

ATTENDANCE

Chairman Tom Gauthier; Selectmen:, James McGeough, Rene Archambault; Dianne Gilbert; Town Administrator, Dean Shankle; Administrative Assistant: Judith Bielecki. Selectmen Karen Sott was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gauthier called the public session to order at 7:00 PM at the Epping Town Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag followed.

2. BUSINESS

2.1 WARRANT ARTICLES

2010 OPERATING BUDGET

Motion by Selectman McGeough to reconsider the warrant article for the 2010 Operating Budget. Seconded by Selectman Archambault. Motion carried 3-0. Selectman Gilbert abstained.

2010 Operating Budget in the amount of \$5,552,967.00 was presented for approval.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to recommend the 2010 Operating Budget in the amount of \$5,552,967.00. Seconded by Selectman Archambault. Motion carried 4-0.

2010 DEFAULT BUDGET

Motion by Selectman McGeough to reconsider the warrant article for the 2010 Default Budget. Seconded by Selectman Archambault. Motion carried 3-0. Selectman Gilbert abstained.

2010 Default Budget in the amount of \$5,440,690.00 was presented for approval.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to recommend the 2010 Default Budget in the amount of \$5,440,690.00. Seconded by Selectman Archambault. Motion carried 4-0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT CRUISER

Motion by Selectman McGeough to reconsider the warrant article for the Police Department Cruiser. Seconded by Selectman Archambault. Motion carried 3-0. Selectman Gilbert abstained.

Warrant Article to lease a cruiser for the Police Department in the amount of \$15,600.00 was

presented.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to recommend the Police Department Cruiser Warrant Article in the amount of \$15,600.00. Seconded by Selectman Archambault. Motion carried 4-0.

ADDITIONAL FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER

Motion by Selectman McGeough to reconsider the warrant article for an addition full time Police Officer. Seconded by Selectman Archambault. Motion carried 3-0. Selectman Gilbert abstained.

Warrant Article to hire an additional Police Officer with a total estimated cost of \$211,700.00 in 2010, 2011, and 2012, to be funded through the approved Federal COPS Hiring Grant was presented.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to recommend the hiring request for an additional full time Police Officer with a total estimated cost of \$211,700.00 to be funded through the Federal COPS Hiring Grant in 2010, 2011, and 2012. Seconded by Selectman Archambault. Motion carried 4-0.

FULL TIME FIRE CHIEF

Warrant Article to hire a full time Fire Chief with a proposed salary of \$47,380.00 was presented.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to recommend the Warrant Article for hiring a full time Fire Chief in the amount of \$47,380.00. Seconded by Selectman Archambault. Motion carried 4-0.

DISCONTINUE EPPING TV EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

Motion by Selectman McGeough to remove the warrant article to discontinue Epping TV Expendable Trust Fund. Seconded by Selectman Archambault. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT REVOLVING FUND

Warrant Article to establish a Public Safety Facilities and Equipment Revolving Fund was presented.

Motion by Selectman Archambault to recommend the Public Safety Facilities and Equipment Revolving Fund. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES BOND AND INTEREST PAYMENTS

Warrant Article to fund the Public Safety Facilities and Interest Payments from the ambulance fees in the amount of \$108,009.00 was presented.

Motion by Selectman Archambault to recommend the Public Safety Facilities Bond and Interest Payments Warrant Article in the amount of \$108,009.00. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 4-0.

COMPENSATION FOR RESPONDING PARAMEDICS

Warrant Article to fund the compensation for responding paramedics in the amount of \$10,000.00 was presented.

Motion by Selectman McGeough to recommend the Compensation for Responding Paramedics Warrant Article in the amount of \$10,000.00. Seconded by Selectman Archambault. Motion carried 4-0.

BY PETITION: THE RICHIE MCFARLAND CHILDREN'S CENTER

Request to fund the sum of \$4,200.00 for the Richie McFarland Children's Center was presented.

Motion by Selectman Archambault to not recommend the warrant article for the Richie McFarland Children's Center. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 4-0.

BY PETITION: CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Request to fund the sum of \$4,000.00 for Child and Family Services was presented.

Motion by Selectman Archambault to recommend the warrant article for Child and Family Services. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 2-2. Selectman Gilbert and Chairman Gauthier voted nay.

BY PETITION: RESCIND 5-MEMBER BOARD OF FIRE WARDS

To see if the Town of Epping would vote to rescind the March 1978 Town Meeting Vote, specifically article 30, which established a 5-Member Board of Fire Wards pursuant to Chapter 154 of the RSA's. Said article shall become effective one year from the date of its passage.

Motion by Selectman Archambault to recommend the Warrant Article to Rescind 5-Member Board of Fire Wards. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-1. Chairman Gauthier voted nay.

