

*Office of the Select Board  
Town of Orange, New Hampshire  
Select Board Minutes of August 1, 2023*

*Present:* Aaron Allen, Betsy Coble, Catherine Souza (clerical)

*Others:* Judith Lindahl, Chester Orban, Sharon Proulx, Marcello Shelzi

*Absent:* Tamara Fairbank

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

*Pledge of Allegiance*

*Minutes:*

- Betsy Coble motioned to approve the minutes of the public meeting on July 18, 2023. Aaron Allen seconded. Motion passed 2/0/0.

*Forest Land Reimbursement Application:*

- Each year the Town of Orange submits an application to the State of NH for reimbursement pursuant to RSA 227-H for state or federal forest lands that are in the town. The application includes the number of acres in town and the assessed value if the land was taxable. The Town of Orange NH application for 2023 is for a total of 5,507 acres with a total assessed valuation of \$3,611,200.
- The Select Board signed and approved the application.

*FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan Amendment:*

- FEMA has extended the PDM19 grant that the Town of Orange used for completion of the Hazard Mitigation Plan update. The grant requires an amendment to extend the project completion date from May 29, 2023 to May 29, 2024. While the work for the Town of Orange is complete, the extension date gives FEMA time to approve the plan and complete the reimbursement.
- The Select Board signed and approved the amendment.

*Bulky Waste Disposal Weekend:*

- The Select Board is pleased to offer a 2023 Bulky Waste Disposal weekend for the Town of Orange residents. The event is planned for Saturday September 9 and Sunday September 10 from 8am to 2pm.
- Catherine has prepared a set of information for the residents: a flyer with the Bulky Waste information, a flyer about a NH Saves event to recycle A/C units and dehumidifiers and the Canaan transfer station information.
- Motion made by Betsy Coble to email and mail the information to all residents, Aaron Allen seconded. Motion passed 2/0/0.

*2023 Budget Review:*

- The Select Board reviewed the municipal budget report ending August 1, 2023. Total expenses to date are \$158,302.30 versus a budget of \$275,889.00 which is 57% spent.

*Other:*

- *Eastman Rd signage*
  - Marcello has contacted the State for the 25 mph sign. Marcello will install the sign.

- *ARPA Grafton County application update:*
  - The Town of Orange NH has received ARPA (The American Rescue Funds Act) funds both from the federal government and Grafton County.
  - Judith Lindahl proposed that Bruce Dickerson review the wiring in the Town House and report back to the Select Board. Judith will find donors to pay for the review. Aaron Allen reported there will be some money available from the original ARPA funds as well as the Grafton County ARPA funds.
  - Aaron Allen made a motion to approve the proposal for Bruce Dickerson to review the Town House electrical and report back to the Select Board. Betsy Coble seconded. Motion approved 2/0/0.
  
- *Historical Committee and next actions:*
  - The Historical Commission is planning to organize and set up several displays in the Town House historical display rooms. The construction/repair work is progressing well so the Commission is able to start their work earlier than expected. There were several question about items on the second floor that belong to the Town.
  - The Select Board met with Sharon Proulx and made decisions about removal, storage or disposal of the items in question.
  
- *Update: Map lot 45 (342 Tuttle Hill Rd) septic approval:*
  - Select Board reviewed the septic design approved by the State. No action required.
  
- *Wayer Mitchell retirement*
  - The Select Board reviewed a letter was received from the Mitchell Municipal Group concerning the retirement of Water Mitchell after a tenure of 53 years. No action required.

*Other Select Board business and action items:*

- Any other business: None
  
- Action Items Completed:
  - Disposal of old safe in Town Clerk's office. There is no asbestos contained in the safe. Disposal to be done at the Town Bulky Waste weekend.
  - Street sweeper quote – closed as not actioned for now
  - Review Artwork value for Insurance
  - Road Agent and 'Hard Road to Travel' - sign on Eastman Rd.
  - MS60 recommendation about more secure location for money received at Select Board office
  - Register Town House with NH Electric Coop for Fiber internet
  - Provide Select Board with list of Assessors for their review
  - Secure Casella dumpsters for Bulky Waste weekend
  - Bulky Waste weekend approve notification to residents
  - ZBA: find out terms and fee structure (questions from the 7/18 Select Board meeting):
    - The ZBA in Orange is appointed and not elected
    - Given the nature of the ZBA, the meetings are irregular
    - Catherine provided information from the State handbook for Zoning Board of Adjustment in NH. Term limits as noted in the handbook are 3 years for appointed and alternate members. The suggestion is that the terms are staggered to ensure continuity.

