

**Town of Effingham  
Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes**

April 4, 2017

Selectmen present: John Meisner  
Leonard Espie  
Absent: Henry Spencer

Minutes transcribed by: Cheryle A. Feirick

The Regular meeting was called to order at 5:00pm

The Mail, Manifest, Signature and Action Folder were reviewed

Pledge of Allegiance

**REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES AND WEEKLY MANIFEST:**

The board approved the regular and non-public minutes of March 21, 2017. Manifest was approved in the amount of \$79,394.36.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Kate Belisle notified the Board she has been in contact DES about the possibility of her neighbor's septic failing. She reports she was told by DES the town's Health Officer needed to be notified of this situation. She stated this system is approximately 75" from her well head. She handed out documents and pictures to the Board. She asks the Board and Health Officer to take remedial action. She will be forwarding documents and photos with time/date stamp on them to DES. Selectman Espie will go take a look and Selectman Meisner will be in contact with DES.

Linda Edwards asked Chief Butts if there are measures in place for cleanup day if needles are found; Chief Butts believes there are but he will pass this information on to the individual(s) in charge of clean up day. Linda also asked about the increased activity of cars coming and going on Town House Road; Chief Butts asked if it was speed related, the answer was no. No specifics were given to the Chief but he will make note of this and monitor the traffic on Town House Road.

**PLANNED DISCUSSION WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Police Chief Timothy Butts was present for his monthly report. Included in his report was the Department's involvement with the Task Force to apprehend a fugitive who was on the run for 12 years; all officers involved returned home safe. Selectman Meisner informed Chief Butts of the request to close off Town House Road at Corner Road and Route 153 for Saturday, June 24, 2017 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Preservation Society's street fair. The time of closure will be 7:00am to 3:00pm. The Department's cruiser is on order.

**ROADS AND BRIDGES:**

Granite Road core samples: Selectman Espie left a message for Eckman Engineering, he will follow up.  
Scouring concerns on Stevens Road Bridge: Selectman Espie will be the one watching when spring run off starts and with all the rain we will be having on Thursday.

**WORK SESSION:**

Weekly work sessions to start next Tuesday, April 11, after the regular Selectmen's meeting: Department Head reviews including discussion with Fire Chief Burbank.

Establish calendar schedule for all bridge projects, future winter road contract, roadside mowing, snow shoveling contract.

Selectmen to meet with Land Use Boards and Town's Attorney; Selectmen's office will reach out to the attorney regarding his schedule of availability.

**SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORTS:**

**Electrical at Police Department:** Selectman Espie reported he spoke with Amidon Electric and they will schedule some time to come and meet with the Police Chief to see exactly what his needs are for additional outlets and lighting.

**Transfer Station:** Coverage is needed for Saturday, April 8 all day. Selectman Espie will be there from opening to 12:30 and Selectman Meisner 12:30 to close. Motion was made by Selectman Espie to keep the transfer station's hours from 8:30am to 4:30pm year round beginning May 1st, seconded by Selectman Meisner, motion carried.

The electrician evaluated the electrical shut off situation at the transfer station and he recommended a lock out tag be placed. Discussion on placing the ad for an additional transfer station employee, the Board decided it was best to speak to Transfer Station Manager on the specific needs and where his current employees stand with their work schedule.

The wooden steps at the transfer station need to be replaced with steel steps and a railing. Information was provided from Mobile Home Depot and resident Steve Regal suggested calling Grainger. The Selectmen's office staff will reach out to both these companies. Due to the height of the compactors we may be limited to only a platform. Selectman Espie is compiling information from other towns who charge for white goods and what they charge.

**Fire Station:** Brookside Plumbing will be contacted about an "on demand" water heater using propane.

**Jersey barriers on Stevens Road:** Selectman Meisner contacted Evans Bros. about putting the barriers back to the original location. It was taken care of within the next day.

**Town Elections:** Selectman Espie had a conversation with our Town Moderator about the procedure of counting ballots; he stated there are no checks and balances. He asked her about a machine to count ballots; Selectman Espie researched machines and was able to obtain some estimated costs for a machine and supplies. This information will be shared with the Town Clerk for further discussion

**Salt shed:** 5 gallon container of "Consolideck" for treating the concrete needs to be ordered from A.H. Harris out of Portland ME.

**Fire Alarm Library:** Knight Security's schedule is a month out and a payment of 50% for phase I will be sent out later this week. Selectman Espie was asked if the system required its own dedicated line; his response was no, it will be wireless.

**Speed limits:** Selectman Espie spoke about the 35 mph speed limit sign on Plantation Road that has been there for years. Who determines these limits; the town or the state? Example: Elm Street in Ossipee is 35 mph and just over the Effingham line on Elm Street it drops down to 30 mph. The Selectman will speak to Police Chief Butts about this.

**Modular:** The landings need replacement this year. Handicap concern of accessibility to the modular, it was agreed spending six-thousand dollar isn't wise. Selectman Meisner stated when any department from the modular has someone who needs handicap accessibility; they can come and meet here in the meeting room.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Linda Edwards asked if someone was interested in counting ballots how do they go about it; David Strauss and Tom Hart spoke on their experience with taking part on voting day and it was recommended any individual interested should speak to the Town Clerk. Linda referenced a 91-A request she placed

about emails asking for tax cards; she did receive some emails and others she was told they no longer have record of. She stated according to an RSA all emails are supposed to be kept for 1 year. Town Administrator stated she will reach out to the Town's Attorney on the specifics of keeping emails.

David Straus spoke about the meeting that took place on March 30<sup>th</sup> for the Selectmen with Financial Committee of the School Board; Selectman Espie apologized he forgot about the meeting. They were nice enough to let him meet with them and are allowing him to do another presentation in the future. He expressed we should all be concerned with the results of the state's budget session vote taking place on April 5, 2017. The reduction in the stabilization grant will affect our town greatly. He has already contacted our state reps regarding this issue. It is a complicated process with a lot of players involved.

Gary Dean of Molly Philbrick Road asked what the schedule for road maintenance is; what the town does with potholes when grading can't be done yet; if there is a grading schedule how does it work; he was told there are many factors that come into play, no rain and too much rain can change the schedule. Gary understands the roads need to dry out before grading. What is the philosophy of maintaining town roads? A copy of a tentative grading schedule was given to him; Selectman Espie stated it isn't etched in stone. The Selectmen will be scheduling a work session related to maintenance of town roads.

Lawrence Edwards reviewed with the board some items on the agenda are listed for next year; these are this year's items now. John told him this is Henry's agenda, not his.

Steve Regal asked where he can purchase a "No Outlet" sign. He was told he can order it through the town; Steve will be in touch with the Selectmen's office after he speaking to the other residents on Miller Road.

**WEEKLY DISUCSSION BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**-Town owned properties, where do we stand with auctioning or selling them out right. The list of town owned property is in the Town Report. Selectman Espie has been approached about property down by the lake and that individual is interested in purchasing. The realtor contract expired on Dec, 2017 for the School Street property.

**NON-PUBLIC IF NEEDED PER (RSA 91-A: 3 II (a-e))-none**

**ADJOURNED: 6:50 pm**

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**Henry Spencer**

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**Date**

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**John Meisner**

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**Leonard Espie**