

## **Town of Effingham Board of Selectmen**

September 1, 2020

Selectmen present: Michael Cahalane

Chuck Fuller

Tom Hart

Minutes transcribed by Christine Holbrook

Roll call: Tom Hart Aye, Chuck Fuller Aye, Michael Cahalane Aye

Meeting available to public via call-in teleconference.

The Regular meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM

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

Mr. Cahalane made a motion to accept the regular minutes of August 25<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Hart seconded, all in favor.

Roll call: Michael Cahalane Aye, Chuck Fuller Aye, Tom Hart Aye

A motion was made by Mr. Cahalane to accept the non-public minutes of August 25<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Fuller seconded, all in favor.

Mr. Cahalane made a motion to accept the work session minutes of August 18<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Hart seconded, all in favor.

Mr. Cahalane made a motion to accept the manifest in the amount of \$345,778.02, Mr. Hart seconded.

Mr. Cahalane noted \$331,100.32 of that amount was for the Green Mountain Paving. Roll call: Michael Cahalane Aye, Chuck Fuller Aye, Tom Hart Aye

### **PROPOSED WORK SESSIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

*Public Hearing September 15 at 1:00 pm at Town Office for The Fire Prevention and Inspection Ordinance.*

*Selectmen's Meeting date change to Wednesday September 9, 9 am followed by work session.*

*Budget prep meeting September 28*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

*Town Owned Property Auction Saturday September 12 at 10:00 am at 68 School Street for 5 properties.*

*The Town is looking for a cleaning person to clean 68 School Street. Contact office for details.*

*Election Tuesday September 8.*

*Joseph Duchesne has been sworn in as our new Lt. for Effingham Police Department.*

*The Transfer Station is hiring a part time attendant.*

### **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORTS:**

#### **Mr. Cahalane:**

Mr. Cahalane reported the Town Administrator position has been filled. Audrey Fraizer is scheduled to begin early October with regular hours to begin in November.

A Purchase and Sales agreement for property 406-011 was finalized. A letter will be sent to low bidders. The winter road contract edits are complete.

Video training will be available for Transfer Station employees at the municipal building when updates are complete.

The Board is awaiting a plan from Chief Randy Burbank for repairs needed at fire station #1. There is a utility pole near fire station that needs service. Mr. Fuller will check pole number and call Eversource.

Elm Street bridge is open although a wetlands permit is being sought for staging for concrete work underneath.

The paving on Green Mountain Rd is complete. There were several incidents that occurred during the paving where obscenities were yelled at flaggers who were just trying to do their jobs. R & D Paving reported that one flagger left the job as it was not worth their effort to be insulted by passing vehicles. In these trying times a little kindness is appreciated.

The board received a complaint of a mailbox erected on a blue barrel on Town House Road. This does not comply with Postal regulations as well as Town Ordinance. Another mailbox on Green Mountain Road will also be addressed as well as the ongoing failure to comply on Parsonsfield Road.

Transfer Station stickers must be displayed on vehicles using the Transfer Station.

There has been inquiry as to when the Town Offices will reopen to the public. In response to Mr. Comeau's inquiry Mr. Cahalane stated at this time Police, Fire, Municipal Personnel and Elected Officials and guests are allowed in building to conduct business. The Board agrees currently with the staff it is not yet time to open doors to the public with the uncertainty of the virus going forward. The Board is making changes that will allow residents to view live meetings, but everything takes time. Residents still can conduct their business by email, phone or by appointment with the staff. (see attached sheet for complete commentary).

**Mr. Fuller:**

Mr. Fuller reported more beaver activity at Snow Road Bridge area.

A junkyard letter has been drafted and awaiting approval by the Town Attorney.

He also announced The Library has received a CLiF Rural Library grant. The Library will be receiving new children's books for local school and library and storytelling presentations. Also, two new books for students to pick at the story telling events. A \$250.00 grant to support a program initiative in the library. (see attached sheet for the complete letter).

**Mr. Hart:**

Mr. Hart reported Mr. Espie will be hydroseeding Woodlawn Cemetery.

He is working on mapping the streets for signage and inventory. Lt. Duchesne will be assisting.

The delinquent tax rate as of September 1, 2020 is \$542,381.07.

He was notified of stray dogs killing 9 chickens in town, he referred the situation to the dog officer and police.

**Town Administrator Brian Burke:**

Mr. Burke requested the floors be waxed to contain the asbestos in the tiles. Chris will follow up.

A trial run for new video system will take place at September 16 BOS meeting.

Morton Salt and Granite State Minerals contracts are being reviewed.

The 80/20 grant has been approved for reimbursement for election from the state.

The yearly Town audit has been scheduled.

**Budget Chair David Strauss:**

Reminded the Board about a budget prep meeting for September 28

ZEO weekly report received.

NON-PUBLIC IF NEEDED PER (RSA 91-A:3, II (a-l))

None at this time.

Mr. Cahalane made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Fuller seconded. all in favor.

