

*Office of the Select Board  
Town of Orange, New Hampshire  
Minutes of December 10, 2020*

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

*Other:* n/a

*Meeting opened at 6 p.m. Tamara chaired the meeting. Attendance taken by the secretary.*

*Minutes:*

- The nonpublic minutes of November 24, 2020 were approved as submitted. Tamara stated that the Select Board voted 2/1 in favor of approving a tax deferment application.
- The public minutes of November 24, 2020 were approved as submitted.

*Tax abatements:* The Board signed the following tax abatements that were approved at the November 24, 2020 meeting:

- Tax deferment: \$3,071.87.
- Dean Vanier/12 Eastman Road/Map 1, Lot 1: \$496.20.

*State forest wildfire:* The Board signed a letter of dissention to both the Commissioner and Director of NH Division of Forest and Lands that the town of Orange was held financially liable for the fire response from three towns for the wildfire in Cardigan State Forest, which is owned and managed by the State. Sandi distributed copies of RSA 227-L:22, the State statute determining municipal fire control payments and the apportionment of expenses. Because a larger scale fire in the state forest could be an exorbitant financial burden to the town, the Board concurred that they would contact their State representatives and State senators, asking them to consider sponsoring a House or Senate bill to address the apportionment of expenses so that it does not unexpectedly burden a small town. For responses to forest fires on State property, they are allowed to bill the town each year for up to a quarter of one percent of the value of the whole town, which for Orange calculates to \$90,861.

*Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC):* The Board signed a letter of support for the UVLSRPC's application for a USDA Solid Waste Management Grant.

*Other:*

- An Approval for Septic Operation was received from NHDES for Bree Camber/94 Cardigan Mountain Road/ Map 3, Lot 4-A
- A letter was received from the DRA stating they have concluded that the 2020 portion of the town-wide revaluation by Avitar has complied with all requirements set by law.

*Other Select Board business:*

- Dorothy asked Sandi to contact the Budget Committee members to see if they agree with the tentative schedule to draft the 2021 budget. Sandi will contact Canaan Town Administrator Mike Sampson to see how soon we can get budget figures for fire, ambulance, and solid waste coverage.
- Dorothy has donated to the town an industrial endoscope used to examine the inside of a chimney to check for structural and safety issues. The building inspector will use it for residential inspections upon request.

*Secretary's report:*

- Sandi said Canaan is sending a check to reimburse the town for Canaan's response for the Cardigan State Forest wildfire. After discussion, Aaron motioned that, although they are appreciative of the gesture, for the Board to decline reimbursement because of the many beneficial services that Canaan offers to Orange. Dorothy seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.
- The Board concurred that the second Rinnai heater replacement in the Select Board's office can be scheduled any time after January 1.

*Reports from Boards and Committees: n/a*

*Public comment: n/a*

*Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.*

*Meeting adjourned 6:45 p.m.*

The Select Board offers its condolences to the family of David Adams,  
a longtime resident who recently passed away.

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Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

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Tamara Fairbank

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Aaron Allen