

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Select Board Minutes of February 20, 2024*

Present: Tamara Fairbank, chair, Betsy Coble, Aaron Allen, Catherine Souza (clerical)

Others: Glen Miller, Dan Hazelton, Marcello Shelzi

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

Betsy Coble motioned to approve the minutes of the public meeting of February 6, 2024, seconded by Aaron Allen. Motion passed 3/0/0.

Aaron Allen motioned to approve the minutes of the public meeting of February 13, 2024, seconded by Betsy Coble. Motion passed 3/0/0.

Deed Repurchase Approval:

Topic moved to non-public meeting. The topic was posted on the agenda incorrectly.

Hazard Mitigation Plan update status:

The Orange Hazard Mitigation Plan Update has been formally approved, and it is the first to be approved in all of FEMA Region I. There are a few steps left which will be completed by the consultant firm, MAPS. A final document will be sent to the Select Board office. Once the document arrives, it will be available to be reviewed by any resident.

Other: Tabled from the February 6, 2024 meeting

- Recent Resignations
 - Pauline Emerson resigned from the Trustees of the Trust Funds as of January 31, 2024. Motion to accept Pauline's resignation was made by Tamara Fairbank, seconded by Betsy Coble. Motion passed 3/0/0.
 - As of January 18, 2024, Sandi Pierson has resigned all of her Town duties. Sandi stated her reason for resignation as "Due to the lack of reasonable road maintenance which impedes safe travel, effective immediately I resign from the Trustee of the Trust Funds, secretary to the ZBA, and the lien research agent for the tax collector." Motion to accept Sandi's resignation was made by Tamara Fairbank, seconded by Betsy Coble. Motion passed 3/0/0.
 - Both of the Trustee of the Trust positions were posted, with the Town Clerk, as open positions for the March 2024 Election Ballot.
- Heater 2nd floor request
 - In January, the Historical Commission requested a heater on the 2nd floor. A decision is now required in order to secure a spring or summer installation appointment from Inov8v Energy. The quote from Inov8v Energy is \$2600.00 for a Rinnai heater. If required, additional copper tubing cost is \$300. After discussion, a motion was made by Tamara Fairbank to approve the installation of the heater to be funded by the Historical Commission, seconded by Betsy Coble. Motion passed 2/1/0.

- Policy on town warming center
 - George Lazarus, Town of Canaan Emergency Management Director, has requested if the Town of Orange would make the Town House available as a warming center during storms.
 - Currently, an official policy does not exist. The Select Board is in favor of establishing a policy. The Select Board asked Catherine to draft a policy using other towns as inspiration.
- 2024 Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) – The Select Board reviewed the letter from the US Census concerning the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS). The Select Board directed Catherine to ask Scott Sanborn, current Planning Board chair, if this is related to the Perambulation task. Motion made by Betsy Coble to preliminary approve contributing to the Survey as long as Scott Sanborn can perform the task. Tamara Fairbank seconded. Motion passed 3/0/0.

Action Item list review:

- Action Items Completed:
 - Question: Why the Historical Commission funds are separate from the Town funds
 - Establish new email for Town Clerk
 - Draft Select Board letter to residents about change in Town Clerk phone and email due to new internet provider
 - Research what other towns the size of Orange do in the Parks & Recreation Committee – the Select Board will leave this to the Committee once it is created
- Action Items open:
 - Change locks and combinations: Exterior doors, SB office, TC office (in progress)
 - Disposal of old safe in Town Clerk's office (pushed to summer 2024)
 - ARPA Grafton Co funds: Septic project. Secure bids. (in progress)
 - ARPA Grafton Co funds: Bathroom renovation. Secure bids (in progress)
 - Select Board review of nonpublic minutes (in progress)
- Action Items New:
 - Final decision on Historical Commission reorganization: Society or Heritage Commission
 - Town Warming Center Policy

Secretary's Report:

- Secretary's Report
 - The Town has been contacted by a service provider to inspect and service the Fire Extinguishers. Motion made by Aaron Allen for Catherine to secure inspection and service of the Fire Extinguishers, seconded by Betsy Coble. Motion passed 3/0/0.
 - The new internet was installed on Monday February 19, 2024 by NH Broadband. The Town House internet service measures at 100 MB which is a significant change from Consolidated Communications service of 25 MB.
 - Catherine presented a draft letter about the internet and phone changes. Select Board signature for the letter to be done once the phone installation is complete.
 - The Town Report is completed and at the printer. The expectation is that the mailing will go out the week of February 26, 2024.
 - The Final Budget has been submitted and approved by the DRA. The Final Budget and Warrant Articles will be posted, inside and outside the Town House as well as on the Town website, on or before Monday February 26, 2024.
 - A survey request has been received concerning the impact of adding a second area code to NH businesses.
 - By 2027, NH is projected to exhaust the availability of telephone numbers within the 603 area code, at which time the state would be assigned an additional area code and

businesses requesting a new or additional telephone number may be assigned one that does not include the 603 area code.

- On October 31, 2023, Gov. Sununu established by Executive Order the ‘Don’t Overload the Code Initiative’ to extend and preserve the 603. The survey is from the NH Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs.
- The Select Board instructed Catherine to complete the survey on behalf of the town offices.

Reports from Boards and Committees:

- *Cemetery trustees:* none
- *Road Agent (Marcello Shelzi):*
 - Marcello is planning to post roads in the next two weeks.
 - Marcello is planning to put something together about snow removal guidelines and expectations to share with residents. More to come in the future.
- *Historical Commission:* none
- *Planning Board:* none
- *Conservation Commission:* none

Public comment:

- Kathy Stacy asked the following questions:
 - Clarification on the Warrant concerning the Road Agent: Catherine read the Warrant Article which the Town Lawyer had approved.
 - Will there be a potluck the night of Town Meeting: Dan Hazelton answered that there will be no Potluck at the Town Meeting.
 - Tax Collector report questions: Catherine provided the details that are included in the 2023 Town Report.

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Next Select Board meeting date confirmation: Tuesday March 5, 2024 at 6pm.

At 6:45pm Tamara Fairbank motioned to go into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3-c to discuss a personnel issue and a deed repurchase. Betsy Coble seconded. Motion passed 3/0/0. Motion by Betsy Coble to come out of nonpublic session at 7:05pm. Seconded by Tamara Fairbank. Motion passed 3/0/0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Tamara Fairbank, Chair

Aaron Allen

Betsy Coble

Select Board
Town of Orange, NH