

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

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

*Others:* Doug Weekes, Trish Weekes, Alasdair Dunlap-Smith, Sharon Proulx, and Bob Proulx.

*Meeting opened at 10 a.m. Attendance taken by the secretary.*

*Minutes:*

- The minutes of January 28, 2020 were unanimously approved.
- The minutes of February 2, 2020 were unanimously approved.
- It was unanimously approved to seal the nonpublic minutes of January 14, 2020.

*2020 Warrant:* The Board reviewed a draft of the warrant as prepared by the secretary. Sandi said that it cannot be deemed complete until after the budget hearing on February 12.

*Solar exemption warrant article:* The Board revisited the solar exemption warrant article. Alasdair Dunlap-Smith felt that a cap on the assessment exemption should be higher. Sharon Proulx stated that she was in favor of “green” energy but did not think the increase in the value of a home because of it should be subsidized by other tax payers. After discussion, Aaron motioned to keep the \$25,000 assessment cap in the article. Tam seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor. Dorothy stated that legal counsel has advised the Board that the warrant article may be amended at town meeting to remove or increase the cap if that is what the voters choose to do.

*Capital reserve:* The Board discussed the warrant article that would ask the voters to repurpose the Town Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund established by Article 8 at the 2006 town meeting for the purpose of maintaining town roads; said reserve fund to become the Flood Event of July 11, 2019 Road Repairs Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of repairing roads damaged by the flood event of July 11, 2019, and to name the Selectmen as the agents to expend. (This article will require a 2/3 vote). Doug Weekes recommended the purpose should be repairing *and improving* roads damaged by the flood. The Board concurred.

Aaron said that along with asking the voters to repurpose the capital reserve, he would like to also ask the voters to raise and appropriate \$30,000 to be deposited into that reserve (as they did in 2019). Bob Proulx did not feel they should add \$30,000 to the tax rate. Trish recommended waiting until next year to add further appropriations. Dorothy and Tamara agreed they would leave the article as drafted. Presently the capital reserve has a balance of \$68,520.64.

The Board thanked Treasurer Trish Weekes for all the work she has done on behalf of the FEMA Reimbursement Anticipation Note.

*Other:*

- A notice was received from NH Department of Safety that the town is on the state-wide list as having no fireworks restrictions.
- A notice was received from the NH Forest and Lands that they plan to log 194 acres of Cardigan Mountain State Forest on the Class VI section of New Colony Road.
- A notice was received from the State that they have deposited \$6,069.00 into the town's account for the January Block Grant payment.

*Secretary's report:*

- The Board asked Sandi to ask Angel Buckwold to clean the Town House following town meeting.
- Sandi thanked Alasdair Dunlap-Smith for the photo that will be used for this year's town report cover.

*Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.*

*Meeting adjourned 10:45 a.m.*

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Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

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Tamara Fairbank

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Aaron Allen