Town of Effingham Annual Town Meeting Minutes March 14, 2015

The following are the results from the Town Election, which was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015: The checklist listed 965 registered voters. 326 ballots were cast, including 21 absentee ballots.

Selectman, three year term:	Henry Spencer Leonard Espie	186 137
Treasurer, three year term:	Laurie J. Caldwell	271
Budget Committee, (2) three year terms:	David Strauss James Morris William Piekut	156 169 132
Budget Committee, one year term:	William Piekut	32*
Trustee of the Library, one year term:	Johanna Vienneau	266
Trustee of the Library, three year term:	Erik R. Jones	232
Planning Board, (2) three year terms:	Paul Potter George Bull	221 206
Planning Board, two year term:	Theresa Swanick Jory B. Augenti	171 129
Zoning Board of Adjustment, three year term	Michael Cahalane	240
Town Clerk/Tax Collector, three year term	Deanna Amaral	295
Trustee of Trust Funds, three year term	Theresa Swanick Avril K. Davis	194 85

^{*}Write-in votes

All proposed Zoning Ordinance changes are in italics:

Article 2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2015-1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: To clarify Section 402 - Lot Requirements by adding *A minimum lot size of 2 acres with minimum frontage of 200 feet are required in all districts except for Open Space Conservation Subdivision?*

The Planning Board is in favor of this article.

YES 192 NO 116

Article 3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2015-2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Article 3-Definitions, to change the definition of Lot of Record to read *A legally created parcel*, the plat or description of which has been recorded at the Registry of Deeds for the County in which it is located?

The Planning Board is in favor of this article.

YES 247 NO 61 Page 1

Article 4. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2015-3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Article 3-Definitions to add the definition of *Non-Conforming Lot:* A single lot, which, at the effective date of the Ordinance, does not meet the minimum lot area, minimum lot area per dwelling unit, or minimum frontage requirements of the district in which it is located. It is allowed solely because it was in lawful existence at the time this Ordinance or subsequent amendment took effect? The Planning Board is in favor of this article.

YES 230 NO 74

Article 5. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2015-4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Article 3-Definitions to add the definition of *Temporary Enclosure:* A temporary enclosure is defined as any moveable tent-like shelter intended to provide or actually provide protection from the elements for stored materials, vehicles or other items. This would include temporary garages of tent-like constructions as well as tarpaulins of plastic of similar materials supported by wooden or metal frameworks. Such temporary enclosures are governed by the same setback requirements as structures. Tents set up for special occasions, screen houses, and other seasonal recreational enclosures are specifically exempted from this definition unless used for storage as listed above? The Planning Board is in favor of this article.

YES 191 NO 116

Article 6. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2015-5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Change Section 707 from Lots of Record to read *Non-Conforming* Lot: *A non-conforming lot* may be used for the uses permitted in the zoning ordinance in the district within which the property is located so long as the lot satisfies the following:

- The lot must have frontage or *right of way* capable of providing sufficient access for emergency vehicles.
- No changes
- No changes
- Change the words 'A lot of record' to 'The lot'?

The Planning Board is in favor of this article.

YES 220 NO 63

Article 7. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2015-6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Change Section 1105 – Building Permit to read: *Unless otherwise noted below* a building permit expires twenty-four (24) months after the date of issue. An applicant may request an extension of twelve (12) months from the enforcement officer before the permit expires. *Permits for recreational vehicles and campground structures expire twelve (12) months after the date of issue?*

The Planning Board is in favor of this article.

YES 249 NO 57

Article 8. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2015-7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Change Section 1402 to allow up to two (2) recreational vehicles on one lot for up to 150 days?

The Planning Board is in favor of this article.

YES 200 NO 102

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Article 9. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2015-8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Article 15 – Historic District: *Change the number of board members from 7 to 5, eliminate the requirement that one member from each historic district be on the board and other housekeeping items?*

The Planning Board is in favor of this article.

YES 201 NO 97

At 7:00 pm, the Moderator announced that the polls were closed. Ballot clerks and counters were: Edith Sharp, David Manley, Celine Bergeron, Tracy Cragin, Cheryle Feirick, Theresa Swanick, James Morris, David Strauss and Gwenda English. When we were finished counting, Moderator Pilkovsky called for a recess and announced that the meeting would reconvene on Saturday at 9:00am, March 14, 2015.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Four Dollars (\$25,804.00) to contract the services of Avitar Associates of New England, Inc. for the year 2015. This sum represents payment for the fifth year of a five-year level funded contract that provides for a full update of property values to market rate in 2015 as required by RSA 75:8-a, as well as general assessing services throughout each of the five years and field data verification of information appearing on property tax cards. This requires a majority vote.

The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

The article was moved, seconded and passed as read.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Six Thousand Dollars (\$46,000.00) for road reconstruction. This requires a majority vote. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

The article was moved, seconded and passed as read.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) for paved road resurfacing and repair. This requires a majority vote. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

The article was moved, seconded and passed as read.

A motion was made and seconded to vote on Article 16 prior to Article 13. Motion passed. In keeping with the order of the Warrant, Article 16 results will be placed after Article 15.

