

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES

April 3, 2012

Selectmen present: Susan Slack
Theresa Swanick
Henry Spencer

Minutes transcribed by: Claudia Lamphier

Meeting called to order: 6:30 pm

The Mail, Manifest and Signature folders were reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Former Selectman, Bill Piekut brought in some documentation he acquired during his term to be kept at the Selectmen's office. The information he provided the Board pertained to transfer stations in the area and their respective rules, regulations, rates etc. He also provided a notebook containing Effingham ordinances and policies etc. Present Board members thanked him. Bill cautioned that these documents should stay in the office and not be removed for review.

Randy Burbank reported on the hazard mitigation meeting recently held. The next meeting to be held at the Effingham Municipal Office will be on April 25th at 6:30 pm. He expressed concern that upon recently checking, he found that the "ISO" rating for the Town has not been changed although he submitted documentation which should have improved the rating. Randy also announced he has found a source to provide free fire gear. He noted the Effingham Department meets all the criteria. He will be working toward securing some gear from this source.

Andy Hubbard expressed concern regarding the section of Town House Road that was reconstructed last year. He noted that there is a ripple in the pavement. Selectmen have not received any complaints about that section of road, since it was completed. Bill Piekut, a bus driver frequently traveling that road noted that he thought the ripples had been subsiding and he felt the cold weather caused the slight heaving. It was also noted that only a base coat of pavement has been applied and that was done per specifications. Selectman Slack made note to ask the engineer if he had any concerns over this happening to the road.

Michael Cahalane presented Board members with documentation pertaining to a code of ethics for journalists. In documentation, one section clearly stated that holding political office while being a contributing writer for a news publication would violate ethical code.

Mr. Cahalane spoke after most meeting attendees had left. His discussion was directed to Selectman Spencer and regarded his weekly article in the Daily Sun. Mr. Cahalane acknowledged he has a personal bias on this issue because he feels a particular article written by Selectman Spencer gave erroneous and negative information about Mr. Cahalane. He also stated that his continuing efforts to convince Selectman Spencer to not continue to write the weekly article is not for personal vengeance or due to a dislike for Mr. Spencer personally, noting that he liked what he knew of Mr. Spencer personally. He noted that Mr. Spencer may be well intentioned, but could unintentionally sway public opinion due to his position of Selectman and encouraged Henry to contemplate this issue again with an open mind.

Jonathan Burbank gave his weekly report on Fire Department calls.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORTS

The Conservation Commission will be holding the spring Earth Day roadside clean-up on April 28th. Those wishing to participate will meet at the Municipal Building for road assignments.

Selectman Spencer asked for a discussion with his fellow Board members regarding the continuing practice of not considering road reconstruction a special project as the term is applied to a warrant article passed in 1995 requiring that special projects over \$5000 must go out to bid. In discussion amongst Board members and some meeting attendees it was noted that the contractor performing the reconstruction is the contractor which secured the contract through the bidding process for all road maintenance, including road reconstruction, as needed. It was also noted that this has been the practice for many years, at least as long as the former Board was in place (as long as 12 years), and as long as anyone can remember. Last year, when this subject was brought to question, the road contractor stated that if road reconstruction were not part of road maintenance, it would leave that much less work to be done over the year to make it not financially viable to bid a reasonable price for any contractor. The road maintenance contract is bid on by proposing pricing for each type of necessary machinery with operator included in the pricing, so the actual road construction cost is limited to the hours that machinery is actually in use. It was noted that in this scenario there is no reason to "skimp" on time or materials, because there is nothing to be gained, as opposed to a contractor proposing a fixed amount to complete the job and then finding the quote was insufficient to complete the job correctly.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

The Board approved the Minutes of March 27th and the weekly Manifest.

OLD BUSINESS

Selectman Swanick reported on the preliminary results of a "blower door test" done on Monday. The test was done to determine where heat is being lost in the building. It was

noted that a vast amount of heat was being lost in an unanticipated, or at least previously not identified location; the open vent over the gas stove in the kitchen. That vent will be sealed off. Selectman Swanick then contacted professionals in the industry that she had previously spoken with and some newly found sources to discuss the findings of all previous discussion and reporting to arrive at a conclusion that a much smaller boiler would be needed than previously called for in the preliminary request for proposals. New specifications will be drawn and new a new request for proposals will advertised using the revised specifications. Selectman Swanick reported she will have those specifications completed for review and consideration by next week. She was thanked for all the hard work she has put into fact finding for this project.

Steve Schofield sent a proposal to the Board regarding the auction of several properties in Town. Selectman Spencer volunteered to confirm through research that the commission structure being proposed is customary and reasonable for the area. The Board will also look at the proposed properties to be sold to make sure there are none that may be of use to the Town.

NEW BUSINESS

After conferring with the road contractor about current road conditions, the Board voted unanimously to remove the 6 ton weight limit restriction from Town roadways. The road contractor will be given permission to remove the advisory signs.

An individual requesting a transfer station permit for his work truck was granted permission.

Selectman Spencer agreed to join the Town's JLMC (Joint Loss Management Committee) otherwise known as the Safety Committee.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Susan Slack, Selectman

Date

Theresa Swanick, Selectman

Henry Spencer, Selectman