



Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes September 5th, 2023

Present: Chairman Espie, Selectman Seamans, Selectman Racine, Police Chief Duchesne, Fire Chief Harmon, Administrative Assistant Caitlyn Pitts, and members of the public

Call to Order

Chairman Espie called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm

The Board of Selectman took a 30-minute recess to review their folders.

Chairman Espie led the Pledge of Allegiance

Signature Folder:

Chairman Espie reviewed the Signature Folder which contained Minutes from the meeting held on August 8th, 2023, and a cemetery deed for Woodland Cemetery.

Approval of:

Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the Minutes for the meeting held on August 8th, 2023, seconded by Selectman Seamans. Motion passed (3-0)

Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the Manifest dated September 7th, 2023, in the amount of \$43,703.18, seconded by Selectman Racine. Motion passed (3-0)

Appointments:

Katie with the Friends of Effingham Library requests an Outdoor Event to close Town House Road for the Street Dance. Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the Street Dance being held October 14th, 2023, with a rain date of the 15th from 1pm to 6 pm and to close Town House Rd, seconded by Selectman Racine. Motion passed (3-0)

Katie followed up regarding the letter sent from the Preservation Society to hold a raffle. Chairman Espie asked for future emails to be sent to the town. Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the raffle, seconded by Selectman Seamans. Motion passed (3-0)

Review of Mail:

Chairman Espie reviewed the mail. The mail contained an Auditor's Report from Carroll County and letter from Verisk. Chairman Espie stated the letter does not apply as the Town doesn't have a Building Inspector.

Board of Selectman Reports:

Chairman Espie asked Administrative Assistant Pitts for any announcements. Administrative Assistant Pitts announced the Board of Selectmen's Office will be closed September 12th, 2023, for training.

Selectman Seamans

Selectman Seamans addresses concerns about compaction and the continued road work on Elm Street. Selectman Seaman states problems will arise again if the road is not properly compacted and expresses that he is unsatisfied with the work done on Green Mountain Road. He explains the extreme roughness for being new and asked for the Board to travel Green Mountain Road, specifically at the intersection of Route 25 to the Sawmill, and for any problems to address to have them addressed sooner rather than later. Selectman Seamans explains the road breaking is causing waves and the shoulder is starting to break off.

Selectman Seamans talks about dust control.

Selectman Seamans discusses the closure of Upper Molly Philbrook Road and that they are currently waiting for FEMA money as it is a highway to a summer cottage. He also states his opinion on waiting to replace another bridge that is also declared a highway to summer camp.

Selectman Seamans discusses his ideas for road projects and funding the future. Selectman Seamans suggests possible bonding and completing multiple roads.

Selectman Seamans talks about how not a lot of residents are aware of Wilkinson Swamp Bridge and states letting the public know what the Board of Selectmen's Intentions are.

Selectman Racine:

Selectman Racine talks about the Town Hall Project and is requesting \$10,000 to be submitted to the Preservation Society for the voucher from Jacob Glass. Selectman Racine informs the Board that the voucher needs to be signed by at least two Selectmen, and he is unable to sign as he is the Treasurer of the Preservation Society. The Board of Selectmen announced there will be a need for a Public Hearing to accept Unanticipated Funds at the meeting being held September 19th, 2023, at 5 pm.

Chairman Espie

Chairman Espie addresses the dissatisfaction of Wilkinson Swamp Road Bridge and explains the town received a grant where they are able to complete testing and create the design without having to pay and if the Board decides to move forward it will need to go to Town Vote.

Chairman Espie announces meeting being held with the Board of Health on Friday, September 8th, 2023, at 9:00 am and a Work Session following immediately and will be reaching out to Susan Slack of the Historical Society regarding time.

Department Reports:

Police Department:

Police Chief Duchesne

Police Chief Duchesne reviews the Department's reports from July and August and states reports may be down due to two months of K9 Training. Chief Duchesne explains the few months had

paid off and complimented both officer and K9 for becoming dual purpose certified for drug tracking and criminal apprehension.

Chief Duchesne reviews July Report stating there were 281 calls for service, 5 arrests, 36 Motor Vehicle Stops, and 4 Motor Vehicle Accidents.

Chief Duchesne addresses an incident that had taken place on Colcord Hill Road regarding an attempted theft of a Catalytic Converter and how the resident responded. Chief Duchesne stated the individual attempting the theft had been taken into custody.

Selectman Racine asked for majority of the arrests. Chief Duchesne stated warrants and DUI's. Chairman Espie asked about receiving money from Germany for the K9. Chief Duchesne responded that they were looking into it.

Fire Chief Harmon:

Fire Chief Harmon reviews his report from August 2023, stating there were 26 Calls for Service, 236 Calls as of the end of August, 20 medical calls, 1 tree down, 2 Motor Vehicle calls, 1 Fire Alarm, 1 Service call, and 1 outside fire.

Chief Harmon talks transporting patient to the hospital with use of the Town's Ambulance.

Chief Harmon discusses research of an Ambulance Billing Company that does not have a charge to get set up. The Fire Department would report to the company for ambulance transports and motor vehicle accidents and the company would send the bill. Chief Harmon plans to research more into the company and set up a meeting with the information with the Board and Budget Committee.

Chief Harmon recommends replacing the door at Station 1 due to a hole forming from rust. He asked the Board if bids would need to be sent out. Chairman Espie stated he would look into Skehans about replacing the damaged door.

Chief Harmon mentions upgrading the Security System at the Fire Stations due to a previous theft of a Catalytic Converter and the Station being graffitied. Chief Harmon understands the current budget but can prepare quotes. He mentioned if equipment is purchased the Fire Department can install it.

