

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

August 5, 2014

Selectmen present: Henry Spencer
Timothy Eldridge
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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Morris asked why a truck is continually parking at the corner of Elm Street and Green Mountain Road. It was explained that other residents have addressed concern about that and the truck's owner will be notified that it must be moved to another location. Jim also asked where the money came from to pave a section of Elm Street and was told that there was money left over from paving Town House Road.

Brian Johns came in to address an EMS response complaint received by the Board recently. While here he announced he has purchased some advanced patient care equipment for his transport vehicles. He will be holding a training session with the Effingham Fire Department soon.

Dick Thompson told the Board that he has applied for grant funding for a skid tank and will need matching funds if that grant is approved. He asked if the Board would consider allowing him to overspend his budget should that grant become available. The Board agreed the purchase would be prudent. He also reported that the DOT project to update the bridge on Province Lake Road is not suitably warned for large vehicles that do not have room to turn around at the project site. He suggested signs be posted at the point of entry onto that road at each end to warn trucks of the restriction to travel at the site of the work being done.

Sheila Jones reported that Joe Kenney has announced that the fire tower on Green Mountain will be repaired. He did not mention anything about staffing for the tower.

Fire Chief Burbank reported that members of the Effingham Fire Department and the Town's warden and his deputies will be meeting on August 13th. The State Forest Ranger, Bob Boyd will be the featured speaker.

Many people attended to express their opinions about the agreement between the Marist Brothers of New Hampshire and the Town. The agreement is going to expire at the end of 2014. It has been in force since 1991. The agreement allows Camp Marist to be considered exempt from

property tax in return for a sum of money paid in lieu of taxes and accepting campers from the Town of Effingham without paying the customary tuition. Many of the provisions of the agreement are no longer applicable. There were residents that spoke to each side of the issue. Some said they felt the property Camp Marist occupies should pay their fair taxes. Others felt strongly that the children that attend the camp are given an experience that town residents may not be able to afford otherwise.

Mike Cahalane asked Selectman Edwards why some specifications for the base of the salt shed differ from others. It was explained that the specifications are only advisory.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Province Lake Association is planning a clean up event.

The annual household hazardous waste disposal day yielded 35 ton of hazardous waste.

After learning that the vendor taking the tires disposed of at the transfer station accepts 20 inch tires, the Board will allow residents to dispose of those tires at the transfer station.

Selectmen will be retaining a mason to perform some work on the Snow Road bridge/culvert.

There is shouldering work being done on Town House Road and the end of Elm Street, where new pavement has been put down.

Sections of pavement on the sides of Pine River Road are deteriorating from water runoff.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES and WEEKLY MANIFEST

The Board approved the Minutes of July 29th and the weekly manifest.

OLD BUSINESS

Selectman Eldridge has found a sample form for a resident survey to direct the Board's efforts towards the priorities of the townspeople. He will bring the survey in for other Selectmen to look at.

Selectman Eldridge reminded the Board that he would like Selectmen to sponsor a thank you get together for those residents that volunteer to serve the Town on committees. He will gather some information for ideas for that event.

The Board reviewed the list of ongoing road projects and added some deficiencies that have been noted.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board, at the advice of Town counsel, voted unanimously to allow the present agreement with the Marist Brothers of New Hampshire to expire at the end of the year. The Board will look into what options are presented to them by the Marist Brothers. Those discussions are expected to begin next week.

The Board spoke with the Town's general assistance administrator to inquire about where the budget for this year stands and what she anticipates as the budgetary needs for next year.

Selectmen met with the Tax Collector to review properties subject to deeding. The deeds will be processed during the week and presented the Board for signatures next week.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

The Board spoke with Chief Butts for a monthly update on the Police Department. He reported about his concern regarding the increasing number of untimely deaths occurring from narcotic overdoses. There have been two DEA investigations that have resulted in several arrests for narcotic trafficking. He finds it all the more alarming that in each of these cases, numerous firearms have been found. The Department is conducting State speed details throughout Town. Chief Butts will be attending the next community affairs meeting at Lakeview Neurorehabilitation on August 6th. Selectman Edward asked if the Department's officers have had traffic flagger classes. Chief Butts said those certifications are current and he will provide them so they can be put in the officers payroll files.

The Board adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Henry Spencer, Selectman

Date

Timothy Eldridge, Selectman

Lawrence Edwards, Selectman