

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of August 16, 2022*

Present: Tamara Fairbank, Aaron Allen, Betsy Coble, Sandi Pierson (clerical)

Other: Scott Sanborn, Sharon Proulx, Gary Hamel

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

- The minutes of August 2, 2022 were approved as amended (minor word change).
- The nonpublic minutes of August 2, 2022 were approved as submitted.

Highway: Road Agent Scott Sanborn met with the Board to discuss various highway department issues.

- Scott submitted the finalized 2022 contract with Richard Remacle Construction.
- Scott responded to road grading concerns. He explained that Richard Remacle's grader operator had died, which put the road grading off schedule. Richard is trying to find a replacement operator. Presently he has one that can only work intermittently. Aaron suggested if they determine that the grader cannot be in service soon, an alternative contractor could be brought in. Scott said he was confident that grading by Remacle will begin shortly and expects to have the roads done before school starts on August 30. He said he's in regular contact with Butler Bus Company (who runs the school busses) in order to address any concerns they may have. The order of grading will begin with Tuttle Hill, Cross Road, Burnt Hill, and Brock Hill. If Brock Hill cannot be graded promptly, gravel will be spread in order to level out the recent rain damage. Tamara said that grading more than twice a year may be warranted if the roads require it.
- Tamara asked Scott if he followed up with the Treasurer Trish Weekes's email that expressed concern about the ongoing interest being accrued on the FEMA loan and that the possibility of it being reimbursed should be revisited. Scott said he consulted with Sara Abel, Public Assistant Program Coordinator at NH Emergency Management, and she said that interest accrued on the FEMA loan was not reimbursable. Scott suggested the Board follow up with Trish and see where she got the information.
- FEMA: The culvert replacement permit information requested by FEMA is a nonissue. It was essentially a form that Scott needed to submit, and has.
- The Cross Road culvert has been replaced.
- Aaron reported that Scott Borthwick has disposed of one beaver at the Burnt Hill culvert site and will be returning to dispose of the remaining ones. Aaron said he's continuing to unplug the flooded culvert which has been getting 90% or more clogged up. Scott thanked Aaron for his assistance.

Property clean-up: The Board determined that Levi Lemere has satisfied his obligation in cleaning up the Peaslee property per their request and deadline. They will send him a letter of appreciation for attending to this issue.

Building permit: The Board reviewed and approved a building permit for two roof extensions: Clemente and Elba Marcillo/271 Tug Mountain Road/Map 3, Lot 20-A. The permit was already reviewed and approved by Building Inspector Doug Weekes and the fee was submitted.

Treasurer's report: The Board reviewed the July 2022 Treasurer's report and Select Board reconciliation. All figures were on target and the Chair signed the report.

Intent to Cut: The Board reviewed and approved an Intent to Cut Timber for Chuck Baldwin/Tuttle Hill Road/Map 1, Lot 20. Logger is Steve Johnston. Access will be on Walter Buckwold's property on Eastman Road.

Other:

- The Board reviewed comments (by email) from Attorney Mitchell of his review of a forbearance agreement template for the town (property tax payment agreement).
- A notice was received from the State of NH that the 2023 fiscal year Block Grant will be \$35,469.46.
- A notice was received from the State of NH that they have deposited \$10,640.84 into the town's account for the July Block Grant payment.
- A notice was received from the State of NH that they have deposited a one-time payment of \$18,831.80 into the town's account in accordance with Senate Bill 401. This amount is based on the distribution methods of the Block Grant apportionments in New Hampshire.
- A copy of the 2023 Grafton County budget was received.

Other Select Board business and action items:

- Action items still pending:
 - Having the tax maps updated by December 31. The Board discussed having the lots identified by a numbered grid and not include the property owner names. This would prevent ownership misinformation when property is transferred. Options for the tax maps will be discussed further.
 - Possible nonconforming auto body shop in town: Sandi to draft a letter for the Board to sign.
 - Contact Crossroad Electric to remedy the outside lighting. They are motion-sensor lights that are supposed to come on only during the night but are on all the time. The Board concurred. Aaron to follow up.
 - 9-1-1 house signs: Canaan Fire personnel Alton Hennessey will follow up after Canaan's Old Home Day.
- Action items completed:
 - Remacle contract has been finalized.
- Trailer housing on Razor Hill: Aaron recapped his conversation with the property owner. Aaron said the gravel that was delivered was to facilitate a parking area. The tenants have

a portable privy serviced by JBC Service and Rentals of Canaan. One of the campers have been moved off the property; only the larger one remains. The property owner told Aaron he is basically helping out people who are moving out of the state in the spring and that he considers them to be campers. The Board was satisfied with the rationale. Sandi asked if the Board would respond to the people who expressed their concerns. Tamara directed Sandi to send them a copy of the minutes.

- Sandi will send out a town-wide letter to residents with the details of the large trash disposal scheduled for September 17 and 18.

Secretary's report:

- Cohos Advisors (the town's auditors) said the possible DRA fines for town audits filed late by towns and cities do not apply to Orange. Orange is exempt from full audits because of its population size.

Reports from Boards and Committees: n/a

Public comment: n/a

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Nonpublic session: At 6:55 p.m. Aaron motioned to go into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3-c to discuss a property tax issue. Betsy seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor. Betsy motioned to come out of nonpublic session at 7:20 p.m. Tamara seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor. Tamara said no decisions were made by the Board in nonpublic session.

Meeting adjourned 7:21 p.m.

Tamara Fairbank, Chair

Aaron Allen

Betsy Coble