

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

March 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 reported concerns about plowing during recent snow storms. He requested that Board members check with the contractor to make sure his local private customers are not getting a priority over Town roads. He also inquired about the installation of the mirror which is to be placed in a location to improve safety while leaving the Library/Town Hall parking lot.

Brent Rogers expressed resentment that discussion at Town Meeting on the purchase of a new fire truck was voted to end prior to him having an opportunity to offer comment. He questioned if the Effingham Fire Department expected the new all-purpose mini-pumper to replace Engine 1. It was explained that this was not the intention. During the ensuing discussion about the purchase of the new truck and the intended use, facts were misconstrued by many. Selectman Edwards felt that Town Meeting voters were deliberately misled about the need for and replacement of Engine 1. In an effort to clarify the difference in the replacement of Engine 1 and the point at which it is considered past its useful life, Selectman Edwards accused Bill Piekut of lying. Mr. Rogers went on to make accusations on the misconduct of Fire Chief Randy Burbank on a recent response to a call made for a check on a residence for a possible propane leak. Any response made by Chief Burbank was rebutted vigorously.

Mrs. Buzzell reported that the usual prominent "heave" on Jones Road is very bad. It will be marked as a warning to drivers. She also said there was a very large pothole on Elm Street at the Ossipee line. Mrs. Buzzell also commented on how she appreciated the candidate's night presentation. She suggested that a ballot type document might be helpful for voters to make notes and candidate selections. That idea will be passed along to the Town Clerk.

Mr. Potter announced that he was pleased with the general tone of Town Meeting. He also noted that some of the matters of discussion prior to Town Meeting had been mean and degrading. He felt that the prayers of many were answered with the respect for others shown at the Saturday meeting.

Mike Cahalane reported that a representative of Steel Master, contacted him to thank him for the pictures Mike mailed them showing the progression of construction of the salt shed and the completed building. Steel Master manufactured the metal structure which is the top part of the Quonset shaped building.

Bill Piekut, President of the Effingham Firefighter's Association announced that they will be offering a \$500 scholarship to an Effingham graduate again this year. Interested parties should contact the fire department for more information.

Jonathan Burbank gave his weekly fire and rescue call report.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

There was a good turnout at Town Meeting this year.

The Board announced an official thank you to the election officials and the moderator for a smooth and successful Town Meeting.

The Green Mountain Conservation Group is holding their annual dinner on April 1st.

VNA is having a fundraising event in Conway on June 5th and 6th.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES and WEEKLY MANIFEST

The Board approved the minutes of March 9th and the weekly manifest.

OLD BUSINESS

Selectman Spencer will be developing a check-off sheet which will be used by personnel at the transfer station in preparation of accepting cash for disposal of tires and electronic equipment. Upon completion, transfer station attendants will be asked to a meeting to assist in developing a standard procedure to put in place to facilitate the transition from coupons purchased at the Selectmen's office to accepting money at the time of disposal.

The only outstanding changes necessary for compliance with Department of Labor violations list is the marking of the used oil container at the transfer station and any cleaning products used in the attendant's shed.

Next week the Board will have a work session at the conclusion of the formal weekly Board meeting. A formal road plan will be developed to determine what reconstruction work will be done this year and what paving or paved road repair will be done. Also, the contracts which expire this year need to be worked on prior to putting them out to bid.

Police Chief Butts is waiting for pending legislation for direction on putting together a policy for his department regarding the use of camera devices.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Selectman Eldridge as the Board Chair this year.

The Board voted unanimously to post weight limit restrictions on Town roadways.

Selectman Edwards inquired if any of the Board members had been advised of how other ambulance “compact” towns voted at their respective Town Meeting. No one had been advised yet.

Selectman Edwards had questions to present and comments regarding the road contractor, Evans Bros. LLC. He reported that he feels whoever is driving the truck which is delivering salt to Town roads is not using a correct setting to disburse salt. He requested someone from the contracted firm come to a meeting to be instructed on how to apply salt to the roads. Selectman Edwards also asked his fellow Board members if they had ever given permission to anyone to use Town salt and sand. Upon hearing that no permission had been requested or granted, he said that there needed to be increased accountability to the Board, by contractors servicing private parties throughout Town, regarding where they are getting their winter maintenance products. He is going to follow up to find who is servicing Town subdivisions to verify where their products are being purchased.

Selectman Edwards questioned Fire Chief Burbank about operation of the airbag system that was approved for purchase by Town Meeting vote. He asked how the airbags would be inflated when needed. The Chief reported that the SCUBA tanks are able to fill the bags. Selectman Edwards also asked why the Fire Department had a larger telephone budget than other departments. The answer was provided by the bookkeeper. The cable bill at the fire station is allocated to the telephone line item of the budget.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

The Zoning Enforcement Officer will be implementing the changes made to the Zoning Ordinance during the election process. Selectman Eldridge would like an update on the progress of the development of a flow chart, depicting steps necessary to achieve land use changes. All land use Boards are to be included in the development process of the flow chart.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Henry Spencer, Chairman

Date: _____

Timothy Eldridge, Selectman

Lawrence Edwards, Selectman