



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

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2023

Present: Chairman Espie, Selectmen Kirkwood and Fuller, Town Administrator Fraizer and several members of the public.

Chairman Espie called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

The Zoning Enforcement Officer met with the Board to request permission to have the Town Attorney pursue two cases of violation. One has been pending since June and the other since September without any communication from the property owners. The Board was in favor of proceeding with legal action to bring the properties into compliance.

The Zoning Enforcement Officer asked for guidance on Tracker Store property. The owner had been to the Planning Board but not completed the site plan approval process. She was instructed by the Planning Board to go to the Zoning Board of Adjustments. The property is currently for sale. The Board advised the ZEO to revive the notice of violation asking for activity with either the Planning Board or ZBA. Selectman Fuller asked if there was a notification that could go to the property, there is none anyone is aware of.

The Zoning Enforcement Officer and the Board discussed a resident who is in violation of the RV ordinance. The Board recommended a notice of violation be sent to the resident.

Approvals:

Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the January 18, 2022 Work Session Minutes. The motion was seconded by Selectman Fuller. The motion passed (3-0).

Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the January 18, 2022 Non-Public Minutes. The motion was seconded by Selectman Kirkwood. The motion passed (3-0).

Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the January 26, 2022 Manifest in the amount of \$148,082.78. The motion was seconded by Selectman Fuller. The motion passed (3-0).

In the signature folder was also an application for Veterans Property Tax Exemption which the Board approved

Mail Folder:

In the mail folder was a mailing that went to the residents in the Historic District. There was the final 2022 report from Action Report and the final 2022 report from NRRA.

Also in the mail folder was a letter requesting the Board of Selectmen to terminate the Health Officer for conflict of interest as he is allegedly an employee of the Town's road contractor.

Avitar Associates have a new 2023 Billing Rate for updating Utilities, representing the Town at the BTLA and Superior Court.

Town Administrator Comments:

There are two firms that would like to speak to the Board. The first is a company that wants to present potential reduction in electric rates. The Board would like to receive a packet to review first. The second was a web site developer who develops municipal web sites inexpensively. The Board is in favor and the Town Administrator will set up an appointment.

The remaining Street Signs have been ordered. Chairman Espie said sign holders for each direction should be ordered as there isn't a standard in Town, it depends on how the post is installed.

The Public Notice for the Budget Hearing was sent to the paper to be published January 27th. The open position for candidates was in the paper on Saturday January 21st.

The Historic Town Hall vendor invoices were compiled.

Selectman Kirkwood

Selectman Kirkwood asked the Town Administrator about the signs for transfer station sandwich boards. Ms. Fraizer said she could use support in this request. Selectman Kirkwood also brought an email from NRRA about the price of freon recover.

Selectman Fuller

Selectman Fuller asked the Town Administrator when the Board had approved refunding interest on timber tax bonds. She pointed out that the manifest he just signed did not have interest applied.

Selectman Fuller would like to spend up to three hours understanding why the manifest have been incorrect for the past three months.

Selectman Fuller asked why the budget to actual was labeled "Final" when the Bailey Road and Green Mountain Road amounts had not changed. Town Administrator Fraizer is checking on how to correctly apply the funds.

Selectman Fuller recommended that based on the notice from AmeriGas new price, the budget should be increased. Budget Chairman reminded Selectman Fuller that the budget had been increased six percent.

Selectman Fuller and his wife went to Concord to meet with the NH Land and Community Heritage Invest Program (LCHIP) folks to learn why the Historic Town Hall grant request was not granted. Out of 54 applicants, 34 grants were awarded. There were several factors why Effingham did not receive a grant; the application was too complicated with too many items to accomplish, it included modernization in addition to preservation, and the terms were technical.

Selectman Fuller asked the Town Administrator if she had received the warrant language for the communications warrant article. She did.

The Governor's office signed off on the \$400,000 grant for the Wilkinson Swamp Culvert Grant. There will be a kickoff meeting in April. Selectman Fuller will have to do quarterly reports, the first being due in July.

