

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Select Board Minutes of April 4, 2023*

Present: Tamara Fairbank, Chair; Aaron Allen, Betsy Coble, Sandi Pierson (clerical)
Other: Marcello Shelzi, Gary Hamel, Trish Weekes, Anita Garland, Catherine Souza, Gully Dunlap

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

- Aaron motioned to approve the minutes of March 21, 2023. Tam seconded. Betsy abstained because she did not attend the meeting. Motion passed 2/0/1.
- Aaron motioned to approve the nonpublic minutes of March 21, 2023. Tam seconded. Betsy abstained because she did not attend the meeting. Motion passed 2/0/1.

Treasurer:

- FEMA Recovery Anticipation Note: The Board reviewed and signed bank documents allowing Mascoma Savings Bank to roll over the FRAN balance of \$395,384.72 with a 3% interest rate. A voucher was signed for \$20,998.35 for the interest ending April 4, 2023.
- Tax Anticipation Note: The Board reviewed and signed Mascoma Savings Bank documents for the 2023 Tax Anticipation Note of \$504,000.00 with a 4.5% interest rate.

New ARPA funds: The Board reviewed correspondence from the Grafton County Commissions notifying them that they may apply for up to \$50,000 addition funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. Tamara listed the eligible expenditures which can include Town House facilities and road building and maintenance. Application deadline is May 5, 2023. Expenditure deadline is June 30, 2024. After discussion, the Board concurred to invite public input at the next Select Board meeting and complete the application then. Sandi will notify the public with a town-wide email.

Hazard Mitigation: The Board reviewed correspondence notifying them that grants are available for projects included in the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Grants would be paid with 75% federal funds and 25% town funds. Aaron to follow up.

Trust Funds: The Board signed a letter to the Trustees of the Trust Funds:

- To request that the Trustees withdraw \$27,443.30 from the Town House Capital Reserve Fund as voted on in favor at the February 21, 2023 Select Board meeting. This will go toward the Town House roof reconstruction project.
- To request that the Trustees establish a Bridge Capital Reserve Fund and deposit \$26,507.49 into said account as voted on at the March 15, 2023 town meeting.

MS-232: The Board reviewed and signed the MS-232 (Appropriations as Voted). Because no monetary amendments were made at town meeting, the figures on the MS-232 are the same as the warrant and the Budget Committee's MS-737.

Gravel Tax: The Board signed an abatement of \$93.60 for Bobby Senter's gravel tax as voted on at the March 21, 2023 Select Board meeting.

Highway: After discussion, Aaron motioned to approve the purchase of a laptop and printer from Best Buy for the highway department. Betsy seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Mascoma Civics Class: The Board reviewed an email from a Mascoma student who had general questions about Orange for his civics class. He also offered that there may be students willing to volunteer for a project in Orange. Sandi will respond with the answers discussed at the meeting. Volunteer projects may include cemetery tasks, Town House grounds clean-up, and roadside litter pick-up.

Other:

- A notice was received from the State that they have received a driveway application from ADW Builders on Route 4.

Other Select Board business and action items:

- Action items:
 - Updating tax maps: Tamara motioned for the Board to approve of Scott Sanborn sharing town tax map files with Avitar in order to get a quote from them doing tax maps. Betsy seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.
 - 9-1-1 signs: Aaron has completed 97% of the signs and has done 75% distribution.
 - Changing the locks at the Town House: Tamara to follow up.
 - Hammond property tax question: Avitar reports that it appears to be an unbuildable lot and they will look further into an assessment adjustment.

Secretary's report:

- The office should purchase a paper cutter and a paper shredder. The present shredder has malfunctioned. Gully Dunlap said she may have a shredder to donate to the office.
- The new town manager in Canaan said he is increasing the 2023 transfer station payment from Orange by about \$6,000. After discussion, Betsy motioned to refer this to legal counsel at the Local Government Center because both the former Canaan town manager and the Orange Budget Committee signed off on the original amount quoted of \$13,611.00. Tamara seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Reports from Boards and Committees:

- Highway: Road Agent Marcello Shelzi said he has examined the present condition of Burnt Hill Road and has requested Remacle begin improvement work as soon as possible. He expects work on the road to begin by the end of the week. Marcello did not think it was necessary for Remacle's crew to plow the bit of precipitation that fell recently. He

will ask Remacle to only plow when requested. Marcello will follow up with the FEMA work that needs to be done on Burnt Hill stemming from the late December rains.

- The Cemetery Trustees will meet following tonight's Select Board meeting.
- The Historical Commission will be send out a town-wide postcard announcing the sealing and burial of the 100-year time capsule scheduled for May 20, 2023 between 2 and 3 p.m.

Public comment: n/a

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed

Nonpublic session: At 6:50 p.m. Tamara motioned to go into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3-c to review a veteran credit application. Aaron seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor. Motion to come out of nonpublic session at 7:15. Tam seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor. Tam stated that an All Veterans Credit was approved by the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Tamara Fairbank, Chair

Aaron Allen

Betsy Coble