

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2015

Selectmen present: Timothy Eldridge
Henry Spencer
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 June 2nd and the weekly manifest .

PUBLIC COMMENT

Irene Riordan noted that Huntress Bridge Road is in good repair.

Mellisa Seamans said that Moody Road has been graded and the residents on that road are satisfied with the condition of their road. She also volunteered to assist in writing a grant request to USDA for improvements to Town Hall. She was asked to work with the Library Trustees on that.

Maureen Spencer reported that a representative from USDA met with her at the Library to approve all the work that has been done. A portion of the funding for the improvements will be reimbursed by USDA.

Linda Edwards asked if there is a long term plan for the Town owned property located at 144 School Street.

Lorraine Jewell said she wished there were something that could be done to stop speeding cars traveling from the Maine portion of her road.

Leanne Leonard inquired about how to go about getting her children's bus stop location changed. The current location is on a sharp, blind corner of Province Lake Road, a very busy road with cars traveling at higher speeds. She was instructed to address this with the School District. She also asked for an update on the outstanding issue of property taxation of Marist Brothers of New Hampshire's property in Effingham. That issue will be reported on later in the meeting.

David Strauss asked if this year's road maintenance of gravel roads would include calcium chloride application and ditching. The calcium chloride application is performed as regular annual maintenance, as is cleaning of roadside ditches. But enlarging and repairing existing

ditches extensively is considered a reconstruction project, and performed as needed.

Jonathan Burbank gave his weekly fire/rescue report.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

The new road maintenance contractor reported that he has started his contract period by cold patching many areas in Town. He also started work on resolving an erosion problem which has been occurring at the end of Elm Street. He is looking forward to working with Effingham Selectmen. It was explained that he will have a dedicated phone line for incoming calls regarding road issues. The calls will come in through a town phone line to a messaging machine which can be accessed remotely. This will eliminate the delay in road repair which can happen when messages are left on the Selectmen's office answering machine over the weekend or on holidays. Proprietors of Dig & Doze expressed their approval of that system of notification. They will be working with the office staff on how the remote access will work, when all components are in place. This will remain a permanent method for residents to report road concerns. Selectman Eldridge noted that other departments/operations have the advantage of a dedicated phone number. The road contractor was asked to replace/repair the guardrail at the School Street bridge.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Selectman Edwards met with a representative of Lakes Region Paving and requested an estimate on fixing 2 places on Pine River Road. The estimate was \$4380. While there, it was noted that Lakes Region Paving has purchased machinery to do crack sealing.

Some calcium chloride has been put down on gravel roads in town. The prior road maintenance contractor will be contacted to find which roads were treated, so the remaining roads can be done.

OLD BUSINESS

Selectman Edwards took a soil sample from the grounds of 144 School Street to determine if there has been oil leakage from an underground oil tank there.

Selectman Eldridge has read through the proposal for work to be done in planning for the rebuilding of the Stevens Road bridge submitted by Stoney Ridge Environmental. He noted that while the total amount provided is less than \$15,000 there were other incidental costs associated with the required work which would increase costs. He asked Selectman Edwards to speak with a more local firm, which has done many projects for Effingham in the past, White Mountain Engineering, for their estimate on the work to be done. Selectman Eldridge noted that he did not want to accept the first offer submitted, prior to having an offer proposed by the more local firm which has served the Town well in the past.

The Board will be meeting in non-public session to discuss correspondence received by the Town's attorney providing legal advice pertaining to the request for exemption from property tax submitted by the Marist Brothers of New Hampshire. It was noted that since property tax bills have gone out to taxpayers, making this pending decision is time sensitive. After the non-public meeting this week, and further legal advice which will be provided during the week, it is expected that there will be public discussion about this issue at the next Selectmen's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

The Board went into non-public session to discuss a pending legal matter at 5:55 pm.

Information provided by the Town's attorney was shared and discussed. More financial disclosure has been received by an applicant, Marist Brothers of New Hampshire, through their attorney. They have filed for property tax exempt status allowed for by law for charitable organizations. The Town's attorney will provide the Board a more detailed outline of his conclusions from review of the submitted documentation during the coming week.

The Board closed their non-public session at 6:15.

There was discussion about next week's agenda. The Board discussed how to go about removing the underground oil tank at 144 School Street and funding for that project.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Timothy Eldridge, Chairman

Date: _____

Henry Spencer, Selectman

Lawrence Edwards, Selectman