

**TOWN OF EFFINGHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES**

August 30, 2016

Selectmen present: Henry Spencer  
Lawrence Edwards  
Leonard Espie

Minutes transcribed by: Cheryle A. Feirick

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

The Mail, Manifest and Signature and Action Folder were reviewed.

Pledge of Allegiance

**REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES and WEEKLY MANIFEST**

The board approved the minutes of the August 16 meeting and weekly manifest in the amount of \$371,503.21.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Karen Payne, resident and also involved member of the Effingham Preservation Society spoke on the Society's behalf extending a big thank you to the board for permission to detour traffic at Town House Road for EPS recent events. One event was the Gladys B. Brown Memorial Art Show, official ribbon cutting done by a couple of Gladys's children; the most recent event was the street fair to celebrate the 200 anniversary of the building. Karen reported low attendance but those that were there said it was a great time. Karen stated if anyone is looking for old photos of historic buildings in Effingham, she does have some. Karen displayed a t-shirt with a picture of the old Drake store on it and announced they are on sale at the Grange. Selectman Spencer requested a digital version of this photo; asked it be emailed to the Selectmen's office. Selectman Espie reported there were 15 visitors to the Mason Hall to view the murals. Karen extended a thank you to all who took part. Karen announced the Society received an acknowledgment from the Governor's Council of disabilities for the recently installed ramp.

Resident, Eric Potter talked about the wonderful turnout the street fair had. He was a little taken back by looking down the barrel of the camera. He was honored to be part of the street fair at the Center Effingham Church. He stated when the Historical Society Museum was open to the public; he wished the turnout had been as well received as the street fair. Mr. Potter shared an example of a project for the Kingswood High School volunteer would be to copy some historic books.

Representative Ed Comeau spoke on a decision the Governor Wentworth School Board made to not allow voting to take place in the Effingham and New Durham schools. Selectman Spencer mentioned he will be reaching out to a Representative of the Board Chair to discuss this decision; there are many factors to be taken into consideration. Claudia, Town Administrator informed the Board the Town Clerk is working closely with the Secretary of State's office. Resident, Tom Thompson commented on the decision the School Board made and if there was a way to find out how each board member voted?

John Meisner asked for a clarification of the 93,000.00 for earth work, does it included reclamation; Selectman Edwards stated the earth work includes reclamation.

**PLANNED DISCUSSION WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

The Board met with the Transfer Station Manager, Mark Brussiere for his monthly report. The location where the highway contractor is disposing the waste is getting smaller. Selectman Edwards suggested the board meet at the transfer station and look at specifics in relocating the area to be used; eventually they will run out of space. Mark asked the board to meet with him individually, to discuss the situations that have happened at the transfer station. Mark was informed Dig N Doze would be there tomorrow to work on the wall where the metal container will be go. Selectman Espie suggested the town look at increasing the disposal fees for commercial and contractors. Selectman Espie will reach out to other town transfer stations to see what their protocols are; Mark wants to be included when reaching out to those towns.

**PLANNED MEETING: None**

**SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORTS:**

Cold patching was discussed and the board decided it will be done when necessary. Selectman Spencer will have a conversation with Dig N Doze regarding this decision. Selectman Spencer will reach out to property owner on Molly Philbrick Road, to see what his level of satisfaction is with the work the town completed on his property.

Discussion took place on the Elm Street bridge maintenance: an RFP will be necessary; due to the costs involved. Selectman Edwards stated he spoke to Nancy Mayville from NHDOT about the bridge. He informed her of what maintenance will be done; he reported she said it is your bridge, proceed as you may. Selectman Spencer will reach out to DOT and DES on guideline specifics especially working around a class stream. Resident John Meisner stated the maintenance needed on the bridge is more than scraping and painting. John reported back in the day there were grants for such work through the state, doesn't know if they still exists; he suggested maybe the board wants to contact DOT and see if they have RFP templates. He referenced when the town had work done on Huntress Bridge, there were many agencies the town had to consult with including DES. Selectman Spencer asked the other Selectmen to bring to next week's meeting points of detail to work on an RFP; and possibly Rick Bacon could be of service in assisting the Board. HEB will be contacted to obtain dollar amounts for replacement of Granite and Snow Road bridges to have ready for the Budget Committee using tax dollars.