Chairman Espie

Chairman Espie asked the Grace Fuller about the library moving and opening. She reported that February 1st is a soft opening. February 25th is a reopening party in which LCHIP and others contributors will be invited.

Chairman Espie discussed having Brad Stuart picking up trash on the side of the road. Chairman Espie recommended that he get paid "snow-shoveling" pay as it is above and beyond his role at the Transfer Station, he uses his own vehicle, and doesn't request mileage. Selectman Kirkwood asked if the roadside dumping would be reduced if our rates were lower. Selectman Fuller explained that when the Town established fees similar to other Towns the amount of demolish material being brought in from other Towns was reduced significantly. The Board was unanimously in favor of Brad's rate for roadside cleaning being the same as his snow-shoveling rate.

Chairman Espie asked Selectman Fuller about selling the new oil tank purchased for the used-oil program the Town is not moving forward with. No further action has been taken. Chairman Espie asked the Town Administrator to advertise it.

Chairman Espie asked about advertising the old police cruiser and the fire van. Fire Chief Harmon asked if he could take the police vehicle in place of his vehicle. The cruiser needs minimal work to be operational. The fire chief's vehicle has major rust issues. Chairman Espie said the Board unanimously voted that the Board didn't want repair the vehicles and the fire vehicle had to be inoperable. The Chief brought up several benefits but the Board was not open to it.

Announcements:

Starting Wednesday January 25th people interested in open positions on Boards can come to the Town Clerk's office to register. The registration period runs until February 3rd, 5:00 p.m.

Appointment:

Heidi Foy asked if the Board had reviewed the not-for-profit notice board proposal at the Transfer Station. Selectman Fuller said he wants to see an agreement between the groups before he approves anything. Selectman Fuller said he doesn't want the board to look a mess with things plastered everywhere. Selectman Fuller said he wants it clearly posted that the Town does not maintain the board. When Mr. Earle asked for specific wording Mr. Fuller said "Not Maintained by Town." Town Administrator Fraizer recommended that the wording be more positive and pro-active, "Postings maintained by _____." Selectman Kirkwood asked for clarification to make sure the traffic wouldn't be impacted. Mr. Earle explained the board is proposing large lettering not a board that someone walks up to. The location was marked with orange flags. Selectman Fuller said he didn't want the sign to be on the leach field. Mr. Earle asked for a member of the Board of Selectmen to be present when they install it. Chairman Espie agreed and supports the board.

Grace Fuller asked about something similar for a non-profit on the Town Website. Selectman Fuller said it would be a cost issue to maintain it.

Department Report:

Chief Harmon reported that the work on Engine 3 is complete. The Chief asked if Evan’s Brothers can pay more attention when plowing. The engines are having trouble backing into the bays.

The Board reviewed the December fire statistics. Selectman Kirkwood asked for a subtotal on the report of how many were fire, how many were vehicle, etc. The Chief said he would do that. The total calls for 2022 were 529 compared to 420 the previous year.

Public Comment:

Gregory Wallace discussed his letter to the Board. He provided the Board with the petitions that had previously been sent to the Board. Mr. Wallace expressed that Taking action based on the letter and petitions it shouldn’t take long for the Board to take action. The Board will review them. He is available if the Board has questions.

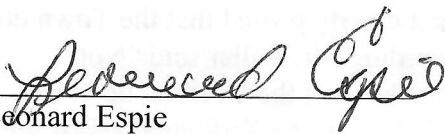
5:18 p.m. Chairman Espie made a motion to go into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). The motion was seconded by Selectman Fuller. The motion passed (3-0).

5:28 Chairman Espie made a motion to come out of non-public. The motion was seconded by Selectman Fuller. The motion passed (3-0).

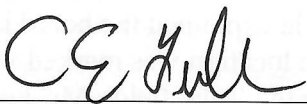
Chairman Espie made a motion to seal the minutes forever. The motion was seconded by Selectman Fuller. The motion passed (3-0).

Selectman Fuller made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Selectman Kirkwood. The motion passed (3-0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Audrey Fraizer


Leonard Espie

Dated: January 31, 2023


Charles Fuller


Victoria Kirkwood