Roll call: Michael Cahalane Aye, Chuck Fuller Aye, Tom Hart Aye

Adjourned 10:47

September 9, 2020

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Michael Cahalane

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Date

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Charles Fuller

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Thomas Hart

the Effingham Selectmen's meetings and supposedly asked the people of Effingham to seek public access to Select Board Meetings at this time. I was informed there was a reference to allowing others into the meeting, specifically mentioned, I am told, were Fire and Police personnel.

I have not seen this statement myself, so I apologize for any misstatement or misunderstanding regarding Mr. Comeau's request. I would like to speak to the proposition of allowing access to Mr. Comeau and/or other members of the public, whether they are from Effingham or another area town, such as Mr. Comeau, who I believe resides in Brookfield.

So... here are a few thoughts on the subject:

As for having municipal staff such as Police, Fire, Municipal Personnel and Elected Officials attend our meetings and/or having a guest speaker or representative in for a specific reason, this seems appropriate to me, as these interactions coincide with town operations, town policies, inter-departmental communications, or municipal interest.

If Selectman Fuller or Hart feel the meetings should include public assembly at this time or be opened to some greater degree, we can revisit the issue at any time, at their request.

My hope is for this Board, to provide the same basic level of service to the town's people that Mr. Comeau's video recordings provide in other communities. The Board has been working to provide video recordings with live streaming capabilities of our meetings and the video equipment was installed last week. This capability will be made available to all other Boards, Committees and Commissions, etc... therefore providing an even greater level of exposure to municipal happenings and expanded access to the town's people.

This Board has recently signed a contract with Consolidated Communications for upgraded internet serves and access which will allow for live streaming meetings and overall improvements to our antiquated communication system. These improvements were prompted by Covid-19 as the office was forced into a larger online working environment.

The issue of Mr. Comeau's attendance was previously discussed with all office staff members. In my recollection, the office staff felt, and I agree with this, Mr. Comeau travels around to several area towns weekly and to the State House in Concord, he is presumably coming into contact with a lot of people over a large area of the State and on a regular basis. His potential for exposure to Covid-19 likely exceeds that of this Board, the office staff, and our municipal personnel. Allowing Mr. Comeau's to attend our meetings, does not further the Board's administration of the town's prudential affairs, nor would his attendance rise to an equivalent level or purpose, of meeting with town officials, i.e. Fire Chief, Police personnel, or other individuals to achieve those administrative goals.

I recall having had a previous conversation, sometime ago, with Mr. Comeau, where he expressed to me, he is trying to build a for profit business with his video recordings and I wish him success but....as a Board, our job is to manage the town's affairs and we will not be able to accomplish this task if we fail to protect the health and safety of our staff.

I hope Mr. Comeau and the public will consider the size of this building as the space is extremely limited and any exposure to Covid-19 would likely spread through the office like wildfire and cripple our ability to effectively manage the town.

This Board and others, need to consider where the money would come from to pay for a professional cleaning company to clean, disinfect and sanitize this building. This task would need to be performed after each and every meeting. I have a few additional concerns; is there even a company available to perform this task? If so, could they meet our meeting schedules? This would be required to ensure an efficient and effective response in mitigating any exposure to the virus.

The vast majority of municipal personnel, this includes all elected officials and other people involved in town operations across the board, by age alone, are considered in the "High Risk Group" to suffer serious health issues or death, should they contract the virus. Whether you believe the virus is real or not, it is my position and hopefully of this Board, to air on the side of caution.

Respectful,  
Michael Cahalane  
Effingham Board of Selectmen



## **Children's Literacy Foundation**

August 31, 2020

Effingham Public Library  
Grace Fuller  
Chair, Library Board of Trustees  
30 Townhouse Road  
Effingham, NH. 03882

Dear Grace,

Congratulations on receiving one of CLiF's Rural Libraries grants for 2020-2021. We are very pleased to work with you to help create a culture of literacy in your community and to build enthusiasm for your library. We are excited to get started!

In the upcoming year, your library and school will receive the following:

- \$2,000 worth of brand-new children's books for your library
- \$500 worth of brand-new children's books for the local elementary school's library
- Two storytelling presentations (one in the fall, one in the spring) for all elementary school students
- Two storytelling presentations (one in the fall, one in the spring) for local childcare/preschool programs of your choosing
- The opportunity for all elementary school students to select two new books of their choice at the spring storytelling event
- The opportunity for all preschoolers to select two new books of their choice at both storytelling events
- \$250 grant to support a program initiative in your library

Please excuse the delayed response to your application. We know the school year looks very different than when you wrote the grant, and we will need to work closely with you and the school librarian to deliver the components of the grant in a meaningful way. I expect that you will have many questions about alternative ways to make this work; we are committed to success!

Please let me know if you have any questions about the grant. You can reach me anytime at [meredith@clifonline.org](mailto:meredith@clifonline.org) or by calling (802) 244-0944.

Happy Reading,  
Meredith Scott  
CLiF Program Director