- ZBA Fees: Fees are situational depending on actual cost of certified abutter notices, legal posting (if any), and secretarial work (hourly rate x hours put into the case). Thus the cost for each application may vary.
  - ACTION: Select Board to review next steps on ZBA terms for 2024 Town meeting.
- Veterans credit questions (credit limits, number of approved, definition of each category) (questions from the 7/18 Select Board meeting)

- - Veterans credits for Town of Orange are:

Veterans Credit	\$200
Surviving Spouse	\$700
Service connected disability	\$700
All Veterans tax credit	\$200
Combat Service credit	\$ 0

- Veterans credits for 2022 as reported to the State of NH: Number indicates the number of properties impacted.

Veterans Credit	7
Surviving Spouse	0
Service connected disability	1
All Veterans tax credit	4
Combat Service credit	0
Total	12

- Veterans credits value for 2022 as reported to the State of NH:

Veterans Credit	\$1400
Surviving Spouse	0
Service connected disability	\$700
All Veterans tax credit	\$800
Combat Service credit	0
Total	\$2900

- The Select Board agreed with Catherine’s recommendation to not create an Orange specific town form as that would require maintenance.
  - Motion made by Aaron Allen to request Catherine post the Veterans credit limits, description of each category and instructions on the town website. Betsy Coble seconded. Motion passed 2/0/0.
  - ACTION: Post the Veterans credit limits, description of each category and instructions on the town website.

- Action Items open:

- Change locks and combinations: Exterior doors, SB office, TC office
- Recommend a policy for use of the Town House
- Post all Town boards and committees approved minutes on Town website
- Research and share outcome of snow removal question
- ARPA Grafton Co funds: Septic project. Secure bids
- ARPA Grafton Co funds: Bathroom renovation. Secure bids

- Action Items New:
  - Select Board to review assessor list for future discussion
  - Contact Propane company and have the propane line on 2nd floor decommissioned
  - Select Board to review next steps on ZBA terms for 2024 Town meeting
  - Post the Veterans credit limits, description of each category and instructions on the town website

*Secretary's report:*

- Cleaning Service update – Jessica Bishop Grace from As You Wish Cleaning will begin on August 9th. She will provide a contract ahead of the date.
- Catherine Souza is now an official Notary for the State of New Hampshire. Catherine will alert the residents that she is available for notary services.
- Emergency Radio is available for the Select Board to rotate. Betsy Coble will take the radio home and familiarize herself with it.
- Sandi Pierson asked about the new Cardigan Fire Tower (photo and height).
  - Catherine will contact NH Forest Lands or Alton Hennessy to get the information

*Reports from Boards and Committees:*

- *Cemetery trustees:*
  - Report received via email from Anita Garland.
  - Anita is keeping in contact with Aaron Poland who mows for both the Cemeteries and the Town House. Next week the French Cemetery will be mowed. The fallen tree at the foot of the Church Cemetery and the stumps near the gate have been addressed. At the Town Common Cemetery, Aaron uses a weed trimmer to trim/mow and not put a mower in there. Too many delicate stones.
- *Road Agent (Marcello Shelzi):*
  - Driveway permit presented and discussed for Shank at 627 Tuttle Hill Rd.
    - Marcello Shelzi as Road Agent approved the permit.
    - Aaron Allen made the motion to approve the permit pending receipt of the fee. Betsy Coble seconded. Motion passed 2/0/0.
  - There is a section of Tuttle Hill road just past Gary Hamel's place where the bank has slid off the road. Marcello has asked Remacle to address.
  - There is a diagonal channel (water bar -12 inch wide) on Burnt Hill (four tenths of mile past Don McFarlane property). Judith asked Marcello to investigate.
- *Planning Board:* No meeting in July.
- *Conservation Commission:* There is a function Aug 3, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Canaan Meeting House. Catherine to send information in town wide email.

*Public comment:*

- Chester Orban:
  - Question from Chester: He wants to build a Maple Sugar Shack. Aaron Allen pointed him to the Building Permit on the town website.
  - Chester suggested a 'star night' run by the NH Astronomical Society in the fall for viewing the dark night skies. Aaron Allen will contact the Conservation Commission to start the process.

*Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.*

*Next Select Board meeting date confirmation: August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.*

*Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.*

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Tamara Fairbank, Chair

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Aaron Allen

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Betsy Coble