

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2014

Selectmen present: Henry Spencer
Timothy Eldridge
Lawrence Edwards

Minutes transcribed by: Claudia Lamphier

The meeting was called to order at: 5:00 pm

The Mail, Manifest and Signature folders were reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Spencer addressed the Board about a structure he is considering erecting on his property. He believes the structure is exempt from taxation, but the Town's assessing firm has responded to his question with the opinion that it most likely will be taxable. He wanted the Selectmen to intercede with a predetermined answer, explaining that if it were going to be taxed, he would approach the anchoring system of the structure differently. Selectman Spencer explained that the Board is not fully versed or formally educated in the specifics of the rules of assessing, set and carefully monitored by the State of New Hampshire.

Erik Jones reported that the Estate of Gladys Brown has bequeathed donations to many local non-profit organizations, including the Historical Society.

Randy Burbank reported that the Firefighters Association will be holding a yard sale at fire station 2 on July 6th from 9 am to 3 pm.

Jonathan Burbank gave his weekly report on fire/rescue department calls.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Effingham Elementary School will be serving breakfast and lunch to children over the summer on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Selectman Spencer will be attending two variance hearings in July at the request of the ZBA.

The Province Lake Association is holding an appreciation breakfast.

The Library will be having a "meet and greet" get together to welcome Terri Wheeler back to the Library team. She will be serving as the Librarian.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES and WEEKLY MANIFEST

The Board approved the Minutes of June 17th and the weekly manifest.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board voted unanimously to use residual funds from the paving budget this year to pave the section of Elm Street that starts at an intersection with Green Mountain Road. The budget will allow them to continue the new pavement to just past the first Lost Valley entrance.

Selectman Spencer would like to have another transfer station attendant ready and trained to fill in as needed. He had someone in mind for that position, but that has fallen through.

Selectman Edwards attended the meeting of area municipalities which are discussing the idea of regionalizing emergency medical services. He reported that the town of Ossipee will be pulling out of these discussions, because they are planning on establishing an EMS department on their own. Selectman Edwards feels the possibility is bleak for the remaining towns to be able to save money by forming a cooperative unit.

Selectman Edwards reported that paving needs to be put down at a catch basin on Town House Road.

The septic designer who did the plan for the transfer station septic system is planning on going to the transfer station to inspect the problems that prevail with the leach field. Selectman Spencer plans to meet him there, and encouraged his fellow Selectmen to be there as well.

Discussion continued about developing performance standards for road maintenance issues.

The Board again spoke of their intention to have a get together of some kind to acknowledge people who volunteer to serve on the Town's many boards and committees.

Selectmen will be leaving together after the meeting, to travel to the transfer station to look at work remaining undone there.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board received one proposal for the three year winter road maintenance contract. The proposal was submitted by Evans Bros. LLC, which was awarded the contract with a unanimous vote of the Board. Selectman Spencer said that prior to the conclusion of this contract period, he would like to open discussion about having the plowing and sanding of municipal facilities as a separate contract, rather than continuing to have this function remain part of the winter road maintenance contract.

When the budget and warrant article planning starts in the fall, Selectmen are planning on creating a warrant article which would increase the dollar limits set forth by previous town vote, for required bonding and bidding limits. It has been many years since the present limits were set and Selectmen feel that with the substantial increase in the cost of labor and materials, the intent of the article has been lost, and present limits only serve to restrict the Board's ability to make sensible decisions.

The long standing agreement in place with Camp Marist, to make payments in lieu of property tax, is expiring at the end of this year. The Board will be discussing this with the Town's attorney when he comes to participate in a question and answer session for Town board and committee members on July 10th. The Board's discussion on this issue will not be held in public session, as it will involve legal advice and contractual obligations.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

There was no special planned discussion this week. It is the Fire Department's regular monthly update meeting night, and any pertinent issues have been discussed in previous weekly meetings.

At 6:20 pm the Board voted to enter into non-public session at the request of Selectman Eldridge who wished to discuss a personnel issue. The discussion involved creating a temporary position for the oversight of the salt shed project. Selectman Eldridge has interviewed an individual he feels could effectively perform in this capacity, which is why he did not feel the discussion was appropriate for public session. While still in non-public session, the Board's Administrative Assistant advised the Board of discussions that have taken place between she and the Town's attorney about the Camp Marist agreement and concerns the attorney has expressed.

The Board concluded the non-public session at 6:30 pm, then called a recess to travel to the transfer station together at 6:50 pm. No business was conducted in the interim period of time.

The Board adjourned the meeting at the transfer station at 8:00 pm.

Henry Spencer, Selectman

Date

Timothy Eldridge, Selectman

Lawrence Edwards, Selectman