



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

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2023

Present: Chairman Espie, Selectman Seamans, Selectman Racine, Sergeant Eldridge, Fire Chief Harmon, Zoning Enforcement Officer Boyden, and Administrative Assistant Pitts

Call to Order

Chairman Espie called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

Chairman Espie led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of:

Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the Work Session Minutes dated October 24, 2023, seconded by Selectman Racine. Motion passed (3-0).

Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes dated October 31, 2023, seconded by Selectman Seamans. Motion passed (3-0).

Chairman Espie made a motion to approve the Manifest dated November 16, 2023, in the amount of \$311,2072.02, seconded by Selectman Seamans. Motion passed (3-0). Chairman Espie informed the majority of the Manifest was the school with the amount of \$218,000.00.

Chairman Espie reviews the mail folder containing a letter from the State informing the Town to receive \$23,813.40 for the Community Highway Block Grant and an additional check for bridges. Chairman Espie states the need to hold a Public Hearing to accept the unanticipated funds.

Department Reports:

Police Department:

Sgt. Eldridge reviews the Police Department monthly report for October. Eldridge lists the calls for service totaling 297 included 8 arrests, 67 motor vehicle stops, 3 motor vehicle accidents, and the K-9 being deployed 5 times. Eldridge explains 3 of the arrests during one car stop.

Resident Steve Regal asked if the K-9 assisted with the arrests. Eldridge confirmed and added the other deployments were for tracking and building search.

Resident Steve Regal asked during a Fire Department call if the Police automatically send a car to the scene. Eldridge answered the Department usually assists.

Resident Vicki Kirkwood asked if the Department has compared numbers from before having the K-9 to now. Eldridge stated it was something he could put together and explains the K-9's nose is a tool where the Police Department would need probable cause to conduct a search and if the dog alerts it gives the Department probable cause to ask for consent or seize the vehicle until a search warrant is applied for and obtained.

Chairman Espie asked if the Police Department needed an updated router. Eldridge recalled the last visit from Lenharth, he had suggested updating the router and firewall. Chairman Espie stated the Town will purchase the new router.

Zoning Enforcement Officer:

Zoning Enforcement Officer Boyden reviews her October report with the Board. Boyden states her new items are bolded on the report. Selectman Racine asked where the two dwellings are located, Boyden answered on Jack Russell and Simon Hill Road converting a camp to home due to a septic being placed.

Chairman Espie asked if a letter is being drafted for Ossipee Lake Campground, Boyden confirmed the letter was completed.

Selectman Seamans asked if Mr. Hurtle contacted the office regarding a site walk on Nutter Road and 153, Boyden stated she had not, but she wouldn't be part of it if it's a Planning Board site walk. Selectman Seamans explained the Planning Board authorized a driveway, but the owner needs to obtain a permit and Seamans had questions and concerns with the Town Regulations. Boyden explains the Planning Board gives the approval, but she gives the final approval. Selectman Seamans expresses concerns for safety.

Selectman Seamans suggested sending out letters to a couple of properties to remind the owners about vehicles.

Chairman Espie stated he directed a resident to inquire crossing a driveway on a Class VI Road. Boyden stated roads are not her department, but Board's decision and mentions if the resident wishes to join two properties it doesn't qualify as an access and it's up to the Town to create a wood road which doesn't classify as a driveway.

Boyden discusses residents naming their driveways. Selectman Seamans recalls State Statute for driveways with a certain distance are required to be named for 911 purposes. Boyden states it is a Zoning discussion if they wanted the name to be listed on the map. Fire Chief Harmon asks residents to not use their named driveway if it's not on E911.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Harmon reviewed the October report for the Fire Department. Harmon informed the Board there were 26 calls: 19 medical, 9 medical calls with 5 being at Green Mountain Medical Center. The Department is at 289 calls for the year which is down from last year.

Selectman Racine asked about reimbursement from Highwatch, Harmon confirmed and stated Highwatch will be updating fire alarms.

