

*Office of the Select Board  
Town of Orange, New Hampshire  
Select Board Minutes of April 18, 2023*

*Present:* Tamara Fairbank, Chair; Aaron Allen, Betsy Coble, Sandi Pierson (clerical), Catherine Souza (clerical)  
*Other:* Bob Proulx, Sharon Proulx, Anita Garland, Gulley Dunlap, Hillary Allen

*Meeting opened at 6:05 p.m. Attendance taken by the secretary.*

*Pledge of Allegiance*

*Introduction of new Secretary:* Tam introduced Catherine Souza. Catherine gave a brief personal introduction and thanked Sandi for her time and attention to detail in the training.

*Minutes:*

- Betsy motioned to approve the minutes of the public and non-public meeting on April 4, 2023. Tam seconded. Motion passed 2/0/0 (Aaron had not yet arrived).

*March Treasurer's Report and Select Board Reconciliation:* Document was reviewed by the Board and approved.

*New ARPA funds:* A letter has been received from the Grafton County Commissioners Office stating that a portion of the ARPA funds received by the County is to be allocated to Grafton County municipalities for eligible projects. The maximum amount for an application is \$50,000. Tam reviewed the letter with the Board and the audience. The application deadline is May 5, 2023. A town wide email was sent April 12, 2023 to solicit input. Summary of responses from both written input and in person comments, use of funds for: road maintenance, paving projects, culvert repair, Town House renovation (bathrooms, kitchen, electrical, heating, leach field). In addition, the Canaan Town Administrator requested town of Orange to supplement funds for transfer station work.

- Motion: To focus the application for Town House renovation on bathrooms, kitchen, and plumbing, sewer, septic and electrical. Motion made by Tam, seconded by Aaron. Motion passed 3/0/0.
- Action: Aaron to coordinate quotes for the application details.

*Right to know minutes request:* Select Board instructed the Secretary to provide the minutes to the chair for an official response to the requestor.

*Request of Town House use:* Ernie Mills has requested the use of the Town House on Saturday May 27 for a reception following an internment. Aaron will be on site to assist that day. Select Board approved.

*Mascoma Civics Class:* At the April 4, 2023 Select Board meeting the Board reviewed an email from a Mascoma student who had general questions about Orange for his civics class. An email response was received by the town from the teacher thanking the town for the responses to the student. Overall positive interest in the students performing spring clean-up work on the grounds of the Town House. Anita Garland to respond to the teacher and coordinate a date for the work.

*Other:*

[Type here]

- *Notice from Vegetation Control Services:* Company expecting to begin herbicide application by July 1, 2023. The company is requesting notification by June 1, 2023 if a resident of the town does not want the herbicide application. It is the duty of the landowner or resident to make VCS aware of potentially affected private water supplies and any other environmentally sensitive areas where herbicide application should be restricted. A number of residents in attendance expressed opposition to the spraying due to negative environmental impacts. Sandi Pierson asked the Board to entertain a warrant article banning all herbicide spraying in public right of ways.
  - Action: Secretary to prepare a letter for the Board to be sent to VCS on behalf of the town.
  - Action: Secretary to email VCS company letter and maps to town residents. VCS contact information will be included should a resident want to contact VCS.
- *Update from Highway Department:* Road Agent Marcello Shelzi has contacted Remacle about the grading of Burnt Hill. Road Agent will find a solution, either with Remacle or an outside contractor.

*Other Select Board business and action items:*

- Action items:
  - Quotes from Avitar to do tax maps have been received. Tabled to next meeting.
  - 9-1-1 signs update: Aaron has completed 97% of the signs and has done 75% distribution.
  - Select Board has reviewed the Avitar reassessment of the Estate of Annie Hammond property. Action: Secretary to prepare abatement for next meeting.
  - Emergency Radio Briefing: to be scheduled for Board, Road Agent, Emergency Management, Secretary and the Canaan EMS team. Action: Secretary to schedule.

*Secretary's report:*

- Fiber Optics Survey
  - Jim Guarino, Construction Manager with Excellence in Execution LLC, came into the office and looked at the current internet set up (router, power supply, locations, phone lines and generator). A Grafton County proposal is being prepared to connect all Town Halls to a fiber network. No further action required at this time.
- Tree leaning on Eastman Rd. Aaron asked Sandi to contact the owner. The owner will address once he is back in town.
- Skip Smith is resigning with Sandi. The Board will need to find a new person to provide maintenance/repair work. Action: The Board Find new maintenance/repair person.
- Information from Aaron on Town House leach field assessment. A quote has been provided by JBC for a total of \$850. Work will be done in stages.
  - Motion made by Aaron to proceed with the work, seconded by Tam. Motion passed 3/0/0.
- Notary license for new Secretary.
  - Motion made by Betsy for Catherine to become a Notary for the Town at a cost of \$125. Town to pay the costs. Seconded by Tam. Motion passed 3/0/0.
- Currently the Secretary provides copies to residents or non-residents as requested mostly for tax assessment cards. After reviewing the RSA 91-A and the actual cost of providing copies, The Secretary recommended a cost of 10 cents per page for residents and 20 cents for non-residents.
  - Motion made by Aaron to accept the Secretary's recommendation. Seconded by Betsy. Motion passed 3/0/0.
- Haz Mat Mitigation Plan: need log of volunteers. Action: Secretary to reach out to June Garneau at MAPS for details.

- This being Sandi’s last meeting in official Secretary capacity, she offered her sincere thanks to the Select Board and the Town officials for a wonderful work environment. She appreciates the support of the town residents. She loves this town!

*Reports from Boards and Committees:*

- Planning Board public hearing for subdivision on RT4 scheduled for April 25.
- Historical Commission will meet in October.

*Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed*

*Public comment: n/a*

- Public comments related to thank you from Sandi:
  - Sharon Proulx offered her appreciation to Sandi. Per Sharon, “Sandi is a delight to work with”.
  - Aaron Allen shared that from his early days in elementary school with Sandi as his bus driver to now, he has enjoyed working with Sandi and their casual tea catch up times.
  - Gulley Dunlap stated she will miss Sandi!
  - The Select Board shared a time of appreciation with Sandi. Cake and ice cream were enjoyed by all. The Board gave Sandi gifts and a card to mark her retirement (aka freedom!).

*Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.*

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Tamara Fairbank, Chair

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Aaron Allen

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Betsy Coble