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00) for payments to the following Capital Reserve Accounts previously established:

		Acct balances 12/31/14
Aquatic Invasive Plants	\$3,000.00	\$11,836.34
Fire Truck/Equipment	\$5,000.00	\$245,484.66
Police Cruiser/Equipment	\$15,000.00	\$30,193.93
Town Owned Bridges	\$10,000.00	\$93,539.28
Transfer Station/Recycling Center	\$2,000.00	\$10,228.46

Total in above Capital Reserve accounts: \$391,282.67

This is a special warrant article. This requires a majority vote. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

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The article was moved, seconded and passed as read.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration of articles 10-13&16. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to vote on Article 24 prior to Article 14. Motion passed. In keeping with the order of the Warrant, Article 24 results will be placed after Article 23.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nineteen Thousand Dollars (\$19,000.00) for payments to the following Trust Fund Accounts previously established:

		Acct balances 12/31/14
Library Equipment Exp TF	\$3,000.00	\$5,972.71
Municipal Auditing Exp TF	\$1,000.00	\$26,003.70
Municipal Buildings Exp TF	\$10,000.00	\$23,355.40
Town Hall Restoration TF	\$5,000.00	\$25,127.89

Total in above Trust Fund accounts: \$80,459.70

This is a special warrant article. This requires a majority vote. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

The article was moved and seconded.

A motion was made to amend the Town Hall Restoration TF line to \$15,000.00. The motion was seconded and passed with a count of hands. The Article will now read Twenty-nine Thousand Dollars (\$29,000).

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) from the undesignated fund balance to be added to the Fire Truck and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The \$1,000.00 was received from the Town of Parsonsfield in 2014 for Fire Department Mutual Aid. This is a special warrant article. This requires a majority vote. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

The article was moved, seconded and passed as read. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration of articles 14 & 15. Motion passed.

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$240,000.00) to purchase an all purpose mini-pumper fire truck and applicable accessory equipment for the Effingham Fire/Rescue Department. Further to fund this purchase by authorizing the withdrawal of Two Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$240,000.00) from the Fire Truck/Equipment Capital Reserve Account created for this purpose. This is a special warrant article. This requires a majority vote. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

The article was moved and seconded. Moderator Pilkovsky announced that there was a request made that this article be voted on by a ballot vote. A lengthy discussion followed.

A motion was made and seconded to cease discussion. A hand count was taken and the motion passed to call the question. The article passed with YES 60 NO 31

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$320,000.00) from the undesignated fund balance to replace the bridge on Stevens Road

and do other pertinent road work on Stevens Road, with none of this amount to be raised from taxation. And further, to authorize the governing body to accept grant funding for this project from the State of New Hampshire or other government agency should it become available. This is a special warrant article. This requires a majority vote.

The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

The article was moved and seconded. Selectman Spencer asked that this article be postponed because of new information. The motion passed and article is postponed.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Six Thousand Dollars (\$96,000.00) to enter into a one year contract to provide emergency medical/ambulance service to the Town of Effingham. This requires a majority vote.

The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

The article was moved, seconded and passed as read.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration of article 18. The motion passed.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) for airbags to be used by the Effingham Fire/Rescue Department. This requires a majority vote. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

The article was moved, seconded and passed as read.

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Three Hundred Twenty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seven Dollars (\$1,324,707.00) for the ensuing year for general operations. This requires a majority vote.

The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

Executive	94,205.00
Election & Registration	27,245.00
Checklist Supervisors	1,850.00
Financial Administration	38,512.00
Budget Committee	215.00
Assessing	23,650.00
Legal	20,000.00
Payroll Expenses	53,000.00
Planning & Zoning	17,650.00
Municipal Buildings	48,000.00
Cemeteries	2,500.00
Insurance Fees	101,600.00
Advertising & Regional Dues	3,000.00
Police	157,937.00

Fire/Rescue Department	69,450.00
Emergency/Forest/911	4,750.00
Road Maintenance	129,600.00
Winter Roads	287,100.00
Street Lighting	6,700.00
Solid Waste Collection	50,209.00
Solid Waste Disposal	79,000.00
Solid Waste Clean Up	4,500.00
Dog Officer Expenses	500.00
Health Agencies & Hospitals	12,306.00
General Assistance	20,000.00
Meals on Wheels	4,500.00
Parks & Recreation	3,500.00
Library	57,605.00
Patriotic Purposes	1,000.00
Conservation Commission	3,622.00
Town Forester	1,000.00
Debt Service	1.00
Total	1,324,707.00

The article was moved and seconded. A motion was made by William Piekut to amend the Police Salary Line and increase it by \$6,700.00. Motion was seconded and passed. The LINE will now read \$164,637.00.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to modify the Town bidding and bonding requirements for construction projects passed by the Town under Article 24 of the 1995 town meeting as follows: Increase the maximum amount of the project that does not require advertising for bids to be increased from Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00). This article, if approved, will not restrict the Board of Selectmen from advertising for bid other projects, less than the required maximum amount, if they decide that it is in the best interest of the Town to do so. And to increase the minimum aggregate project price for contractor bonding requirements for special projects, not to include those projects done periodically in the course of routine business by a bonded contractor using rates which were awarded through a bidding process, from Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00). This requires a majority vote.

The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.

A motion was made to restrict reconsideration of articles 19 – 21. The motion passed.

Article 22. To see if the Town of Effingham will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for a contribution to the Freedom Food Pantry to assist in their efforts. This article is petitioned by Patricia M. Riker and others. This requires a majority vote. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation

The article was moved, seconded and passed as read.

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to withdraw the money from the sale of cemetery lots in woodland cemetery for the year 2014 from the general fund and add it to the trust funds for the care and maintenance of woodland cemetery. This article is petitioned by Mildred A. Williams and others. This requires a majority vote.

The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

The article was moved, seconded and passed as read.

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote that all employees whether hired or elected by the town of Effingham pay twenty five percent of their health insurance beginning with the 2015 town meeting. This article is petitioned by Mildred A. Williams and others. This requires a majority vote. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee do not recommend this appropriation.

The article was moved and seconded. After a brief discussion, a motion was made to postpone. Motion passed. Article postponed.

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of its agents and auditors.

The article was moved, seconded and passed as read.

A motion was made to restrict reconsideration of Articles 22, 23 & 25. Motion passed.

Article 26. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Amaral, Town of Effingham Town Clerk