BY PETITION: RETURN OF L.U.C.T. (Land Use Change Tax)

To see if the Town will vote to return all Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) Revenues, per RSA 79-A:25, III to the General Fund for the purpose of relieving property taxes as originally

intended / passed by the New Hampshire Legislature (RSA 79-A).

Motion by Selectman Gilbert to recommend the Warrant Article to Return the LUCT (Land Use Change Tax). Seconded by Chairman Gauthier. Motion did not carry 1-3. Selectman McGeough, Selectman Archambault, Chairman Gauthier voted nay.

BY PETITION: AMENDING THE ELDERLY EXEMPTION

To see if the Town will vote to modify the Elderly Exemption from property tax in the Town of Epping, based on assessed value, for qualified full time resident taxpayers to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$120,000; for a person 75 years up to 80 years, \$130,000; for a person 80 years or older \$140,000. To qualify, the person must have resided in the State of New Hampshire at least three consecutive years preceding April 1, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married or a domestic partner for at least five years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$30,000 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$40,000, and own assets not in excess of \$70,000; excluding the value of the property this exemption is applied to and which is the persons primary residence.

Motion by Selectman Archambault to recommend the Warrant Article to Amend the Elderly Exemption. Seconded by Selectman Gilbert. Motion carried 4-0.

BY PETITION: FAMILIES FIRST HEALTH & SUPPORT CENTER

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the Families First Health & Support Center, a private, nonprofit community health center. This request will defray the estimated \$100,000 cost of providing affordable health care and family services to approximately 120 Epping residents each year.

Motion by Chairman Gauthier to recommend the Warrant Article for Families First Health & Support Center. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 0-4. Chairman Gauthier, Selectman Gilbert, Selectman Archambault. Selectman McGeough voted nay.

2.2 BUDGET ISSUES

None.

2.3 PURCHASE ORDER – POLICE

Purchase order for Brad's Auto Body for repair to Cruiser #3 in the amount of \$744.72.

Motion by Selectman Archambault to approve the purchase order for Brad's Auto Body in the amount of \$744.72. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

3. CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS

3.1

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Town Administrator Shankle

Town Administrator Shankle asked when the Candidates Night should be scheduled. Chairman Gauthier advised it's usually two week before the last Wednesday of February and suggested the 24th.

3.2

INDIVIDUAL SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectman Gilbert

None.

Selectman Archambault

None.

Selectman McGeough

Selectman McGeough sent his best wishes to Jason Schreiber who had a family member recently injured in an accident.

Chairman Gauthier

Chairman Gauthier advised that a request has been received by 911 to appoint Mr. Hank Letourneau as 911 Liaison Appointment Liaison, and Mr. Marc Nickerson as Secondary Database Liaison.

Motion by Selectman Gilbert to appoint Mr. Hank Letourneau as 911 Liaison and Mr. Marc Nickerson as Secondary Database Liaison. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Gauthier advised that the Town Deliberative Session will be Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00 PM, and the School is Thursday, February 4 at 7:00 PM, both in the Epping Middle School Gymnasium.

Chairman Gauthier stated that the last day to register to vote before the Deliberative Session is Friday, January 22, 2010 – 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Town Clerk's Office or Saturday, January 23 – 11:00 – 11:20 AM at the Town Hall with the Supervisor of the Checklist.

Chairman Gauthier stated that the last day to register to vote before the Town election is Friday, February 26, 2010, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Town Clerk's Office, or Saturday, February 27, 2010, 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM at the Town Hall with the Supervisor of the Checklist.

Chairman Gauthier stated that the Election is Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM, at the Epping Middle School.

7.
None.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPOINTMENTS

7:00 PM Municipal Bond – Purchase of Land

Chairman Gauthier opened the Public Hearing and read the notice.

Mr. Joe Foley, Water & Sewer Commission, explained the request on the warrant is to purchase sixty-six (66) acres of land behind Wal-Mart which also includes the water tower. He stated that there are five wells on the property which range from 450 gallons per minute to one at 90 gallons per minute. He advised that they have been tested and although some arsenic has been detected, it is within a treatable range, and this water would be an investment for development in the future. He added that the bond payment would be approximately \$260,000 for the first year. Chairman Gauthier requested Mr. Foley attend the Deliberative Session to explain the request.

The Public Hearing was closed. No residents were present.

8. ADJOURN

Motion by Selectman Archambault to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman McGeough. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Bielecki
Administrative Assistant

Tom Gauthier, Chairman

Dianne Gilbert, Selectman

Karen Sott, Selectman

James McGeough, Selectman

Rene Archambault, Selectman

Date _____