

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 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

Chris Seamans asked if anyone had been watching the roofs of municipal buildings for snow buildup with the mounting snow from recent storms. Selectman Spencer will look at the modular unit. Linda Edwards asked if anyone had checked the roof at the Elementary School. That is the responsibility of the School District, but Selectman Eldridge, a School Board member said he will check to make sure the school roof is being checked.

Rebecca Boyden has completed her section of the land use regulations “user friendly” reference guide that will be worked on by all the land use boards. It is hoped that through mutual effort, a concise but thorough reference guide will make it easier to move through the necessary land use boards.

Jonathan Burbank gave his weekly fire and rescue report.

SELECTMEN’S COMMENTS AND REPORT

The wood pellet boiler in the municipal building was not working this morning. The digital panel messaged that it had been too cold for too long, causing the boiler to shut down. The installer will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss what might be happening and what should be expected in the future.

Selectman Spencer reported that despite the severity of recent snow storms, the road contractor has been maintaining the roads very effectively. He also noted that the transfer station crew has been working hard to keep the facility clear. A snow blower that the crew had been given has broken for the 2nd time, so the staff is shoveling to keep the lanes and disposal areas clear for patrons.

Selectman Edwards contacted the town's salt vendor and cold patch vendor to question pricing.

Selectman Eldridge announced the Elementary School is putting on a play on Friday evening at 6:00 pm. Author Rebecca Rule will be at the Historical Society at 7:00 pm giving a talk with a comical spin about Town Meetings in New England.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES and WEEKLY MANIFEST

The Board approved the minutes of February 10th and the weekly manifest.

OLD BUSINESS

Selectman Spencer will be installing the mirror purchased to mount near the library driveway to improve visibility when leaving the parking lot to enter onto Town House Road.

Selectman Spencer is again going to assess the possibility of allowing permitted patrons of the transfer station to pay for disposal of tires and electronics at the facility, rather than purchase a coupon from the Selectmen's office.

Selectman Edwards presented his fellow Board members with three hand written drawings depicting his proposed bridge replacement for Stevens Road. He had some weight statistics also that he had been provided. He feels Selectmen can oversee the rebuilding of the bridge without engineering specifications or oversight. He reported his plan would be about \$240,000 less than the engineering firm's estimated cost of reconstruction. With changes to building plans being proposed so close to Town Meeting, Selectman Eldridge suggested the Board consider dismissing the warrant article to fund the bridge rebuilding at Town Meeting. This would allow the Board another year to research alternatives. At the time of placing the funding article on the warrant, it was believed that the State had bridge aid available to reimburse some of the cost of replacing the bridge, in which case, the design and oversight of the bridge, by an engineering firm would be a necessity. Selectmen voted unanimously to ask Town Meeting voters to disregard the warrant article requesting funding, with the explanation that they would be further considering available options.

NEW BUSINESS

Selectmen were presented the appointment form for Fire Warden and Deputy Wardens of Effingham. For decades, Richard Thompson has been reappointed as Fire Warden and he has indicated on the form that he is willing to stay on in that capacity. Fire Chief Burbank has had concerns because he has been unable to increase the number of members of his department as Deputies. The form submitted by Mr. Thompson did not add any more of the present EFRD members to the list of approved deputy wardens. Due to concern over ongoing tension between the Warden and Fire Chief, Selectmen refused to sign the reappointment application at this time. Selectman Eldridge will talk to Warden Thompson to address these concerns.

Town Meeting voters will be asked for feedback on the thought of moving the Veteran's Memorial to the old Town Hall, presently housing the operation of the Effingham Public Library.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

None

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm. All Board members stayed to attend “Candidate’s Night” sponsored by the Town Clerk to give voters an opportunity to meet candidates running for office in the upcoming Town election.

Henry Spencer, Chairman

Date: _____

Timothy Eldridge, Selectman

Lawrence Edwards, Selectman