

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2015

Selectmen present: Timothy Eldridge
Henry Spencer (absent)
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 14th and the weekly manifest.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Cauble asked if the Board if it has made any headway in finding what can be done about a property near his home, with a dwelling that is badly deteriorated and abandoned. When the Police Chief is available, he will be asked about any suggestions or comments he may have in dealing with this.

Maureen Spencer reported that a culvert near her home is clogged with sand and more rain is coming.

In a recent phone conversation, Chris Seamans reported to Selectman Edwards that the fire pond near Moody Road was overflowing and could undermine the work recently done to that road. Selectman Edwards cleared the culvert. He also noted that the sign at the Transfer Station does not have the Sunday hours listed.

Randy Burbank has ordered airbags for the Fire/Rescue Department. He was able to barter receiving a carrying case for the equipment for a nominal charge with the \$6000 appropriated.

Norma Tavares asked if any further documentation has been received from the Marist Brothers of New Hampshire, to ascertain whether or not the organization can continue to be considered a charitable entity for the purpose of being exempt from property tax. The paperwork received has been submitted to the Town's attorney, but important information which was omitted in previous submissions was missing this time as well.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Selectman Eldridge has drafted a job description for the proposed cemetery custodian position using the criteria set forth by Selectman Edwards. Selectman Edwards voiced his opinion that there are too many rules and policies in the description that he feels are unnecessary. Mr. Espie, who is considering accepting the position, voiced his agreement with Selectman Edwards' opinion. Selectman Eldridge responded with the explanation that the job description is a standard one which conforms with all other Town job descriptions. Selectman Eldridge suggested Selectman Edwards edit the job description and the revisions will be considered at the next meeting.

It was noted that on Tuesday, April 28th there will not be a Selectman's meeting. There will not be a quorum.

Selectman Edwards who has expressed his interest in designing the Stevens Road bridge has contacted a soil scientist to obtain information required by DES. He was asked to confer with White Mountain Survey about permitting requirements, and to comment on Selectman Edwards' bridge plan.

Selectman Edwards recently met with Ruth O'Neal and Jennifer Murphy (who were in attendance at the meeting) to discuss sand in their yards on Plantation Road. It was agreed by all that the sand now in their yards, is sand that was used on the roadway during the winter months to provide safe travel. During plowing, the sand in the roadway was mixed into the snow embankment. Now with the snow melted, the sand remains. Selectman Eldridge said he was at a loss to find a resolution to the situation. Ms. O'Neal and Murphy felt that if a smaller plow was used the snow banks would not have encroached on their yards so intrusively. Selectman Eldridge questioned that theory, noting that the embankment of snow if not pushed back, would then be further in the roadway inhibiting road width. The road contractor will be asked for any possible solutions that would help mitigate this situation from happening. Selectman Edwards, and the property owners, felt that the road contractor should be responsible for the clean up of the sand.

Selectmen Edwards and Spencer met with Bruce Davis of All States Asphalt to discuss paved road maintenance materials and offer suggestions for certain roads. Bruce will measure areas along these roads and provide estimates for appropriate preservation materials to be applied.

Selectman Edwards had expressed an interest in looking at the regulations and restrictions which have been placed on cemetery deeds. One specific restriction is criteria put in place to regulate the placement of above ground headstones. That discussion will be explored at another time.

On Wednesday, May 6th, Board members will be meeting with employees at the Transfer Station and the Fire Department in their respective locations. The purpose of the visit is to listen to proposed changes or present problems to see find what assistance can be offered to them.

Selectman Eldridge has changed the Rules of Order to reflect that Waste Management will be granted a waiver to pass over Town roadways to access the Transfer Station for container pick up and replacement. The change was approved by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Warden, Dick Thompson will be attending a meeting in May to discuss issues related to Selectmen's recommendations for Fire Warden and Deputy Fire Wardens.

The attorney has not yet provided recommendations on the proposed revisions to the Rules of Order and Personnel Policy.

The Board will wait on discussing paving projects until Selectman Spencer is present.

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector is looking into what is entailed in accepting credit cards for tax and motor vehicle transactions.

“Road Closed” signs have been posted on those cottage roads that are still muddy from melting snow.

NEW BUSINESS

Seasonal weight limit restrictions will be lifted on Friday, April 25th.

Selectmen are considering a sign on their Office door in an effort to slow down foot traffic into the office.

Selectman Edwards has called DES to find there are no delinquencies or offenses outstanding for the Town of Effingham.

Selectman Edwards noted an invoice received from the road contractor that did not indicate where gravel had been used.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

None

Selectmen entered into non-public session at 6:05 to discuss circumstances surrounding the former owner of a now Town owned property. The former owner contacted Selectman Edwards and asked for specifics and/or any concessions that could be made on repurchase terms. The current repurchase price is substantial, but has been calculated as required by law, as have all other repurchase amounts for Town owned property.

The Selectmen called an end to non-public session at 7:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Timothy Eldridge, Chairman

Date: _____

Henry Spencer, Selectman

Lawrence Edwards, Selectman