

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

June 30, 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 23rd and the weekly manifest.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maureen Spencer announced the upcoming summer reading program at the Library. The schedule is now set. She encouraged all interested individuals to sign up as soon as possible.

Resident Leanne Leonard reiterated her inquiry regarding building permits for two properties in town. One property is located on Plantation Road and the other on Province Lake Road. She was asked to address her question to the Zoning Enforcement Officer for an update.

Tom Thompson had questions to present the Board pertaining to the transport of road material and or debris being removed in the process of ditching roadsides throughout Town. He reported that he and others had seen many trucks full of road material being transported to a particular area in Town and questioned where it was being dumped. He noted that the former road contractor left ditching debris in piles on the side of the roadway where it was removed, and asked if the Town had a policy regarding distribution or storage of this material. Selectman Edwards responded that the material was being transported to his property. Selectman Edwards also reported that the piles left behind from the former road contractor had been transported to his property as well. He stated it was of no value. Mr. Thompson then asked if the Town paid the current road maintenance contractor to transport this material to Selectman Edwards' property and was told that the Town has paid for that transport. Michael Cahalane noted that although he has attended meetings regularly, he had not ever heard discussion regarding permitting Selectman Edwards to have this material transported to his property. Board members conceded that no discussion had ever taken place and Selectman Edwards' counterparts were, until now, unaware that this was happening.

Mike Cahalane expressed his dissatisfaction about the decision of the Board to alter the summer meeting schedule to every other week rather than each week. He spoke of the dedication of the many other Town board members to attend regular meetings with no compensation and expressed he felt the Select Board should set as an example for other Town boards. He stated that he felt former sitting Select Boards had done that. Since Mr. Cahalane is on the ZBA and Planning Board, he reported that each of those land use boards has found the requested task of detailing a

flow chart for layman use on the various scenarios that come up in property use and compliance is not a reasonable expectation. Selectman Eldridge responded that this summer scheduling is a temporary means of allowing for more family time during the summer months for Board members, without jeopardizing a posted meeting not having a quorum. He noted that the office staff can be reached as always and any arising situation needing an official response of any sort could be addressed on an ad hoc basis. Selectman Eldridge also noted that the Board will also be attending to many other obligations throughout this time period.

Maureen Spencer inquired about how the weekly manifest will be handled during the bi-weekly summer schedule. Only routine payroll will be paid during the “off” weeks and Selectmen will approve the manifest at the next meeting. She also asked if the road maintenance budget is on course with the new road contractor in place. It was reported to be consistent with other years.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

The Board met with Transfer Station Supervisor Mark Bussiere for the monthly transfer station meeting last week. That meeting would have typically been held this week.

SELECTMEN’S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Selectman Spencer reported that he has looked at the architectural report completed for the Town Hall/Library building many years ago and referenced the section which details cutting pavement away from the building to provide drainage. He noted the entire parking lot at that facility is in poor shape and he will be initiating discussion to fund improvements to the parking lot during the budget process. Changes to the transfer station will also be discussed during that time to accommodate a different configuration for bulky containers.

Selectman Eldridge noted that the Board needs to put together a concessive multi-year plan regarding road improvement/maintenance projects prior to the beginning of the budgeting process.

Selectman Edwards reported that road maintenance work is ongoing. Selectman Spencer referenced an invoice presented this week for ditching done to Champion Hill with a cost to the Town about \$1000. He asked Selectman Edwards if he felt that was a reasonable amount of money for the length of road ditched. Selectman Edwards felt it was a fair price. Selectman Spencer said that the Board can use that as a rule of thumb to determine how much ditching can be done this season. The underground oil tank at a town-owned property on School Street has been removed with no seepage confirmed by a soil scientist on site. He further reported that he has been unable to perambulate the town line of Effingham/Wakefield.

OLD BUSINESS

Selectman Eldridge reminded all that the summer meeting schedule is in place and there will not be a Selectmen’s meeting next Tuesday.

The Board discussed the proposals received for the chip sealing of a section of Green Mountain Road. The originally submitted proposals were in excess of road paving appropriations. One proposal had been modified to an amount not to exceed this year’s appropriation after the bidder had seen the competitor’s proposal. Selectman Eldridge expressed his concern about accepting either proposal. He noted that there were spots on other paved roadways in Town that were more deteriorated. He also spoke on the fact that the plan set forth during the previous budgeting

process and presented at Town Meeting was to crack seal many of the paved roads done within the past several years to preserve them and postpone the necessity to repave. Approving the crack sealing project would not allow for any remaining funds to perform that preventative maintenance work. The Board voted unanimously to withdraw the project from consideration and rejected both proposals. They will discuss what paved road maintenance/improvement will be done this year in the discussion session this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

With the July 4th holiday coming up, the Selectmen's office will be closed on Friday, July 3rd and the transfer station will be closed on Saturday, July 4th.

A new part time position in the Selectmen's office has been posted.

During casual discussion, paved road preservation and improvement projects were discussed. No decisions were made. Board members will re-visit this subject at the next meeting after they have time to look over the roadways to establish priorities.

At 7:05 the Board entered into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue. The discussion involved establishing a new position for an existing employee. Further research will be done.

The Board adjourned the non-public session and the weekly meeting at 7:15pm.

Timothy Eldridge, Chairman

Date: _____

Henry Spencer, Selectman

Lawrence Edwards, Selectman