



Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes September 19th, 2023

Present: Chairman Espie, Selectman Seamans, Selectman Racine, Fire Chief Harmon, Zoning Enforcement Officer Boyden, Administrative Assistant Pitts, and members of the public.

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

The Board of Selectmen took a recess to review their folders.

Department Reports:

Zoning Enforcement Officer Boyden reviewed her August report with the Board and asked if they had any questions.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Boyden talks about working with the property owner located on Highwatch Road and is getting weekly reports about obtaining a design for the septic and the State has no record of the septic design.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Boyden suggests waiving fees on building permits for houses lost due to fires and putting a timeline on applying for the permit.

Chairman Espie led the Pledge of Allegiance

Signature Folder:

Chairman Espie reviewed the Signature Folder containing two sets of minutes, 2 new timber tax, and 1 intent to cut

Approvals:

Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the Manifest dated September 21, 2023, in the amount of \$149,137.22. Seconded by Selectman Seamans. Motion passed (3-0)

Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes from August 22, 2023. Seconded by Selectmen Seamans. Motion passed (3-0)

Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes from September 5, 2023. Seconded by Selectman Seamans. Motion passed (3-0)

Mail

Chairman Espie announced the Household Hazardous Waste Day on October 7, 2023, in Tamworth from 8:30 am to 12:00 at the K.A. Brett School.

Chairman Espie announced the aluminum can drive at the Transfer Station to help fund the Historic Town Hall Project is being discontinued. Chairman Espie thanked Steve Regal for everything he had done there.

Chairman Espie stated Public Forum at 5 pm.

Selectman Seamans:

Selectman Seamans gives an update on Elm Street, due to the rainfall grinding was pushed back by a day. Elm Street will only have 4-6 inches on top of the asphalt, but certain areas will need additional gravel. Paving intended to start Friday or Saturday.

Selectman Seamans states he is planning to meet with Ron from Evans Brothers and Jeff from GMI to get costs on culverts being replaced on Champion Hill Road and Drakes Hill and hopes to have those paved in and hopes it falls under the window for not needing a bid.

Selectman Seamans mentions situation where a truck load of woodchips was dumped in the middle of Clough Road. He thanked resident Andy for picking up the debris.

Seamans gives his opinion about residents coming together to help the Town will help with the budget.

Selectman Seamans talked about the excessive rainfall and the addition it does to the construction of Elm Street. He also mentions the sharp rocks causing flat tires.

Seamans talks about Street signs have been ripped off on Town House Road, Moody Road, School Street and Snow Road and recommends if you see something say something.

Selectman Seamans mentions pothole on Pine River Road and that it will be addressed tomorrow.

Selectman Seamans mentions Bonnyman Road, Colcord Hill Road, and Old Town Road have been touched up with more to be done. The culvert will need to be cleaned out on Colcord Hill Road and asked Fire Chief Harmon to take a look at it.

Chairman Espie:

Chairman Espie told Fire Chief Harmon more invoices have been received from Evans Brothers and that he will get the invoices to him.

Chairman Espie mentions State approved 2 voting machine companies and that they'll be looking at purchasing to help eliminate hand count.

Chairman Espie asked the Board if they are available Friday, September 22, 2023, at 9 am to hold a Work Session for Budget, RFP's and to meet with Susan Slack.

Business:

Chairman Espie talks about finalizing the Perambulation of Town Lines during springtime before leaves come in. Chairman Espie asked Lawrence Edwards where he had left off, Lawrence answered Wakefield was complete, but he had started on Ossipee and only got to Drake's Corner.

Chairman Espie makes a motion to readopt the Investment Policy from 2021, seconded by Selectman Racine. Motion passed (3-0)

Chairman Espie make a motion to readopt Town of Effingham Health Ordinance, seconded by Selectman Seamans. Motion passed (3-0)

Chairman Espie recommends looking at Ryefield Road RFP during Friday's work session.

Chairman Espie made a motion to accept the Gardella Subdivision for Nutter Meadows, seconded by Selectman Seamans. Motion passed (3-0). Chairman Espie mentioned only one signature is required and he will sign.

Appointments:

John Davis talks about the Court Order of October 2022 for the property to be cleaned up at 670 Town House Road. He expressed it has been 11 months since the court order and that there has been no action taken by the Board of Selectman. He also states there has been extensive damage to his property and others bringing down the valuation of their properties. Davis asked if the \$275/day fine has been charged to the property as it has not been cleaned up yet. Resident Chuck Fuller answered that the \$275 fine would be the Court, but the Town would be responsible for reporting to the Court and believes the discussion should be done in a Non-Public. Chairman Espie stated the Court has not notified the Town about the fee. Bill Sudds asked if the fee was to be received by the Town or State, it was answered it would be to the State. Davis expressed that it has been 11 months and the Town has not cleaned up the property as referred to in the Court Order, Fuller mentioned there is an appeal to the Court that is delaying the process and that the Town is not allowed to do anything during the appeal. Davis lastly asked the Town if they would be billing for legal fees, Chairman Espie answered that it is in the Court Order.

