

**TOWN OF EFFINGHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES**

January 10, 2017

Selectmen present: Henry Spencer
Lawrence Edwards
Leonard Espie

Minutes transcribed by: Cheryle A. Feirick

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

The Mail, Manifest and Signature and Action Folder were reviewed.

Pledge of Allegiance

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES and WEEKLY MANIFEST

The board approved the minutes of the regular meeting from January 4, 2017 and manifest in the amount of \$32,947.41.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Strauss spoke on the presentation he made to the School Board last night about fluctuation of increase and decrease of school taxes. He gave some numbers to compare the towns in the school district. David requested the Board to entertain a motion to put in writing a request for the at-large reps and town rep of the school board to form a committee to evaluate and adjust as needed the proportion formula to ensure a stable tax rate and fair school tax burden for all towns in the co-op. Selectman Spencer made a motion, Selectman Espie seconded the motion, after no discussion they were all in favor of presenting a letter to the school board. Selectman Spencer will process this letter.

PLANNED DISCUSSION WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Highway Contractor was unavailable to meet with the board. Selectman Edwards stated the winter highway contractor has been doing a good job.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

Selectman Spencer spoke on the board receiving a price sheet from Eckman Engineering for all their services they provide. The cost for the testing borings on either end of Granite and Snow Road will cost \$2,000.00; this is scheduled to be done on January 23, 2017. The Selectmen have agreed to proceed and Selectman Spencer signed the agreement with Eckman Engineering.

In the mail folder a note from the Historic District Commission stating they will be giving back \$504.96 "slush Fund" overrun. Selectman Spencer motion to accept the money, Selectman Edwards no further discussion-all in favor to accept the money.

Small Library: Waiting for ground to freeze to place library box on post, Selectman Spencer.

Structure on Steven's Road-Letter was sent to the property owner by certified and regular mail. Haven't heard back, next step may need to publish notice in newspaper and placing signs on property.

Watershed Alliance: Selectman Edwards stated the Town has not received the cost for Dig N Doze's part of the project. The Board has not received a written document signed by Ned Campion property owner on Bonnyman Road. This is the property the water will be directed onto.

Boston Post Cane: It was reported there have been many notices placed throughout Effingham and in Selectman's Spencer article. Only one nomination has been received to date.

Cold Patch: Selectman Edwards reported he purchased 6 bags from Skehans at \$13.10 a bag. He used 4 bags total on Elm Street and Pine River Road and the remaining are at his home being stored.

Cemeteries: Selectman Espie reported there are approximately 70+ cemeteries in town. Only 1 of owed by the town. The private cemeteries need work but cannot spend town money on them. He suggested letters be sent out to the heirs in these cemeteries and see if they will donate to cover the expense. The law states if no response after 20 years they are considered abandoned. In the spring Selectman Espie will go out using GPS to try and locate these cemeteries.

Library Alarm: The Town has not heard from Stu Shannon from Knight Security on his revised estimate for the fire alarm system. A follow-up call was made to Knight Security with no response; another call will be made to them.

Legal calls to Town's Attorney: Selectman Edwards stated he feels too many people are calling the town's attorney. He feels it should be overseen better by the Selectmen. He suggested the town's boards should be reaching out to the New Hampshire Municipal Association's Attorney before calling the town's attorney. Resident Ralph Thompson asked Selectman Edwards to give an example of what he is speaking of; Selectman Edwards responded nothing specific. Mike Cahalane spoke on how the ZBA/Planning Board handles limited contact with the town's attorney. He himself reviews questions with NHMA first; if NHMA recommends a call be made to the town's attorney that is the next step for the boards.

BUDGET ITEMS: Discussion took place amongst the board over paving Green Mtn. Road from Highwatch to West Range. Selectman Espie stated the monies proposed for paving should be put in bridges instead of paving next year. Selectman Edwards reminded the board the culvert on Pine River Road needs to be replaced and crack sealing also needs to be done

Discussion about having one single bridge fund instead of two separate ones took place. Jory Augenti suggested any funds left over from the Steven's Road Bridge are to be put into the bridge fund. This is a question for DRA since the original article was stated Steven's Road Bridge.

A warrant article will need to be written up for the Elm Street maintenance \$35,000.00.

NEW BUSINESS: None discussed

PUBLIC COMMENT: John Meisner asked if the board has decided which bridge will be done this year; no decision has been made but progress if being made to ask for an additional amount to be added to the bridge fund.

Erik Jones asked about the repair to the shed at the library.

Mike Cahalane stated there are still 91-A requests that haven't been met.

NON-PUBLIC IF NEEDED PER (RSA 91-A:3 II(d)) None

WEEKLY DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: None

Adjourned @ 6:15pm

Henry Spencer

Date

Lawrence Edwards

Leonard Espie

