

# **TOWN OF EFFINGHAM**

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

September 16, 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**

Joseph Griffith, a resident who recently lost his home in a fire, requested Selectmen's signatures on his request to move a temporary dwelling unit onto his property. He will be rebuilding his home, but will reside in the temporary housing until the home is completed.

A resident with a home on the corner of Town House Road and Corner Road asked the Board to have the road contractor remove the earth that has been left on her property from recent road repairs. She was also concerned that water may be diverted on to her land. Selectman Spencer told her he will look at the situation himself and notify the road contractor of what needs to be done to remedy the situation.

Linda Seaman, representing the Rotary Club discussed placing roadside libraries at locations in Effingham. She reported that this movement which has the purpose of providing accessible literature to local residents, has been a successful model in numerous States and even throughout the world. She was asked to speak to the Planning Board to see if there are necessary steps to comply with prior to placement of these small structures.

Carla St. Louis addressed the Board seeking help from them to resolve issues she has been having regarding a neighboring property on which operates a hunting preserve. She feels the Town should be aware of a substantial increase in usage in the 14 years she has owned her property. She reported that her quality of life has been impacted negatively. She has addressed her concerns to the Effingham Police Department which has followed up and found no enforceable action taking place. She reported there are currently bullet shells in her yard. Selectman Spencer requested Chief Butts go to her property to see them.

Mr. Potter has once again assisted people from out of state by providing information about distant relatives which lived in Effingham. He had been put in touch with the people by contact from the Library. They left very happy with the information they received. Mr. Potter also reported that another men's breakfast has been scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> of September. Selectman Eldridge

reported that he attended the last breakfast and he would strongly recommend attending, stating that the food was extraordinarily good.

Erik Jones displayed signs that are going to be put on Route 153 to designate historic districts.

Jonathan Burbank gave his weekly fire/rescue call report.

## **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

Selectman Eldridge reported that the Budget Committee will be meeting next week and discussion ensued about issues that should be discussed concerning their budget in the next year.

Selectman Edwards has received a quote of \$5000 to fix a portion of the Snow Road culvert/bridge. The quote is valid only if the Town provides certain heavy equipment at the site. The road contractor will be asked if he is interested in doing the job, since it would be his equipment that would be utilized.

A letter has been received from a resident requesting the winter operating hours of the transfer station be changed to a later closing time. The hours were set according to daylight hours. Selectman Spencer noted that personnel at the transfer station need to clean the facility before leaving and need daylight time to do so.

Paving at the transfer station has been scheduled for Thursday.

A representative of All State Asphalt will be asked to come in to report on road maintenance products.

Green Mountain Conservation Group is having an open house on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES and WEEKLY MANIFEST**

The Board approved the Minutes of September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> after an amendment to the minutes of September 2<sup>nd</sup>, requested by Selectman Edwards was made. The weekly manifest was approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Selectmen decided to remove/demolish the old attendant's shed from the transfer station and replace it with the shed that is now at the entrance gate.

Mike Cahalane reported on the progress of the salt shed project. He has been researching the bolts that need to be used in the next phase of building.

The State is still working toward repairing the fire tower on Green Mountain.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Selectmen executed the three year winter road contract which will come into effect this fall.

Gwen English reported on the FairPoint litigation which has been ongoing for many months. Effingham is one community of many which are disputing taxing issues regarding roadside right of way taxation. A settlement offer was presented by FairPoint Communications. The Town's assessor and attorney each feel there is no advantage to accepting the settlement offered at this time. The Board voted not to accept the settlement offer. During this litigation, it has been determined that the Town's pole license needs to be amended. A public hearing to discuss this has been scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Selectmen discussed creating an appointed position for the purpose of selling and marking gravesites at Woodland Cemetery.

## **PLANNED DISCUSSION**

The road contractor came in to discuss road issues during his monthly update meeting. He also presented information pertaining to the salt shed project.

The Board entered into non-public session at 7:45 pm to discuss legal issues which involve pending litigation. A tax deeding lawsuit has been ruled on in favor of the Town. A short term agreement, approved by the Court, was entered into allowing the former owner's time to vacate the property. That time has expired. An inspection of the premises will take place next week.

A long standing agreement with Marist Bothers of New Hampshire is expiring at the end of the year. The Town's attorney and an attorney for the Marist Brothers have each offered advice to their respective parties. Selectman Eldridge spoke with a member of the Board of Marist Brothers on Monday and he reported to his counterparts that the discussion was general in nature. Financial documentation will need to be examined prior to any renegotiation, since an agreement involving payment in lieu of taxation must be predicated on proven charitable status of the organization.

The Board voted to come out of non-public session at 8:45.

The Board adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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Henry Spencer, Selectman

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Date

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Timothy Eldridge, Selectman

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Lawrence Edwards, Selectman