

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2015

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.

Pledge of Allegiance

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES and WEEKLY MANIFEST

The Board approved the minutes of March 24th after a discussion about an addendum to the minutes that Selectman Edwards had drafted regarding the work session held with the road contractor. Selectmen Spencer and Eldridge felt that the Secretary's additional verbiage to the minutes covered the discussion sufficiently, and approved the minutes with Selectman Edwards voting in opposition. The minutes of the March 31st meeting were approved, as was the weekly manifest.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Riker inquired about the issue of discussion regarding the minutes of March 24th.

Irene Riordan remarked that the implication that the road contractor has taken sand from the Town supply is a serious matter and if founded, monetary compensation would be in order.

Tom Hart asked if there were any plans for the Town owned property on School Street. There is no plan at this time.

Tom Thompson reported that there is a lot of destructive damage being done to the road beyond his home that is closed to traffic by declaration of the cottage road status. After discussion regarding what could be done to stop travel on that road, Bill Piekut offered the lawful suggestion of posting the road as "closed" due to the danger of entering onto the road.

Lorraine Jewell reported that vehicles are traveling at excessive speed on Plantation Road.

Paul Bartoswicz reported that areas on Stevens Road and Wilkinson Swamp Road are becoming very difficult to travel due to road conditions.

Fire Chief, Randy Burbank reported that he has received several estimates for the airbags that he will be purchasing and all are priced under the amount appropriated.

Dan Felix requested that when the Board meets with a representative of DES to discuss regulatory issues related to rebuilding the Stevens Road bridge, if the Board could inquire about a hydrant being placed in that area.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Selectman Spencer has not been able to secure more information regarding crack sealing.

Selectman Edwards will be arranging for the cement walls of the salt shed to be sprayed with additional preventative material.

Selectman Edwards asked Mike Cahalane where he obtained a copy of the cemetery custodian job description that he drafted. Mike reported that he had asked the Selectmen's office staff for a copy after it had been presented at a Selectmen's meeting. Mike remarked that he had been assisting with some cemetery mapping issues during that time and the position was of interest to him at that time.

The Zoning Enforcement Officer, Rebecca Boyden will be reaching out to the land use boards to find what headway is being made on creating a flow chart to assist property owners in determining what steps are necessary to accomplish desired changes to their property.

Selectman Eldridge met with a representative of the firm of F.R. Carroll to obtain estimates on certain projected paving projects.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board again reviewed revisions to the "Rules of Order" policy. Selectman Edwards reported that he was unable to find the wording he would be comfortable with, regarding restriction of personal action taken by a Board member without discussion with other Board members. Selectman Eldridge, having not received any verbiage from Selectman Edwards, made revisions that he felt applicable to the spirit of what was being requested. It was clarified that in an emergency situation that cannot wait for immediate discussion with others, any given Selectman can act on their own, advising other members of the Board as soon as practicable but no later than the next public meeting. Selectman Edwards also recommended two sections of the rules of order be struck from the document altogether. Those sections referred to communications with legal council and conflict of interest. That recommendation was not agreed to by other Board members. A motion was made to accept Selectman Eldridge's changes as written, with Selectmen Eldridge and Spencer voting in the affirmative and Selectman Edwards opposed. Selectman Spencer reported he had researched the benefit packages of many Towns throughout New Hampshire and has concluded that the original proposal to revise the personnel policy to read that a 10% contribution toward health insurance will be required from new full time hires, is reasonable. Several resident attendees offered input, for the most part in support that decision. Selectman Edwards remained concerned about a stagnant offering and again reiterated his opinion that the option to require as much as 50% contribution would be his preference. The two to one vote to accept the change to the Personnel Policy again represented a vote of opposition from Selectman Edwards.

Board members will be sending a request to all Department heads for an informal onsite meeting

with all employees and any applicable elected officials in attendance. The purpose of these meetings will be to acquaint employees with Board members and discuss any concerns, complaints, observations etc. that they would like to discuss with Selectmen. Also, it will afford Board members the opportunity look at the working condition and maintenance needs of Town facilities.

The Board will be looking into the status of the clean up of a Town owned property on Wilkinson Swamp Road.

Selectman Spencer has changed the positioning of the mirror installed to make exiting the Library parking lot safer by allowing drivers to have site of the 153 end of Town House Road where the view is otherwise obstructed by the topography of the land.

NEW BUSINESS

A new policy was drafted by Selectman Eldridge for Board review. The policy restricts any road contractor from storing road materials on Town property that is expected to be utilized for personal use. This policy was written to address concerns presented in previous meetings about his issue. The policy was voted in unanimously.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

Police Chief Butts reported that with the coming of spring, he is expecting reports of camps being broken into over the winter. These reports occur each year as owners open up their camps. The Police Department is watching for offenders trucking on posted roads. He has also asked State Police to watch for offenders. Officers will be participating in the State speed patrol program which starts the 15th of the month.

At the conclusion of the formal session the Board held a work session to work on the specifications and contract for roadside mowing 2015/2016. Rules pertaining to declaring non-public sessions were discussed. Town council is being asked to meet with Board members to offer advice regarding this and other matters of legal propriety.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Timothy Eldridge, Chairman

Date: _____

Henry Spencer, Selectman

Lawrence Edwards, Selectman