



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

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2023

Present: Chairman Espie, Selectmen Kirkwood, Selectman Fuller, Town Administrator Fraizer, Police Chief Duchesne, Fire Chief Harmon, Town Treasurer Chick, Library Board Chair Fuller, Zoning Enforcement Officer Boyden, Budget Committee Chair Strauss and several members of the public.

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

Chairman Espie made a motion to go into non-public under RSA-A:3, II(c), seconded by Selectman Fuller, the motion passed (3-0).

Selectman Fuller made a motion to come out of non-public at 3:47 p.m. The motion was seconded by Chairman Espie. The motion passed (3-0).

Chairman Espie made a motion not to seal the minutes. The motion was seconded by Selectman Fuller. The motion passed (3-0).

The Selectmen reviewed their meeting materials and reconvened the meeting at 4:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approvals:

- Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2023. The motion was seconded by Selectman Kirkwood. The motion passed (3-0).
- Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the Non-Public Minutes of February 21, 2023. The motion was seconded by Selectman Kirkwood. The motion passed (3-0).
- Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the Work Session Minutes of February 28, 2023. The motion was seconded by Selectman Fuller. The motion passed (3-0).
- Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the Manifest dated March 9, 2023, in the amount of \$273,740.12. The motion was seconded by Selectman Fuller. The motion passed (3-0).

Department Reports:

Treasurer:

Town Treasurer Chick reported the 2022 Annual Report contained an erroneous Treasurer's Report which was not what she submitted. She said that a Town Official's Annual Department Report should not be modified. She suggested that, for future Annual Reports, a template be provided of the desired format (for the letterhead, font, etc.) to the various Town Departments.

Police:

The Police Department announced that Tyler Eldridge had been promoted to the position of Sergeant. He also announced the hire of Bryan Baker, will take the position of Senior Patrol Officer.

A member of the public made a query about the status of the K-9 program. Chief Duchesne suggests that feedback regarding the future of the K-9 program be provided by the Board of Selectmen.

Another member of the public asked Chief Duchesne if he plans to continue to work in Effingham, given the turnover in a neighboring jurisdiction where Chief Duchesne worked previously. Chief Duchesne praised the Board and said that he is not planning to leave. Sergeant Eldridge said that he is happy to be in Effingham in his new role as Police Sergeant.

Fire:

Chief Harmon reviewed his monthly statistics. He also discussed the maintenance and repair needed for the Fire Department vehicles. He also announced on Sunday, March 19, 2023 the Fire Department will have a Pancake Breakfast.

Library:

Library Trustee Board Chair Grace Fuller announced that on Thursday, March 30, 2023, the Library will have a CPR class taught by Lieutenant Brandie Felix of the Fire Department.

Zoning Enforcement Officer:

Zoning Enforcement Officer Boyden presented her monthly report. One property discussed was Map# 409-Lot# 16, 81 Libby Road. The property has a camp which was established in the 1980's. The owner now seeks approval for an addition.

ZEO Boyden also requested a signature from the Board of Selectmen on a Waiver of Liability for a Class VI Road as part of the permit review process. BoS suggested that the waiver form include the Map and Lot Numbers, for reference. ZEO Boyden confirmed that the application fees have been paid.

4:50 p.m. Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the Waiver of Liability for a Class VI Road for the property owned Map# 409-Lot# 16. Selectman Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed (3-0).

ZEO Boyden gave an update on an RV (location) which is no longer inhabited, according to the property owner. She will double-check to see if anyone is currently living in the RV. Selectman Kirkwood said that she was told that some recent activity was seen on the property.

An Effingham resident asked about the status of a neighboring property with "the two shacks." He said that they the shacks are "falling apart", there is "debris blowing around," and that "they are an eye sore." ZEO Boyden said that she'll check the property history, followed by a possible site visit.

Review of Mail:

Discussion about a query from Town Counsel regarding a State Subpoena pertaining to PFAS. Selectman Fuller suggested that the Board consult with Town Counsel. Town Administrator Fraizer said that her understanding is that the letter is asking the Town of Effingham if it wants to participate in a group response of local jurisdictions to the PFAS Subpoena from the State. The Board tabled discussion until later in the meeting.

There was an email from State Congressman Pappas who will be making a site visit to the Snow Road Bridge in Effingham on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 11:50 a.m.

Administrator Comments and Selectmen's Reports:

Town Administrator Comments:

Town Administrator Fraizer discussed the Town Clerk Office Hours, the Town Clerk will now be open until 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. Note, the Town Clerk recommends making appointments rather than being a "walk-in" in order to ensure enough time.

Town Administrator Fraizer said the warrant article for the Police Cruiser will need to be amended at Town meeting.

Town Administrator Fraizer also discussed the NH DoT Bridge Funding Opportunity for the Granite Road Bridge in Effingham. The State estimates the cost of replacement will be approximately \$1.4 million. The Town portion would be approximately \$288 thousand, or 20%. The project would be constructed between 2027 through 2032. Chairman Espie and Selectman Fuller emphasized that the Town wants to be on this grant list.

Selectman Fuller:

Selectman Fuller reported a couple of the non-profit organizations that were listed to participate in the announcement board at the Transfer Station may not be in good standing. He recommended it be part of the agreement that an organization is in good standing. Town Administrator Fraizer will let the organizers know.

