

*Office of the Select Board  
Town of Orange, New Hampshire  
Minutes of August 11, 2020*

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

*Others:* Doug Weekes

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

*Minutes:* The minutes of July 28, 2020 were approved as submitted. Tamara abstained because she did not attend the meeting.

*Road reconstruction:*

- The Board signed letters to four property owners notifying them that certain roadside trees at their property will need to be removed for flood-related road construction. Scott has flagged the trees.
- During road work a contractor unexpectedly disturbed a Consolidated Communications buried line which left a number of residents without telephone and internet services for a few days. Aaron has called Dig Safe to check if there are any other lines in the vicinity of the road repairs.
- Dorothy has followed up with assistance regarding the NHDES' unanticipated expiration of the permit to do the stream bed work. She is working with Suzanna Smith and Kevin Maes (Chair and Vice Chair of the NHDES Oversight Committee). Aaron suggested referring the permit problem to State Forester Tom Natale.

*Treasurer's report:* The Board reviewed the July 2020 Treasurer's report and Select Board reconciliation. All figures were on target and the Chair signed the report.

*Cardigan Mountain State Forest:*

- The Board signed an application to the DRA for the annual reimbursement for State forest lands.
- The Board was in receipt of the contract between the State and Ossipee Mountain Land Company for the pending timber harvesting in the state forest.

*200 Tuttle Hill Road:* Doug Weekes reported that Hammond's clean-up of the property is on schedule. The two abandoned cars have been moved to the town's lot on Cardigan Mountain Road and Doug expects he will be able to dispose of them legally in a couple of weeks. Scott Sanborn will stake out the boundaries of the property. Doug suggested clearing some of the second growth trees to make the property more attractive for selling it. The Board concurred. The Board agreed that when the property is ready, they will have Vanessa Stone put it on the market with the stipulation that there cannot be a closing until the 90-day repurchasing option by the former owner has expired. Doug asked Sandi to compile all related expenses to the property which can be deducted from the selling price.

*Building permit fees:* The Board reviewed a building permit application fee schedule submitted and recommended by Building Inspector Doug Weekes. Doug felt the current fees were too low and that there is a cost to the town for the building permit process. He felt a portion of the fees could be accumulated as a contingency in case money was needed for legal counsel. Dorothy stated that all fees go into the general fund and would not accrue for a specific expenditure. Aaron spoke in opposition of the increases, saying that additional property taxes on improvements and new buildings would make up for any extra cost the town may incur. He added that the higher permit fees may discourage some property owners from building. Sandi, speaking as a resident, spoke in opposition of the fees and the over-regulating of accessory buildings such as a chicken coop. She said the setback requirements from a property line or road should be the only consideration. After discussion, Dorothy motioned to accept the recommended fee increases for dwellings (including those with attached garages), commercial buildings, driveways, garages, renovations, manufactured homes, and swimming pools, and to not increase the fees on farm stands (and other small commercial business without electrical, plumbing or mechanical), accessory buildings, and enclosed additions. Tam seconded. Dorothy and Tam voted in favor. Aaron voted in opposition. Motion passed 2/1.

*Other:*

- The Board reviewed the municipal budget report ending July 31, 2020. Sandi noted that the category of Officer Expenses will be overspent due to the unexpected \$2,500 cost of having the MS-5 prepared by Plodjik and Sanderson.
- The Board reviewed information and prices from Ossipee Mountain Electronics for the two two-way radios the Board discussed at a previous meeting. The cost is \$2,598.93 each. Brent Stevens is working with NHEM to procure one for the Town House at no cost. One for the road agent will come out of the highway budget. Brent already has a two-way radio through Canaan Fire and EMS.
- A notice was received from the State that the Block Grant for fiscal year 2021 will be \$33,047.16. This is a \$3,000 increase from 2020.
- A notice was received from the State that they have deposited \$9,914.15 into the town's account for the July Block Grant payment.
- A copy of the NHDES wetland permit for Dave Como was received.
- Election officials and the Select Board will meet at the Town House on Thursday, August 13 to discuss voting procedures at the Town House relating to COVID-19 requirements.

*Secretary's report:*

- Young's Propane did a service check to all propane heaters in the Town House. All are fine except for the one in the main Select Board's office. The heat exchanger is not working, it is dangerous to operate, and the whole unit needs to be replaced. The Board concurred that three estimates should be acquired before proceeding with the replacement.
- Skip has installed the three touchless hand sanitizer units in the Town House.
- Does the Board want to access the Road Repairs Capital Reserve Fund at this time for flood related payments? The Board concurred to hold off on withdrawing from it. They will consult with the Treasurer to get her input.

*Board meetings:*

- Dorothy said she will not be available for the August 25 Select Board meeting.
- The Select Board meeting on September 8 (voting day) will be scheduled for 10 a.m.

*Reports from Boards and Committees: n/a*

*Public comment: n/a*

*Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.*

*Meeting adjourned 6:50 p.m.*

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Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

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Tamara Fairbank

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Aaron Allen