Chief Harmon talks about damage and testing of the Fire Department's Antennas and that the damage is causing difficulties communicating with Carroll County. Chief Harmon received an estimate for the replacement of the antennas in the amount of \$2,200 and states the Fire Department can install it. Chief Harmon asks the Board for permission to purchase the antenna equipment. The Board looked over the Budget to see where the money for the antennas could be taken from. Chairman Espie confirmed to Chief Harmon that he has the Board's Approval to proceed with the purchase of the Antennas.

Dave Strauss talked to the Board about the Operating Budget being over \$45,000 and stated with the Auditor's help they were able to recover \$20,000. The Board discusses holding a Work Session with Dave to discuss the Budget on Friday, September 8th, 2023.

Chief Harmon tells the Board about upcoming vehicle inspections for the Fire Department but states he doesn't see any concerns for repairs. He will update the Board, if necessary.

Chief Harmon talks about repairing a garage door at the Fire Department due to a missing gasket. Selectman Racine would like to discuss further after Work Session with Dave Strauss.

Chief Harmon asks the Board for permission to make a conditional offer to applicant, John Tierney, he states Tierney is only looking for part-time and is currently an EMT. Tierney will be testing for Firefighter Certification within the next few weeks. The Fire Department already has the equipment that's needed.

Espie states he would like to see the old Police Cruiser stripped and placed on auction. Espie confirms Chief Harmon would like a Non-Public.

Business:

Chairman Espie announces Legal has requested the Board to take a vote to lift the cease-and-desist notice for MEENA. Chairman Espie makes a motion to have Rebecca Boyden, Zoning Officer, to lift the cease and desist for MEENA, seconded by Selectman Racine. Motion passed (3-0)

Chairman Espie stated waiting on the review/approval of the Winter Road Contract.

Chairman Espie mentions changing the Wednesday hours of the Transfer Station. The hours are currently 10:00 am-4:30 pm and would like to change to 8:00am to 2:30 pm and talk about the potential savings in electricity with an early start time. Chairman Espie stated starting November 1st, 2023, the Wednesday hours of the Transfer Station will be 8:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Announcements:

Chairman Espie announced the closure of the Board of Selectmen's Office on September 12th, 2023, for training.

Public Comment:

Resident Vicki Kirkwood talks about Work Session Minutes for May 26th, 2023, and the differences she noticed. Vicki recommended putting Work Session on the Header of the Minutes and for future to minutes to be kept up to date. Fire Chief Harmon attended the Meeting May 26th and confirmed which set were correct.

Resident Dave Strauss announced the Budget Committee meeting on Tuesday at 6 pm and recommended to the Board that the Ryefield Road RFP should be available sooner rather than later as it would need a warrant.

Resident Blaire recommending putting 'Draft' on Minutes until they are approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Resident Susan Gaudette talks about her 91-A request for Building permits from the last 5 years. Stated the oldest that she received was from 2021 and was told to arrive at a certain time to look but was denied access. Chairman Espie recommended making an appointment with Zoning Enforcement Officer, Rebecca Boyden and stated they were recommended by Town Counsel and that it is currently in the hands of Legal.

Resident Blaire recommends to the Board to be mindful of a Notice of Decision through the court for MEENA, and it curious with the recent lift of the cease-and-desist. Chairman Espie stated it was advised by Town Counsel. Blaire mentioned an appeal that was filed through the court for the Notice of Decision at the beginning of August. The Board stated they had not received anything.

Resident Rosemarie Wissenbach of Province Lake Road asked the Board for confirmation that records from the previous Health Officer have not been returned to the Town. Chairman Espie stated to his knowledge the documents have not been returned but they are planning to go the next step to retrieve the records.

Resident Mellisa Seamans of Moody Road talks about the County accepting applications for Non-Profits and asks for the Town's deadline for current applicants. Dave Strauss stated current applications have received notices to obtain more information and the Budget Committee will meet in November. Mellisa mentioned the list from the County will be placed in Public Places and applications are due September 15th.

Resident Mellisa Seamans recommends not having signed minutes on the Town's website and talks about a recent scamming incident with the County.

Mellisa appreciates the Boards efforts in the attempt to retrieve Town Records from a private home.

Resident asks if residents have a right to ask the Budget Committee about who applied. Selectman Seamans advises that the Town will receive a list.

Resident Mellisa recommends getting an external speaker for Public Comment for those on Zoom. Selectman Racine asked if Mellisa could provide information on the speaker.

Resident Corey on Zoom asked the Board what had prompted the Board of Selectmen to lift the cease and desist and asked if there is documentation on it. Chairman Espie responded that it was advice from Town Counsel

Chairman Espie announced Non-Public meeting with Fire Chief JT Harmon

Non-Public:

Chairman Espie made a motion to enter a Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A II (a) Personnel, seconded by Selectman Seamans. Motion passed (3-0)

Chairman Espie made a motion to come out of the Non-Public Session, seconded by Selectman Seamans. Motion passed (3-0)

Chairman Espie made a motion to seal the Non-Public Minutes of September 5th, 2023, for 6 months, seconded by Selectman Racine. Motion passed (3-0)

Fire Chief Harmon asked for the Board's Approval to make a conditional offer to applicant John Tierney. Chairman Espie made a motion for Fire Chief Harmon to make a conditional offer, seconded by Selectman Racine. Motion passed (3-0)

Adjournment: Selectman Seamans made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Racine. Motion passed (3-0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm

Lenny Espie, Chairman

Chris Seamans, Selectman

Leo Racine, Selectman