

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 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

The former owner of a town-owned property, Bruce Patch came to the meeting to request a settlement price to repurchase his property. He offered \$35,000, but his current repurchase price is over \$90,000. Mr. Patch has contested, in court, the taking of the property. The court has ruled in favor of the Town in all appeals made. Since none of the present Board members were on the Board at the time of deeding in 2011, they postponed a decision until all were briefed on the history of what has transpired. Mr. Patch was made aware that the delay would not decrease the required amount for repurchase.

Chris Seamans presented the Board with a number of questions. He asked for an update on progress toward regionalization of ambulance service. He asked if the road contractor is addressing road maintenance in a timely manner and reported that he knew of an unreported tree limb that was not removed for several weeks. Chris reiterated that he feels a position should be created for someone who would monitor road maintenance. He questioned maintenance of the upper portion of Hutchins Pond Road and reported a recent problem he had encountered which involved a land use issue. He believes more education is needed on the land use boards, so each board is knowledgeable about what board presides over particular issues.

Chief Burbank had thoroughly reviewed the provisions of all the proposals offered for regional ambulance service and reported his findings and opinions.

Maureen Spencer reported that the work being done at the Library is complete. She also asked if Selectman Edwards had been to the Library to look at the septic pipe.

Jonathan Burbank gave his weekly report on fire and rescue calls.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Selectman Spencer will be submitting a water sample from the transfer station to verify that the

water is potable.

The next meeting of the regional ambulance committee of area Selectmen will be held on Thursday at 6:00 pm.

There is a regularly scheduled meeting tomorrow at Lakeview. These meetings are part of the ongoing effort to address concerns of the facility and/or town residents.

Selectman Eldridge announced the many events that will be going on in Effingham from the 28th to the 30th of November, just after Thanksgiving. There will be a craft fair at the Elementary School, a 5K road race, the tree lighting ceremony in South Effingham and the Library is holding a community event.

The Budget Committee will be meeting this evening.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES and WEEKLY MANIFEST

The Board approved the Minutes of November 12th and the weekly manifest.

OLD BUSINESS

Selectman Edwards looked at a driveway which the Board had received a complaint about. The property owner complained that as material has been added to the gravel road they live on, the driveway is now lower than street level and experiencing road runoff. Town officials cannot approve spending budget appropriations on private property, therefore, it will be the responsibility of the landowner to resolve any problems.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board received two complaints about the steep crown on Clough and Granite Road. The road contractor will be asked to remove some of the material from the crown to reduce the pitch of the grade. Another road issue which was presented by a resident was the limited range of sight to the left as one leaves the parking lot of the Library/Town Hall building. The placement of a mirror was discussed with the suggestion of using a utility pole. That suggestion will be researched to see if the utility company will allow the pole to be used.

Selectman Edwards questioned what authority the Selectmen have over the functioning of the Police Department. There was discussion about that Department functioning under the laws of the State and Federal Governments. He also noted that the Selectmen's meeting minutes were not up to date on the Town's website. Another concern was that it seems the road contractor does not have a 4 wheel drive truck at this time.

Bruce Davis of All States Asphalt has been scheduled to come in to report on present or new products which pertain to road maintenance.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

The Zoning Enforcement Officer reported that she has been following up on complaints regarding the Green Mounting Hunting Preserve. She gave the Board correspondence related to the results of her inquiries.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Henry Spencer, Chairman

Date: _____

Timothy Eldridge, Selectman

Lawrence Edwards, Selectman