Chairman Espie opened the Public Hearing at 5:00 pm to accept unanticipated funds in the amount of \$10,000 from the Preservation Society to pay for the invoice from Jacobs Glass. No member of the public denied. Chairman Espie made a motion to accept the unanticipated funds in the amount of \$10,000, seconded by Selectman Seamans. Motion passed (3-0)
Resident Chuck Fuller stated the Town had received \$5,000 already from the Moose Plate grant received in 2021, the \$10,000 from the unanticipated funds for the invoice totaling \$18,000. He will reach out to Concord to obtain the remaining \$5,000.

Public Comment:

Rosemaire Wissenbach of Province Lake Road asked for an update regarding Town records being returned from the previous Health Officer. Chairman Espie they have not been returned and it is currently in the Police Department's hands.

Vicki Kirkwood of Green Mountain Road brought up concern of a Planning Board member calling Town Counsel with questions and wanted confirmation that approval would be needed from the Board of Selectmen before contacting Town Counsel. Chairman Espie confirmed. Vicki asked if the invoices are itemized and if the Town will be paying for it. Chairman Espie mentioned it would be up to Board's discretion. Selectman Racine asked if Town Counsel should be made aware to only talk to those who have received the Board's approval. Lawrence had asked if the request needed to be written. Chairman Espie believed it did not need to be written. Lawrence asked if he could contact Town Counsel for case specific reasons. Chairman Espie gave permission.

Linda Edwards asked if the Planning Board lawyer had turned in invoices for Legal Counsel Linda mentioned that it bothered her that the Planning Board didn't take a vote for who would pay legal fees and that it should have been brought up to the Board of Selectmen. LR stated that he agrees and that it should come to the Board first. A resident had asked why MEENA wasn't requested to pay the legal fees. Chairman Espie believes the original agreement was to have MEENA pay for Chris Boldt. Selectman Racine asked if the agreements were in writing, Selectman Seamans stated there are no meetings regarding the Town to request payment. Chairman Espie stated MEENA is required to pay NorthPoint and Engineers, but unsure if they are required to pay the Town Counsel as the Town request Chris Boldt.

Fire Chief Harmon brings up discussion of a Fire Chief vehicle and the sale of a used Suburban from the Town of Tuftonboro that is accepting of a direct sale. Fire Chief Harmon explained he brought the vehicle to Whiting Automotive and Eckhoff's auto body for review of the vehicle. The body shops have located a small leak in the transfer pan that just needs a gasket with a cost of \$100. Chief Harmon mentioned there is no frame rot on the vehicle, but the rock panels are starting to get soft and will eventually need to be replaced, the vehicle is still able to pass a NH State Inspection. The Town of Tuftonboro is looking to get Blue Book value for vehicle estimating \$10,00-\$12,000, Chief Harmon feels comfortable offering \$8,000 where there is some damage to the vehicle. The vehicle has a total of 120,000 miles, but the engine was replaced 4 years ago and there are 60,000 miles on the engine. Chief Harmon met with Budget Committee Chair, David Strauss, and feels comfortable purchasing the vehicle with the current budget. Selectman Racine considered offering \$7,000 for the vehicle, Chief Harmon believed it may be too low for what Tuftonboro is initially looking to get. Chief Harmon stated the vehicle is equipped with some of the equipment needed for the Fire Department to function. Selectman Racine asked where in his budget the vehicle would be purchased out of. Chief Harmon stated new equipment and there will be enough in the daytime coverage to cover expenses. Chief Harmon stated the vehicle prior had 20,000 miles in a year and that the vehicle would be used as a command vehicle and not for personal use. The Board agreed to discuss it further at Friday's work session.

Chief Harmon stated he has looked into prices for the replacement of the door at the Fire Station and that Home Depot is looking like the cheapest with an estimate of \$350

Chief Harmon stated the antennas for the Fire Department have been ordered.

Steve Regal asked if the Board would set a limit for Chief Harmon to purchase the vehicle.

Chairman Espie stated the Board will decide on Friday when Chief Harmon gives a figure.

Mellisa on Zoom wanted to inform the Board of Effingham Elementary's 20th Birthday on the 27th of September. Administrative Assistant Pitts will get the time of event.

Selectman Racine made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chairman Espie. Motion passed (3-0)

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

Lenny Espie, Chairman

Chris Seamans, Selectman

Leo Racine, Selectman