

**Town of Epsom
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2022 at 6:00pm**

Virginia Drew, Chair
Cheryl Gilpatrick
Hugh Curley

Approved: **Gilpatrick / Wysocki**
Vote: **In favor, 3-0.**

Call to Order

Ms. Drew called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Staff present: Megan Rheaume, Board of Selectmen Recording Secretary; Deb Sullivan, Finance Administrator; Andrea Novotney, Administrative Assistant.

Others present: Meadow Wysocki.

Mr. Curley led the pledge of allegiance.

Review and Accept or Amend Agenda:

Ms. Novotney added the Forest Fire Warden reappointment and the New Rye Congregational Church tax abatement to the agenda.

Motion by: Ms. Gilpatrick to accept the agenda as amended. **Second by:** Mr. Curley. **Motion passed unanimously: 3-0.**

Finance Administrator Report:

Ms. Sullivan discussed her upcoming vacation time. She noted that the Town is due for the Gasby 75 audit, which pertains to the valuation of benefits given to Town employees after retirement. She will be setting the audit up soon.

Ms. Sullivan discussed a change of benefits for a Town employee that will be effective April 1st, and noted the savings gained is approximately \$10,000.

Scheduled Appointment:

None.

Administrative Assistant Report:

Ms. Novotney provided a thank you letter to Ms. Drew to sign, and distributed the Forest Fire Warden reappointment paperwork to the Board for signature.

Motion by: Mr. Curley to reappoint Chief Stewart Yeaton as Forest Fire Warden and the list of Deputy Wardens that the Chief submitted. **Second by:** Ms. Gilpatrick. **Motion passed unanimously: 3-0.**

Ms. Novotney informed the Board that a resident with a payment agreement recently paid the full amount owed. Discussion ensued regarding other residents that currently have payment plans.

The Board discussed records retention options. Ms. Drew noted she is searching for the agreement document for the Old Library with the Epsom Historical Association, but has not been able to locate it.

Motion by: Ms. Gilpatrick to approve the 2021 abatement for the New Rye Union Congregational Church, map and lot # R2-41. **Second by:** Mr. Curley. **Motion passed unanimously: 3-0.**

Ms. Novotney continues to work on improvements to the Town website, and to further clean and organize the Town Office.

Signature/Approval Items:

None.

Discussion:

Generator Connection: The Board reviewed the proposal from Generator Connection regarding downsizing the current generator at the Police Department. Ms. Novotney noted that per Chief Preve, the current generator is set up to run everything in the building. Generator Connection confirmed that downsizing would not be an option if the Department wanted to have the ability to have the generator run everything in the building. The Board agreed to keep the current generator, and to move forward with a three-year maintenance agreement. The Board signed the maintenance agreement. Mr. Curley discussed the cost of a small generator for future consideration.

Proposed Tax Payment Agreement: Ms. Novotney discussed a proposed payment agreement with the Board.

Motion by: Mr. Curley to accept the payment agreement as presented. **Second by:** Ms. Gilpatrick. **Motion passed unanimously: 3-0.**

The Board signed the agreement.

Assessing Signature Approval:

None.

Selectmen's Reports:

Mr. Curley:

Fire Department: The Epsom Fire Department participated in water rescue training with the Pittsfield Fire Department over the weekend. There was a good turnout, and Chief Yeaton expressed pride in both departments for completing the training.

Copperline Drive received their new street sign with the correct spelling of the road name. Mr. Curley gave his thanks to the Road Agent for ordering the sign.

Mr. Curley discussed the date of changeover for the new Selectboard member coming on after Voting Day on Tuesday March 8th. The Board discussed the time frame.

BCEP: Mr. Curley discussed signing a contract with Waste Management for the next five years. He noted that BCEP meetings are held on the last Thursday of every month, and the appointment for Town Representatives are due by March 31st. Mr. Curley expressed interest in serving as the Town Representative for Epsom.

Ms. Gilpatrick:

Highway Department.: The Road Agent has posted the weight limits on all applicable roads.

Ms. Drew:

Police Department: Ms. Drew plans on touring the Police Department. She suggested the other Board members attend as well.

ZBA: The ZBA had a Public Hearing last Wednesday, March 2nd at the Epsom Central School. They also have a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 16th. Ms. Drew noted that the Chair of the ZBA is up for reappointment. The Board will inquire if the Chair is interested in being reappointed.

Library: Ms. Drew is trying to locate the agreement between the Library Trustees and the Epsom Historical Association regarding the Old Library building. She has not been able to find it. Discussion ensued regarding payment responsibility of utilities for the Old Library. The interior of the building is the responsibility of the Library Trustees. The exterior of the building is the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Drew would like to further research the payment agreement for utilities, as well as whether or not the Old Library building is allowed to be moved under the current historical preservation easement.

Town Hall Renovation Committee: The charter for the Committee has been completed. Ms. Drew has been in contact with Laura Black from the NH Division of Historical Resources in regards to the project. The Board discussed the current Town Office lease.

Approval of Minutes: Public 2/22/2022, Non-public 2/7/2022

Motion by: Ms. Gilpatrick to approve the public minutes of 2/22/2022 as amended. **Second by:** Mr. Curley. **Motion passed unanimously: 3-0.**

Motion by: Mr. Curley to approve the non-public minutes of 2/7/2022 as presented. **Second by:** Ms. Gilpatrick. **Motion passed unanimously: 3-0.**

5 Minutes for Public Discussion:

Ms. Wysocki thanked Mr. Curley for his years of service to the Town and wished him luck in his future endeavors. The Board members also thanked Mr. Curley for his time and service to the Town. Mr. Curley reflected on his time on the Selectboard, and made suggestions for potential future challenges.

Requested Non-public:

None.

Other Business (agenda is subject to change):

None.

Correspondence – FYI:

None.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board at this time, **Motion by:** Mr. Curley to adjourn at 7:25pm. **Second by:** Ms. Gilpatrick. **Motion passed unanimously: 3-0.**