

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of December 6, 2022*

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

Other: n/a

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

- Betsy motioned to approve the minutes of November 15, 2022. Tamara seconded. Tamara and Betsy voted in favor. Aaron abstained because he did not attend the meeting. Motion passed 2/0/1.
- Aaron motioned to approve the minutes of November 22, 2022. Betsy seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Abatement review: Dean and Rachelle Vanier were taxed the ad valorem value on 60.3 acres of land they put into current use and recorded at the Grafton County Registry of Deeds in January 2022. Avitar has corrected the oversight in the software program. The current use value they should have been taxed on resulted in \$1,373.88 of the property tax bill not being due. After reviewing the documentation, Tamara motioned to approve an abatement to the tax collector for \$1,373.88. Betsy seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

LCHIP: The Board reviewed information from Trish Weekes about the LCHIP matching grant that will be used for Town House roof renovations. Details and confirmation will be on the next meeting agenda.

Investment Policy: After review, Betsy motioned to accept and sign the 2023 Investment Policy for the town. Tamara seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Auditing: After review, Aaron motioned to accept the 2023 contract with Cohos Advisors for auditing work. This includes the MS-60 (audit) and MS-535 (Financial Report of the Town). Betsy seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor. The Chair signed the contract. The 2023 cost increased by \$750.00.

UVLSRC: The Chair signed a letter of support for a solid waste grant for the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission.

Other:

- The Board reviewed the municipal budget report ending November 30, 2022. Expenditures to date are \$162,942.19 from the total 2022 appropriation of \$256,704.00, leaving a balance of \$93,761.81. School payments to date equal \$530,805.40.

- The Board received a copy of an approval of a subdivision from NHDES: Warren Morrill/ Map 1, Lot 36-A. This had been approved by both the Planning Board and ZBA.
- Aaron reported that the only heating system in his home is a woodstove. His tax card incorrectly lists a gas heating system with duct work. This has caused an increase in unsubstantiated taxes of which he will be filing an abatement application. He invited the Board to take an on-site look at the discrepancy instead of paying Avitar to do so.

Other Select Board business and action items:

- Action items:
 - Updating tax maps: Scott Sanborn has given Avitar the software information they requested. Tamara will follow up with Avitar to get a quote for them to generate and maintain the town's tax maps.
 - Changing all Town House locks: Tamara to follow up with Gatekeepers.
 - 9-11 signs: The Board has cost information. Sandi generated a list of all improved properties in town and will review it for accuracy. The Board will decide how to notify property owners of their participation, perhaps a letter to be mailed with the town report.
 - Painting and auto body work concern on New Colony Road: No response to the Board's letter from the resident. Aaron reported that the work appears to have been halted due to the weather.
 - Disposal of the old safe in the town clerk's office: solution pending.
 - Richard Remacle's contract expires on December 31; needs to be renewed.
 - Board requested for Sandi get the balance of available ARPA funds for next meeting.
- Tamara reported that a complaint from a resident has been resolved.

Secretary's report:

- Sandi distributed information about the All Veteran's Credit that was approved by the voters in 2020. Recent legislation by the State has amended the eligibility criteria which affects both the Standard and Optional Veterans Tax Credit. The Board will review the information and see if they need to draft a warrant article for 2023.
- The last invoice for cemetery work needs to be approved by the Cemetery Trustees before the December 20 meeting (last vouchers of the year).
- Sandi will notify all officers that invoices and requests for payments need to be in the Select Board's office by noon on December 20th in order to come out of the 2022 municipal budget.

Reports from Boards and Committees:

- At the conclusion of the January 17, 2023 Select Board meeting, there will be a joint meeting with the Budget Committee to begin drafting the 2023 municipal budget. If the final budget cannot be completed that evening, the Board will meet with the Budget Committee on January 24.
- Sandi reported that the Trustees of the Trust Funds will meet on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 10 a.m. On the agenda are the deposits into the 2022 capital reserve funds as voted on at March town meeting.

Public comment: n/a

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 p.m.

Tamara Fairbank, Chair

Aaron Allen

Betsy Coble