requested corrected salary rates for 2 vacancies at a higher hiring level. The total amount the addition would be to the salary line is \$27,900 which includes family health insurance.

A lengthy conversation followed covering issues such as having a 5-year forecast for spending (why that might not work), extra money in the budget not being spent, the LEACT purchases being strongly recommended by the Governor of NH, training and body cameras.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Police Budget and forward to the Budget Committee pending final approval of the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

WATER AND SEWER

Dennis Koch, Administrator of Water and Sewer, Tom Dwyer, Chairman of the Water and Sewer Commission and Marc Nickerson, Vice Chairman of the Water and Sewer Commission reviewed the Water and Sewer Budget line by line explaining the changes. A list of highlights was discussed, COLA increase of 1.8%, 1 new employee, insurance increases, State of NH paying for Railroad Avenue water line project, engineering increase for the Route 125 project, emergency repairs and decrease spending on sludge and chemicals.

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the Water and Sewer Budget and forward to the Budget Committee pending final approval of the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Dwyer said there will be approximately 300 more units in the next couple of years. ARPA Funds were briefly discussed regarding spending, projects and approval. Mr. Dwyer is concerned if the funds are not spent the state won't award Epping more funds.

TOWN MANAGER DISCUSSION

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to not go forward with a warrant article for a Town Manager position. Seconded by Selectman Cody. Motion carried 4-0.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge mentioned there is not a plan for transitional pay as he leaves his position in March of 2023.

BUDGET

Motion by Selectman Gauthier to approve the proposed Town of Epping and Water and Sewer budgets for 2022 in the amount of \$10,292,100.00. Seconded by Selectman Trombley. Motion carried 4-0.

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge said Finance Director Lisa Fogg is working on the Default Budget.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge thanked Dennis Koch for putting together the new chairs.

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Tom Gauthier

Selectman Tom Gauthier asked about when the new tax rate would be in. The state still hasn't called the town with a new rate. Town Administrator Gregory C. Dodge will call a short meeting when the rate comes in to get the tax bills out.

Selectman Tom Gauthier thanked the school for sending him postcards thanking him for being a Veteran.

Selectman Joe Trombley

Selectman Joe Trombley would like an Organizational Chart created showing a list of employees, tenure, skills, training, hours, description of duties by the end of the year. This will help with the hiring process, promotions and pay increases.

Selectman Bob Jordan

Excused

Selectman John Cody

Selectman John Cody wished Happy Veterans to all the Veterans on Thursday. Thank you for your service.

Selectman John Cody is concerned about the budget being too tight in case of a major incident. He would like a discussion about a warrant article that would fund for such a situation.

Selectman Mike Yergeau

No Report

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Joyce Blanchard
Executive Secretary**

Mike Yergeau, Chairman

Joe Trombley, Vice Chairman

John Cody, Selectman

Tom Gauthier, Selectman

Date: November 15, 2021