Chief Harmon discussed Ambulance Billing to recoup money for utilizing the Town's ambulance. Harmon discusses collecting the money from the insurance company and the Town has the right to waive the remaining balance. Harmon explains the company collects the data with no extra or recurring costs to the Town and they collect 6% from the fee when it's paid. Vicki Kirkwood asked what would happen if the patient didn't have insurance, Harmon answered it would come back stating there is no insurance and if they are not a taxpayer it would be case by case. Harmon provided an example of the contract from Arundel, Maine and suggested the Town does something similar. He explained there is no need for a warrant to accept the company but there would need to be a warrant as to where the funds will be placed and recommends having the funds placed into the Fire Apparatus. Harmon explains the company assists with collections if the Town chooses to move forward with requesting payment. The company services two Towns within New Hampshire and is familiar with the State's regulations. Chairman Espie stated having a discussion with the Board to review examples, Harmon suggested a Work Session and the company would be willing to join.

Chief Harmon talks about Engine 2 reaching its 20-year mark and suggests having it refurbished as it would be cheaper than purchasing a new truck. Harmon mentioned obtaining quotes from 4 companies and received two back and would like to get the quotes closer to each other as they both have different suggestions for the truck. Selectman Racine asked if the companies looked at the truck, Harmon confirmed and stated the Town is looking around \$250,000-\$275,000. Harmon explains the work includes taking the body off the frame, sanding, wiring, tank serviced, and ladder racks will be updated. Selectman Racine asked if they will be looking into the brakes, Harmon confirmed but will not replace them unless it's needed. Harmon stated the pump will be replaced and changed to a side mount instead of a top mount. Resident Vicki Kirkwood asked how much a new truck would cost. Harmon answered around \$800,000. Resident Steve Regal suggested the Town make a list of what the truck needs to have the quotes closer to each other. Harmon mentioned Dingee is in Cornish, NH and that all others are out-of-state, and that the out-of-state quotes would require engine 2 driving across country and back. Resident Steve Regal questioned about the warranties for the refurbished truck, Harmon answered 10 years on Manufacturer's defects, but that it would be listed in the contract. Steve Regal asked the effect it would have on the department to have the truck gone, Harmon answered it will be a loss as it's the Department's tanker, but the Department could reach out to their Mutual Aid Partner's for assistance. Selectman Racine suggested getting rid of Engine 3 after the truck returns. Harmon mentioned it could be a discussion but causes the Town to lose having a truck on either side of Town which could affect the Insurance Services Organizations (ISO) that set the Homeowner's Insurance rates.

Fire Chief Harmon asked the Board for permission to move forward with a background check for applicant, Michael Baer, and mentioned he is a resident of the Town, CDL Driver, looking to eventually get certified and is looking to volunteer.

Selectman Racine asked if the quotes received on the truck would all take a year, Harmon confirmed.

David Strauss suggests the wording on the warrant article for the Trust Fund would need to be carried over.

Resident Steve Regal asked if the Department looked into the possibility of a water trailer, Harmon answered that he did not but the amount of water the tanker carries would be too much to tow.

Budget Discussion:

Discussion of the budgets for Capital Outlay and Transfer to the Trust Funds

Chairman Espie mentioned the funds are usually for \$2,000 but it shows \$50,000. Strauss suggests taking some money from the expendable trust fund with the future replacements of air packs.

David Strauss stated changing the Ryefield Road mileage to .77 and that the \$250,000 figures are used for the tax base and will be adjusted with bid openings. Strauss stated not being able to open a revolving funds for Police Details, Operating budget will be unknown until everything is finalized, and suggests taking funds from the Unassigned Fund Balance for the Fire Department Repeater.

4915 Truck and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, Straus stated \$2,000 received from Parsonsfield every year and Chief Harmon is looking into the payment. Strauss states the Town using a total of \$184,000 in the Unassigned Fund Balance. Strauss explains the Fire Truck fund for \$50,000 and \$20,000 normally comes from taxation which will roughly get the Town to the amount needed for the Fire Truck.

