



Town of Effingham
Selectmen's Office
68 School Street
Effingham, New Hampshire 03882

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
April 12, 2022

Present: Chairman Espie, Selectmen Kirkwood and Fuller, Police Chief Duchesne, Sergeant Welch, Zoning Enforcement Officer Rebecca Boyden, Town Administrator Fraizer, Administrative Assistant McWhirter and several members of the public.

Chairman Espie called the meeting to order at 9:00am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Signature folder:

Chairman Espie made a motion to approve and sign the Selectmen's meeting minutes for April 5, 2022. The motion was seconded by Selectman Kirkwood and passed (3-0).

Chairman Espie made a motion to approve and sign the manifest date April 14, 2022, in the amount of \$12,586.17. The motion was seconded by Selectmen Fuller and passed (3-0),

The Board approved and signed the following items.

- Solar Energy Exemption
- Current Use Change
- Personnel Action Forms
- Deputy Forest Fire Warden Appointment Forms

Mail folder:

- Avitar Letter re: 2021 PSNH Abatement request
- NRRA Annual Renewal
- Action Ambulance Q1 Report

Administrator and Selectmen's Comments:

Town Administrator Fraizer:

- Town Administrator Fraizer reached out to John Hatch, Action Ambulance to get an updated contract with the current cost.
- The audit is scheduled for May 11th and departments have been notified to submit their paperwork.
- The Town Administrator is creating the 6th grade certificates for graduation being held on June 20th at 6:00pm.

Selectman Fuller:

- Selectman Fuller will be working with the Town Forrester, Jeff Libby to figure out if there is enough timber to cut at the Woodland Cemetery to satisfy what is needed to repair the powderpost beetle damage at the Historic Town House. Selectman Fuller will continue to research. Selectman Fuller reached out to the Architect for the Historic Town House to clarify the plans for the powder post beetle repair and ask the bidders to review their bids and make sure all the items are included and resubmit. The board agreed.

- Selectman Fuller suggested establishing a subcommittee to study what is needed at the Transfer Station concerning the concrete pads and the retaining wall. Selectman Fuller would like to look at a more long-term plan. There is a grant available and there is money available in the Transfer Station Fund. The board agreed to continue with the current plans and form a subcommittee after the concrete pads have been poured. These concrete pads have already been paid for.

Chairman Espie:

- Chairman Espie reported the board met at Green Mountain Road with Evans Brothers and R & D Paving to review the project. Dale Smith will do the tree removal for the project.
- The school will be picking up trash for Earth Day bags will be picked up by April 22nd.
- The board agreed to close the street for the Annual Street Fair on August 20th.
- Town Administrator Fraizer will reach out to surrounding towns to inquire about Civic Awards.

Announcements: The Transfer Station will be closed Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022.

Agenda Items:

- With the Town Administrator the board reviewed the Financial Worksheets and March 28, 2022 Budget to Actual.
- Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the 2023 Joint Budget Committee Meeting Schedule. The motion was seconded by Selectman Kirkwood and passed (3-0).
- BoS Rules of Procedure – is being updated to include revision dates and prior dates.
- The Town Administrator presented paperwork which states that the board may sign the manifest “non contemporaneously” outside the public meeting. This will allow for the board to sign the manifest and have it ready to the treasurer to sign checks.

At 9:38am, Chairman Espie made a motion to go into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a). The motion was seconded by Selectman Fuller and passed, Espie Y, Kirkwood Y and Fuller Y.

At 10:00am, Chairman Espie made a motion to reenter the public meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectman Kirkwood and passed (3-0).

- David Strauss shared his unpleasant and unfair experience with Avitar Assessing concerning the value of this property. He came before the meeting after having received a decision from the BTLA which granted the Town’s motion to dismiss for failing to provide evidence of fair market value. Per RSA 76:16 (l) (a) this Board of Selectmen have the authority to abate the 2020 taxed for good cause, even though he and his wife’s Motion for Rehearing is pending, which abatement will end the matter. He explained that the view has not changed since 2015 when the measurements were decided by an abatement decision, and the explanation Avitar that it was “close enough” to make the change is not sufficient. Mr. Strauss presented the Board the following proposed motion:

Chairman Espie made a motion to direct the Assessing Office to adjust the overall assessment for the property at 49 Jack Russell Road from year 2020 to present by adjusting the view factors of panoramic to wide and extreme distance to distant. This results in an overall reduction in assessed value of \$42,000 per affected year, good cause was shown per RSA 76:16a in the form of a presentation and the BTLA decision dated 3/30/2021. The motion was seconded by Selectman Kirkwood and passed (3-0).

David Garceau said he experienced the same kind of situation with Avitar Assessing.

Department & Committee Updates:

Zoning Enforcement Rebecca Boyden reported on activity for March 2022.

- The was a lengthy discussion regarding zoning issues. Several residents present expressed concerns about people living in RV's out of season without potable water and sewer at these RV sites. Zoning Officer Boyden advised the public that the permit process has been updated to require proof of potable water and sewer capabilities.
- Zoning Officer Boyden advised that the process for levying fines for violations has been updated and a mechanism to levy fines has been put into place.
- Chairman Fuller presented a concern from resident, Leo Racine about the Waddington property status. Town Administrator Fraizer will contact Laurel from NHDES to see how they need Town to support them. He is operating Wakefield Disposal on his property. He has cleaned up a lot of the property, but he may need a state permit to continue operation.
- Chairman Fuller asked about building permits on Class VI roads. The Board will review the Class VI Road policy.

Police Chief Duchesne presented the March 2022 activity report.

- A resident asked about the negative activity on Facebook regarding the police department training the K9 in the cemetery, Chief Duchesne and Sergeant Welch explained how important it is to train the dog in the cemetery. It is necessary for the dog to train in every possible location. They need to be familiar with various surroundings. The Officers make every effort to be respectful while in the cemetery.

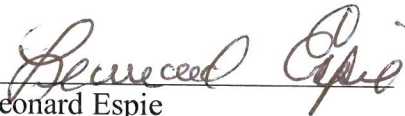
At 11:20am, Chairman Espie made a motion to go into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a). The motion was seconded by Selectman Fuller and passed, Espie Y, Fuller Y and Kirkwood Y.

At 11:40am, Chairman Espie made a motion to reenter the public meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectman Fuller and passed (3-0).

Adjournment: At 11:45am, Selectman Kirkwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Chairman Espie and passed (3-0).


Next Meetings: Board of Selectmen Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darlene McWhirter


Leonard Espie

Dated: April 19, 2022
Modified August 23, 2022


Victoria Kirkwood


Charles Fuller