

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2015

Selectmen present: Timothy Eldridge
Henry Spencer
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 April 21st and the weekly manifests for April 28th and May 5th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alice Sable reported that the roadside “libraries” have been built by the Kingswood High School students and are ready to be put in use. She was confirming that the Board was in approval of placement at certain locations throughout town.

Erik Jones announced that the Historic Society is considering designing ornaments which will be sold for fund raising. The ornaments will replicate historic buildings in Effingham. He asked if any of the Board members had concerns over the use of these replications. There was no objection.

Mr. Potter announced a special service at the Center Effingham Church which will include a celebration of a 50th anniversary of a member of the church. He invited interested parties to attend.

Tom Thompson reminded all that there are several workshops coming up to assist municipal leaders to be effective and knowledgeable. He asked if any public officials were enrolled in any of these workshops. Mike Cahalane a Planning Board and ZBA member noted he would be attending an Office of Energy and Planning workshop at Grappone Center soon and intended to attend the Law Lectures offered by NHMA in the fall, which he has found to have valuable information in the past.

Theresa Swanick reported that she attended an workshop concerning energy efficiency and found that weatherization programs are going to become available. She noted that this may be an

opportunity to add some insulation at the Library/Town Hall. She also reported that LED street lighting is now available to municipalities.

Jonathan Burbank gave his weekly fire/rescue report.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

Police Chief Butts gave his regular monthly department update. He noted with the weather improving, drivers need to remember motorcyclist will be sharing the road. He reported that there is a scam playing out in Effingham involving a property for sale. Scammers use the details of houses for sale or rent to connive others into sending deposits to them. A house on Green Mountain Road has had the plumbing pipes cut out by burglars. The area police chiefs are meeting regularly and one major topic they discuss is the growing epidemic of heroin use. A recent “bust” in Wakefield seems to have slowed down drug trafficking recently. Chief Butts cautioned that people are finding needles on the roadsides. These can be dangerous and should not be picked up. Instead, leave a message at the Police Department’s regular telephone number and an officer will go out and retrieve the paraphernalia. State speed patrol and safe commute details are ongoing.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Deanna Amaral reported that May is the last month for residents to license dogs without paying additional fees. In June, Chief Butts, who serves as the Town’s Dog Officer will be given a list of all unlicensed dogs and fines will be charged.

There were 201 bags of trash collected from the sides of town roads during the Earth Day clean up effort. More people participated this year than in the past 10 years.

SELECTMEN’S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Bruce Davis at All States Asphalt has not yet completed cost estimates for road maintenance measures.

There is a lot of residual sand on Champion Hill Road. Selectman Edwards was asked to evaluate the road to determine what drainage provisions can be made to alleviate this.

A recent Department of Labor inspection of municipal facilities has been completed and the Town has been found to be in complete compliance.

Selectmen approved the drafted cemetery custodian job description.

Selectmen Edwards will be scheduling an appointment with an area soil scientist. They will meet at the Stevens Road bridge and she will be asked to delineate the official wetlands perimeters.

Selectmen will be starting their meetings with the Town’s department heads and their employees as a casual “meet and great” get together, where ideas and concerns can be shared. The first of these meetings will be this Wednesday with meetings scheduled at the transfer station and fire station.

OLD BUSINESS

A unanimous vote of the Board gave approval to the revised Rules of Order and Personnel Policy.

The Board will be discussing this year's paving projects next week.

Deanna Amaral, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector updated the Board on her findings regarding payment by credit or debit cards for property taxes and motor vehicle renewals. After discussing this with counterparts from other towns she is now confident she can handle necessary changes pertaining to this transition. The Treasurer and Bookkeeper need to research how their functions will be impacted, to ensure all are prepared from a financial reporting standpoint prior to any decision being made on the feasibility of adding this component to our present financial system.

NEW BUSINESS

By unanimous vote, the "Road Closed" signs are being removed from the roadways which have been impassable due to excessive mud. Selectman Edwards noticed that there is a culvert on Wilkinson Swamp Road which needs work.

The road maintenance contractor will be asked to sweep the roads and public parking areas.

The Board will be purchasing a snow blower and pressure washer for transfer station maintenance. The tire container will be removed from that facility in the near future, since attendants are now using the town owned container to store tires.

Selectman Spencer hopes to accompany Mr. Douglas this year while flags are placed at the gravesites of veterans for Memorial Day.

Selectmen were given an update on progress being made in the clean up of a town owned property on Wilkinson Swamp Road.

The Board opened the only submitted proposal for the all purpose mini-pumper to be purchased. It was from Lakes Region Fire Apparatus for \$232,000. Chief Randy Burbank will review the extensive documentation and report on it at another meeting.

The Selectmen called for a non-public session at 6:50 pm.

The meeting with the Fire Warden, Richard Thompson has been postponed due to a forest fire in Ossipee which has consumed all area forest wardens and their deputies.

Selectman Edwards discussed concerns about the application of salt on roads and where it is being used by the road contractor.

The Board looked closely at the personnel policy and specific criteria pertaining to the hiring of personnel.

Selectman Edwards discussed concerns about the Board's involvement in the process used to secure proposals for the all purpose mini-pumper truck which is to be purchased. Selectmen Spencer and Eldridge felt that the process was done in an open and forthright manner with discussions taking place in public meetings including Town Meeting, advertising in State wide

publications and proposals received by the Selectmen's office exclusively.

Selectmen resumed public session at 7:20 pm, to work on updating the road maintenance specifications and contract. They also discussed purchasing a public announcement system for use at regular meetings and Town Meeting. There was discussion about the marking of wetlands by the soil scientist which is soon to be done. Any report submitted by the soil scientist will be passed along to White Mountain Survey assist in the permitting documentation which they will be preparing for DES and DOT.

The road maintenance 2 year contract will be advertised in area newspapers and will be due on May 18th. A new contract will be awarded before the current contract expires on the 31st of May.

Date: _____

Timothy Eldridge, Chairman

Henry Spencer, Selectman

Lawrence Edwards, Selectman