

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

March 31, 2015

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.

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Fire Chief Randy Burbank reported that the American Red Cross is distributing smoke detectors to all that need them while supply lasts.

Mr. Buzzell reported that the road weight restriction signs and the frost heave signs have now curled, since the rain and can no longer be read. The road contractor will be contacted to have those signs stapled to a sturdy board.

Lorraine Jewell suggested the Board consider making a “skirt” of pavement where Plantation Road meets Route 153. That area washes out badly. That suggestion will be explored.

Pat Riker reported that having traveled on the gravel roads of Freedom she has noticed those roads are in much better condition than the gravel roads of Effingham. Selectman Spencer pointed out that a lot more money is allocated to road maintenance in Freedom.

Mike Cahalane addressed Selectman Edwards about derogatory implications he believes Selectman Edwards has made. Mike advised caution in what is being said in public meetings, noting that only factual statements should be reported.

Maureen Spencer again reported on the Just Desserts event coming up at the Mountain View Nursing Home. She also announced that she has secured brochures and booklets that she feels will benefit many. She is leaving them in the public areas so residents can have them if they need the information provided.

Norma Tavares inquired about how much money has been spent to date on legal fees in the taxation issue facing the Town and Marist Bros. of NH. Only one phone conversation has taken place between the attorneys for each party. Additional information has not been supplied to determine if Marist Brothers of NH is a charitable organization.

Jonathan Burbank gave his weekly fire and rescue call report.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

The Planning Board is working on revisions to documentation regarding driveway permits.

The regional ambulance service contract has been signed by each participating town except for Tamworth. Tamworth did not have a quorum present at the signing meeting.

Selectman Edwards reported that the road contractor, Evans Bros. LLC has damaged the town's salt shed. He supports the Board seeking recourse for damages. Selectman Spencer and Selectman Eldridge felt confident the contractor would rectify any damage done.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES and WEEKLY MANIFEST

The Board chose to postpone approval of the March 24th meeting until additional verbiage was added regarding a discussion with the road contractor. The weekly manifest was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board reviewed revisions to the "Rules of Order" policy. Selectman Edwards felt one section of the policy restricting individual action by a Selectman without Board approval was too restrictive. He was asked to write his suggested changes to the policy for discussion next week. The health insurance section of the personnel policy is also being revised to "grandfather" current employees but require a contribution from future employees. A 10% contribution is under consideration. Selectman Edwards believes the set contribution is too restrictive and suggested the policy be edited to be change to a range of contribution rates from 10% to 50%. Selectman Spencer will be researching what other municipalities are requiring, so Effingham can retain a competitive benefits package for future employees.

Advertising has been put into several news publications for proposals for the mini-pumper being purchased by the Fire Department. There have been many responses received requesting specifications.

There will be a Board work session at the conclusion of business to work on a multi-year schedule for road improvements.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board will be requesting that DES have a representative come to meet with them at the Stevens Road Bridge to discuss what preliminary documentation must be completed before any construction take place. The Board will also be asking what options are available for replacement of the bridge. Selectman Edwards questions the classification designated by DES of the stream, given the width and depth of the water running under the bridge.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

Selectmen worked on a road improvement plan which spans a period of several years, to be used as a framework for planning and budgeting over that period.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Henry Spencer, Chairman

Date: _____

Timothy Eldridge, Selectman

Lawrence Edwards, Selectman