

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of April 28, 2020*

Present: Dorothy Heinrichs, Chair; Tamara Fairbank, Aaron Allen, and Sandi Pierson (clerical).

Others: Alasdair Dunlap-Smith and Scott Sanborn.

Meeting opened on the front lawn at 6:00 p.m. Attendance taken by the secretary.

Minutes: The minutes of April 7, 2020 were unanimously approved as amended.

Flood-damaged road repairs and restoration: The Board and Road Agent Scott Sanborn reviewed bids submitted by contractors for the restoration work for roads and stream embankment damages caused by the flash flood of July 11, 2019 (FEMA disaster #DR4457).

After review and discussion, Tamara motioned to award the following bids:

- Project #115875: Stream channel restoration at two sites. Award project to Wanner Earth Moving, LLC at their bid of \$48,500.
- Project #130823: New Colony Road repairs and culverts. Award project to Razor Hill Construction at their bid of \$119,295.
- Project #130825: Tug Mountain Road repairs and culverts. Award project to Conkey Enterprises, LLC at their bid of \$214,205.
- Project #130958: Multiple town road repairs and culverts (Cross Road, Eastman Road, Town House Road, Tuttle Hill Road). Award bid to Richard Remacle Construction at their bid of \$325,000.
- Project #130967: Stream embankment repairs at New Colony and Williams Road. Award bid for New Colony stream embankment repair to Razor Hill Construction at their bid of \$10,817. Award bid for Williams Road stream embankment repair to Conkey Enterprises, LLC at their bid of \$18,200. The Williams Road project may include improvements to the road that would make it less susceptible to future flooding damage at a cost of \$8,000. (Scott expects this additional work will qualify under the State's hazardous mitigation program, of which they pay 75% of the cost.)

Aaron seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Further discussion: Scott will contact all contractors of the Board's decision. The Board concurred that Scott should include work completion deadlines in the signed agreement to those contractors who were awarded bids. Communication with residents on the timing of the work is essential, especially the people living on the roads being worked on. Work cannot commence until after the financing is approved at special town meeting on May 27, which is subject to Superior Court approval. [Note: Project descriptions and bids received are available by contacting the Select Board's office.]

Abatement application: The Board reviewed the opinion of Avitar on the abatement application of the Estate of Roy Wright/ Route 4/Map 1, Lot 29. After discussion, Aaron motioned to accept Avitar's opinion to reduce the property value from \$53,200 to \$22,500, a decrease of \$30,700 and to rebate the 2019 property taxes in the amount of \$816.62. Tamara seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Attorney retainer: The Board reviewed an email from Drummond Woodsum that recommended increasing the cost of the annual retainer from \$2,000 to \$3,000, citing the legal work being done work done regarding the petition to Superior Court for a special town meeting. It was noted that the legal work for the court petition is eligible to be paid under the administrative segment of the FEMA with a 75% reimbursement. After discussion, Tamara motioned to request the retainer be increased to \$2,500. Aaron seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Town-wide revaluation: The Board discussed a revised revaluation proposal from Avitar due to the Covid 19 restrictions. A complete town-wide revaluation was scheduled for 2020. Avitar proposed to complete the statistical update this year at a cost of \$10,220. In 2021 they would do the onsite work of measuring and listing at a cost of \$11,668. The cost for both years equal the original contract signed by the Board in November 2019. Tamara motioned to accept the two-year plan as proposed by Avitar. Aaron seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor. Sandi will contact Avitar and request they send a revised contract. Sandi will check with Treasurer Trish Weekes to see if she would like the 2021 part of the reval money to be returned to the capital reserve or retain it in the treasury.

Timber:

- The Board signed an Intent to Cut for Judi and Robert Kuhn/Williams Road/Map 3, Lot 61C. Logger is Dalton Mountain Forestry, LLC.
- The Board signed a warrant to the tax collector for \$736.07 for the 2019 timber tax for Judi and Robert Kuhn/Williams Road/Map 3, Lot 61 C.
- The Board signed a warrant to the tax collector for \$1,426.09 for the 2019 timber tax for John Gunn, David Gunn, and Susan Gunn Bromley/New Colony Road/Map 3, Lot 47.

All Veterans Credit: The Board approved and signed an application for an All Veterans Credit. The application was reviewed at an earlier meeting.

Secretary's report: Sandi asked if they Board wants to send out the FAQ sheet on the money warrant article for special town meeting that was originally meant for the March town meeting. It could be included in the mailing of the 2020 information directory. Dorothy said that she will have the FAQ sheet revised and that it can be mailed with the officer directory.

Reports from Boards and Committees: n/a

Public comment:

Alasdair Dunlap-Smith asked if the larger driveway culvert at his residence can be put in during the FEMA work. Scott said that driveway culverts are not part of the FEMA project, only those going across the road. Alasdair asked if absentee ballots or proxy voting will be available for the

special town meeting. Dorothy said they would not; absentee ballots are for election of officers. This is considered a “town meeting.”

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 6:59 p.m.

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

Tamara Fairbank

Aaron Allen