The board reviewed the estimates submitted for re-opening Wilkinson Swamp Road. Dig N Doze provided an amount of \$19,000.00 to \$51,000.00 for gravel and Evans Bros. an additional \$6,000.00 for plowing over the existing winter road contract. Both Selectmen Edwards and Espie agreed the money would be better spent on bridges than re-opening this road. Jory Augenti expressed this much money to update the road is a little over the top but \$6,000.00 to plow would be worth it in case of emergency situations. John Meisner reminded the board there is a bridge on this road; he suggested the board look into this more before making a decision. Tom Thompson asked the board on what bases do they have to present reopening this road to the townspeople; what powers does the board have to plow this road. Also, a reminder the town's people voted to make Wilkinson Swamp Road a seasonal road.

Selectman Edwards updated the Board on the Granite Road work; installing culverts will resume the week of September 5, 2016. The last pallet of cracking sealing is scheduled to be done the middle of September. He also expressed salt, sand and gravel should be put out to bid. This will be brought up when the Board meets with the Town's Attorney on September 7, 2016. This

meeting will take place in Portsmouth; a notice will be posted stating the location and the time of 8:00am to 4:00pm.

The Board voted to proceed with Limerick Steeplejacks to replace the portico roof at the Library/Town Hall. The material is rubber at the cost of \$990.00. Claudia will contact Limerick Steeplejacks to schedule the work.

Request for relocating fence posts on Plantation Road by property owner Jennifer Murphy has been granted. All three selectmen on separate occasions did a site inspection. Ms. Murphy will be contacted by Selectman Spencer.

Selectman Espie reported the exterior door for the zoning office that was ordered is in. He will make arrangements to pick it up and have it installed. Dave Withum from Primex (town's liability carrier) came out and did a site inspection after a report of a resident falling on the steps. Dave recommended installing a railing in the middle the front stairs and painting the toe of each stair. Selectman Espie will follow this project through. Selectman Edwards mentioned VanDyke Welding would be a good place to start. Selectman Spencer gave kudos to those involved when the resident fell. The board received a letter from the resident thanking everyone. The board stated they are satisfied with the response from a vendor the board addressed at a previous non-public meeting.

The Asphalt will be completed on walkway at the Municipal Office and down the side of the building towards the modular on this Friday.

Culvert maintenance: Selectman Spencer stated he had a conversation with Fire Chief Burbank and his department members about blowing out culverts. The Chief and members have absolutely no problem with this task; historically the department has done it before, on an as need bases. They explained the department will blow out culverts after the prep work (bulk of sand removed at ends) has been completed by the highway contractor. Update on fire department files: Selectman Espie will contact Chief Burbank to see where the files are for the board's viewing, not to include personal information; it was clarified by Selectman Espie the files were requested by him on behalf of the entire board.

Discussion took place around trees. Should the board take a preventative approach; how does the board come up with a budget for tree removal; is a tree company hired and will the removal cost be within the road budget; what happens when the tree is on a private property, can the town charge them? Too many variables, the board decided to let the trees fall as they may. When a tree(s) comes down across the road, the highway contractor will remove it (them).

#### **NEW BUSINESS: Sealed bids for Steven's Road culvert**

Selectman Spencer mentioned the bids that were submitted may not be apples to apples, it was stated the Selectmen's office received questions from bidders pertaining to the RFP. Selectman Spencer emphasized the Board will be reading the bid amounts only; not accepting the bids tonight. The Board agreed they would schedule a work session with Rick Bacon, Engineer who provided plans and assisted in writing the RFP to sit down with the board to review the bids prior to making a decision.

Alvin J. Coleman, Conway, NH	\$168,893.00
Ambrose Bros. Inc., Meredith, NH	\$197,062.00
Brown Industrial Group, Inc., Berwick, ME	\$177,638.00
Dig N Doze, Freedom, NH	\$ 41,940.00
N.M. Curtis Earth Works, Inc., S. Berwick, ME	\$119,400.00

G. W. Brooks, Freedom, NH	\$166,688.00
Henniker Sewer Drain Services, Inc., Henniker, NH	\$120,626.75
The Nelson Companies, Center Conway, NH	\$ 99,450.00
Northeast Earth Mechanics, Inc., Pittsfield, NH	\$198,900.00

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Resident Tom Hart stated he had a question about the sealed bids, Selectman Spencer said not everyone bid on the same thing, some of the bids were on apples, the other on oranges. Tom Hart stated now all the numbers are out there for everyone to see; is the board going to put out an amended bid; Tom stated this undermines the whole sealed bidding process. John Meisner asked the Board would it be easier to put a new bid in to save face. Claudia, Town Administrator responded; that would not be the way to go. Tom Thompson reaffirmed this is why HEB exists and offers the services they do for the whole process.

**NON-PUBLIC IF NEEDED PER (RSA 91-A)-None**

**WEEKLY DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: None**

Adjourned @ 7:20pm

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Henry Spencer

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Date

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Lawrence Edwards

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Leonard Espie