Selectman Fuller discussed the grants he is pursuing for the Public Library-Historic Town Hall: the LCHIP has about \$100,000 available and the Moose Plate program has about \$20,000 available.

Selectman Fuller met with the Attorney General's office about the Carroll County Communications Commission for Broadband Service to ensure that the application made by the Towns could be modified and approved.

Chairman Espie:

Town Roadway Contractor, Evans Brothers will be out patching potholes starting March 8th. Fire Chief Harmon requested that a ¼ truck load of gravel be delivered to the Fire Station so that the Fire Trucks won't get stuck in the mud when entering or exiting the garage.

Library Report

The Library will be reviewing the Town Warrant at the Civics class they are offering on Saturday March 11th.

Mrs. Fuller would like to have two letters of support from the Board of Selectmen, in order to apply for grants for the Library-Historic Town Hall. She submitted a draft letter of support.

The office of State Congressman Chris Pappas will be visiting the Library-Historic Town Hall for public input on March 23rd.

The Library-Historic Town Hall building has two gas tanks: a 500-gallon tank and a 290-gallon tank. Mrs. Fuller received notice from AmeriGas that the gas supply for the Library building is down to 20% , not 20 gallons as she thought.

Mrs. Fuller submitted a letter from the Attorney General’s Office reminding Town employees that they cannot discuss Town Candidates for Election during work hours.

Discussion about Elm Street Repaving Contract:

Mr. Gerry DuBreuil of R&D Paving: Mr. DuBreuil handed out a spreadsheet that showed a comparison of unit costs for R&D Paving and for GMI Paving. He said that R&D is the lowest bidder, based on unit costs. Mr. DuBreuil said that he still needs an explanation for why the Town rescinded R&D’s contract award. Chairman Espie provided him with a copy of an email explanation that was sent to Mr. Matt DuBreuil.

Selectman Fuller said that he had previously asked how GMI would handle any overages in the field and that he wanted a written response from GMI before the Town signed a contract with GMI. Town Administrator Fraizer said that a discussion about this issue had taken place with Town Counsel.

Chairman Espie said that Town Counsel advised BoS not to go back and forth. Chairman Espie said that he signed the contract with GMI earlier today.

At 5:44 p.m. Chairman Espie: “I move that we stick with GMI.” The motion was seconded by Selectman Kirkwood. No vote was called before Mr. Gerry DeBreuil asked, “So you signed a contract with GMI?” Chairman Espie answered, “Yes.”

Selectman Fuller said that the RFP (Request For Proposal) by the Town can be worded better in the future, as was suggested by the Town Counsel.

Announcements:

- Sunday, March 19th, 2023 (the morning after Town Meeting) the Fire Department will have a Pancake Breakfast.
- Thursday, March 30th, 2023, the Town Library will have a CPR class taught by Lieutenant Brandie Felix of the Fire Department.

Public Comment:

Mr. David Garceau stated that an email he received from the Town Tax Assessor, for the owners to “sign off” on their property, was ambiguous. He said he did not know that we had to come in to “sign off” on a building permit.

Mr. David Garceau asked about the Board of Selectmen’s public meeting on February 7, 2023. He reviewed the February 7, 2023, video recording and asked if a “pre-meeting” took place with the Board, Town Administrator Fraizer, and Zoning Enforcement Officer Boyden. He said that the timing of the public portion of the Board’s meeting was confusing.

Mr. David Garceau asked about roadway classifications in Effingham, including Class VI roadways. Zoning Enforcement Officer Boyden explained the Waiver of Liability specific to Libby Road, a Class VI Road. Officer Boyden also explained that the State of NH says that any road in public use for twenty years is considered a public right-of-way.

Mr. David Garceau expressed concern about whether a gray-water system with composting toilets is permissible instead of a septic system. Zoning Enforcement Officer Boyden said that the State of NH permits a gray-water system with composting toilets. Mr. Garceau said that he does not agree, based on his experience as a private building inspector.

Mr. David Garceau said there is an RV in use on Green Mountain Road which is located inside of a required setback.

Mrs. Vicki Garceau also said that there was a yurt on a property that needed to be addressed. Zoning Enforcement Officer Boyden said that she is aware of the yurt and that she sent a notice.

6:07 p.m. Chairman Espie made a motion to go into a Non-Public Meeting under RSA 91-A:3, II(c). The motion was seconded by Selectman Kirkwood. The motion passed (3-0).

At 6:30 p.m. Chairman Espie made a motion to come out of the Non-Public Meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectman Fuller. The motion passed (3-0).


The minutes were not sealed.

Next Meetings: Board of Selectmen Work Session, Wednesday March 15, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

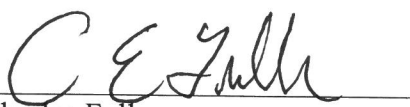
The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

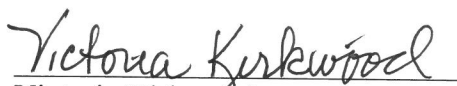
Respectfully Submitted,

Livia M. Nicolescu


Leonard Espie

Dated: March 21, 2023


Charles Fuller


Victoria Kirkwood