Selectman Seamans discusses the truck not being picked up for a year and is unsure if it would change anything.

Strauss explains the Police Cruiser and Transfer Station is standard for what the Town does every year and that aquatic plants were taken out this year for a total around \$2,000 and the town would need to refund back into.

Strauss suggests putting money back into Bridge replacement for Huntress Bridge and Granite Road.

Chairman Espie recommends staying with \$50,000.

Strauss discusses Fire, Bridge Maintenance, Municipal buildings in the amount of \$10,000 to the Expandable Trust Funds and recommends putting more in the future.

Selectman Seamans questions issues previously listed incorrectly on the Budget to Actual, Administrative Assistant Pitts answered it was looked into and it was Air Conditioners.

Strauss explains that Computer Network and Police Safety Funds are coming out of the UAFB. Town Hall Restoration at \$10,000.

Chairman Espie asks about the Capital Improvement Plan and that he didn't see it. Strauss explained he pulled it off as there is \$8,000 in the funds that have not been used in the last 3 years.

Strauss explained the Fire Department Equipment line item can be adjusted based off Ryefield Road and suggest \$50,000 from the UAFB, Emergency Management to not be removed, and not putting money into the Voting Machine as it has reached what the Town would need to purchase.

Resident Vicki Kirkwood asked if they are required by the State and if the Town will test before getting one, Selectman Seamans answered that the Town is only one that does not have one.

David Strauss asked if the Board would like to add in the Voting Machines, the Board agreed.

Strauss hopes to have warrant approval at the next formal Board of Selectmen meeting.

Resident Steve Regal asked if the Town would need to set up a Maintenance Fund for the Voting Machines, Selectman Racine answered that the Town would need to see how the machines work.

Chairman Espie explained the company has employees stationed across the whole State during elections in the event something goes wrong.

Public Comment:

Chairman Espie opened Public Comment

Rosemarie Wissenbach of Province Lake Road, asked about the records from the previous Health Officer and that she had asked the Chief and Sergeant, and they were both unaware of the circumstance. Chairman Espie stated he would follow up.

Vicki Kirkwood of Green Mountain Road asked for an update on the Oil Tank at the Transfer Station and if it is going to be sold. Chairman Espie explained the information for the tank was to be sent to NRRRA and to Clean Harbors. Selectman Seamans discusses volunteering at the

Transfer Station with Selectman Racine. Vicki asked who picked up the white goods, Selectman Seamans answered NRRA contacts North Country Recycling. Selectman Seamans discusses previous conversation about disposables and billing of white goods. Chairman Espie stated NRRA is a Co-op, and they negotiate with scrapping companies. Selectman Racine stated the Town will look into the oil tank and put it out for bids. Vicki recalls an interested party but did not hear more.

Selectman Seamans discusses Meals on Wheels and explains the Federal Government bases their amount off the last 3 years, which was during the pandemic, and that the Federal Government does not provide the full amount. David Strauss had reached out for more information regarding the increase and suggested the Town stops the monthly billing and to pay annually along with all non-profits. Selectman Racine mentions Meals on Wheels being under a different account number, Strauss stated he will look into the MS535 to see how they have it listed and if it's different and that the Non-profit didn't seem opposed to doing annual instead of monthly billing. The Board to discuss during the Health Agencies meeting.

Board of Selectmen Reports:

Selectman Seamans stated a few more roads to be graded, including Old Pound Road. Chairman Espie added Police Department driveway to be fixed Thursday. Fire Chief Harmon questioned the parking lot at the Fire Station, Chairman Espie answered next year. Selectman Seamans asked if anyone had attended the vehicle meeting, Chairman Espie answered no.

Adjournment

Selectman Racine made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Seamans.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm

Lenny Espie, Chairman

Chris Seamans, Selectman

Leo Racine, Selectman