

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES

July 28, 2015

Selectmen present: Timothy Eldridge
Henry Spencer
Lawrence Edwards

Minutes transcribed by: Gwen English

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 July 14th and the bi-weekly manifest.

PUBLIC COMMENT

It was announced that Green Mountain Conservation Group will host a Dinner and Auction at the Province Lake Golf Club on August 15th at 5:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased online at GMCG.org.

Resident Jory Augenti addressed the Board regarding the disposal of roadside waste material. He is in support of the town offering the waste to abutting land owners and creating a waiver in the event of contamination. If the materials are unwanted he thought it made sense to dispose of it at a local sand pit to save on the cost of hauling and disposal. Selectman Spencer noted the policy for unwanted waste was to be discussed during tonight's meeting.

Robert Pierpoint, Board Member for Starting Home / Veteran's Transitional Housing spoke regarding his agencies desire to utilize the two remaining wings of the old county nursing home as an outreach to homeless veterans. He presented the Selectmen with a copy of his agencies plans and went on to explain Starting Home is a non-profit 501(c) 3 committed to providing transitional housing with living quarters and communal facilities to qualified, male and female veterans, including but no limited to, a continuum of care, support and guidance in an effort to move residents to permanent housing and assist them in becoming positive elements in their respective communities. He went on to say, they could provide housing for 17 veterans and staff. Mr. Pierpoint is asking the Board of Selectmen to write a letter of support to the Delegation on behalf of Starting Home and use of the old county facility. Mr. Pierpoint also pointed out if the remainder of the old county nursing home is torn down it will cost tax payers five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.)

Resident Richard Thompson spoke in support of Starting Home. He does not believe any veteran should be homeless in the United States of America.

Resident Eric Jones gave a thank you to Fire Chief Burbank for assisting the Effingham Historical Society in getting their fire extinguishers inspected. He also raised the matter of the Boston Cane. He would like to see a replica of the cane made and presented to the oldest resident

in Effingham in place of the original. He offered the Historical Society might be interested in donating the money for the purchase of a replica.

Resident and Budget Committee Member David Strauss asked the Board what was remaining in the budget for the summer road maintenance contractor and was told twenty two hundred dollars (\$2,200) was left in the budget for the year.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

The Board met with Fire Chief Randy Burbank for his monthly meeting. The department has gained six new members since March. The department is working on equipping the new members with gear. They've conducted trainings and will be looking into improving the towns ISO rating. Further discussion ensued.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Selectmen Eldridge presented his fellow board members with a copy of the 2015 Budget v. Actual for their review. Claudia gave an update on the current town audit conducted by Roberts & Greene a comprehensive governmental accounting and auditing firm, noting we are complying with the auditor's recommendation to have a back up person for the book keeping functions such as accounts payable, weekly payroll etc. The accounting firm is also reviewing other department documents and the process is lengthy. A representative from Carol Coppola & Associates is assisting the town in meeting the requirements of general accounting standards and will be returning on August 7th to continue work with the office staff which has been busy compiling capital asset information for the town in preparation.

Selectmen Eldridge noted the mowing concerns at the library were taken care of and the Board will review the potential removal of a tree from the front lawn.

Selectman Edwards noted the salt shed sealant needs to be applied. Selectman Eldridge offered to do the work which will be done within the next couple weeks. Selectman Edwards noted the recent damage done to the dirt roads after torrential rains has virtually depleted the contractor budget. Since the events were never declared disasters by the state no reimbursement money is available from FEMA. Storm clean up cost the town approximately thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000.) Further discussion ensued regarding the road budget. Town line perambulation with Wakefield is not complete due to scheduling difficulties. He talked with the state regarding waivers for the disposal of road side waste and expects to have a sample by next meeting. The contractor working on the Wilkinson Swamp Road property expects to be finished with the tear down and disposal within a month. The School Street Bridge needs a guardrail. Materials are available with some welding required his fellow board members added the cost has to be established prior to giving the go ahead.

Selectman Spencer brought up the matter of the fence at the transfer station which he thinks is necessary for safety reasons. He would like to see a more permanent chain link fence put into place. He will call for estimates from local fencing companies. Selectman Spencer submitted a draft policy for dealing with the disposal of "unwanted road waste" asking his fellow board members to review it for discussion at their next meeting. Henry also noted the last estimate to paint the library was twenty three thousand dollars (\$23,000). Regarding the pavement he will talk with the road contractor for an estimate on dirt work and Lakes Region Paving for a paving estimate. He will contact Melissa Seaman regarding her offer to assist the library with grant writing to cover some of the cost of- improvements. He will also talk with Rhymes about placing the gas tanks for heating underground during the paving project.

Selectmen Eldridge set a schedule for Civic Recognition. Nominations are due August 11th and

the ceremony will be held October 15th at the Effingham Elementary School the time to be announced.

OLD BUSINESS

Selectman Eldridge announced the Boards plan to crack seal Old Pound Road, Corner Road and Town House Road. Lakes Region Paving will do the work which is scheduled to start on or about September 1st. The Board plans on using one barrel of crack sealant at a cost of seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) per barrel. The Board will then review the need to use more crack sealant if the job requires it and will gain knowledge of how to budget for this process in the future. No Selectmen's meeting the week of August 4th and a certified letter was sent to the owners of 68 Route 153 North regarding the hazardous building.

NEW BUSINESS

Selectman Eldridge announced, no proposals were submitted for road resurfacing. The project is too small for contractors to bid on so it's back to the drawing board. Further discussion ensued. Two proposals for Stevens Road Bridge engineering and permitting were submitted, one by White Mountain Survey and the other by Stoney Ridge Environmental Services. The vote was unanimous and the contract awarded to Stoney Ridge Environmental Services. Granite Road reconstruction will begin about Sept 1st.

Selectmen Eldridge announced the newest addition to the Selectmen's Office Staff is Cheryle Feirick.

At 6:53 the Board entered into non-public to discuss a personnel matter regarding a member of the Effingham Fire Department and tax deeding.

The Board adjourned the non-public session at 7:12 pm at which time they entered into their weekly discussion on road paving and the need for a plan for future paving projects. Selectman Eldridge will work on a plan to be presented at their next meeting. They also discussed the cost of adding onto the Municipal Building. Administrator Claudia Lamphier gave the Board an update on the town attorney's opinion for disposition of the property located at 144 School Street. Library Maintenance was discussed at which time Claudia reminded the Board the architects plan recommends removing the pavement from against the building. And there has been lots of discussion about repaving the parking lot. Painting the building would not be the best use of any potential grant money the town may be awarded.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm

Timothy Eldridge, Chairman

Date: _____

Henry Spencer, Selectman

Lawrence Edwards, Selectman