

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 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

Edith Sharp reported that when delivering for Meals on Wheels last week she found Molly Philbrick Road to be in very poor condition.

Cheryle Feirick reported that the Library needs floor mats. The Municipal Building has rented mats. The Administrative Assistant will be looking into purchasing or renting floor mats for the Library. Cheryle also asked for a contact to report issues pertaining to building repairs when the Selectmen's office is not open. Selectman Swanick offered her cell phone number. Finally, Cheryle reported that snow is being plowed into the parking spaces reserved for handicapped individuals.

Fire Chief Burbank reported that a fire truck inspection revealed that the tank needed to be flushed due to sand residue resting in the tank. He will be writing specifications for the ambulance that is to be sold and appraisals will be requested in that effort.

Jonathan Burbank gave his weekly report on Fire Department calls.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Selectmen received the Fire Department's monthly report. Mike O'Dell and Bill Piekut recently passed EMR training.

Transfer station attendant, Mark Bussiere received approval to paint the shed at the transfer station.

State officials have declared that wildfire season has started early this year.

A report has been received regarding the recent abatement of asbestos from the boiler room.

The Planning Board has scheduled a hearing for Ossipee Lake Campground for April 5th at 7:00 pm.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

The Board approved the revised Minutes of March 6th the Minutes of March 12th and the weekly Manifest.

OLD BUSINESS

Representatives of both Duchesne's Heating and Lyman Heating spoke extensively about wood pellet heating systems, thermal heat loss, radiation units and other factors that should to be considered before a final decision is made about what system should be chosen for the Municipal Building. The Board voted unanimously to reject all previously received proposals. New specifications will be drafted and a request for new proposals will be advertised.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Selectman Slack as Chairperson of the Board of Selectmen. Last year there was discussion that the chairman position be rotated annually according to seniority.

Individual responsibilities of Selectmen were decided. Selectman Slack will communicate with road contractors and be the Selectmen's representative to the Budget Committee. Selectman Swanick will oversee the transfer station and be the Selectman's representative on the Planning Board. Selectman Spencer will oversee health issues and be the Selectman's representative on the Historic District Commission.

Mike Cahalane addressed the Board of Selectmen about his concerns regarding a conflict of interest in Selectman Spencer continuing to report Effingham news for a local news publication, now that he is a member of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Cahalane was prepared with copies of pages from official documents addressing ethical standards that public officials must adhere to. Henry's article became a personal issue for Mr. Cahalane when he started receiving calls at home about comments made about him in Henry's article following Town Meeting. Selectman Spencer told Mike that he understood his concern about a conflict of interest, noting that he had already considered whether he should continue to write the article, given his newly elected position in the Town. Each of the other members of the Board also noted their opinion that there was a valid concern about influencing public opinion in a venue not open to all public officials.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Susan Slack, Selectman

Date

Theresa Swanick, Selectman

Henry Spencer, Selectman