

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Select Board Minutes of February 7, 2023*

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

Absent: Tamara Fairbank

Budget Committee members: Robert Proulx, David Stacy, Louis Shelzi

Other: Gulley Dunlap, Kathleen Stacy, Sharon Proulx

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: Betsy motioned to approve the minutes of January 17, 2023. Aaron seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Town meeting: SAU Superintendent Martha McDonald notified the town that the high school auditorium was not available for the March 15 town meeting. After discussion, the Board concurred it will be held at the Town House.

LCHIP: Doug and Trish Weekes shared with the Board a cost and grant summary of the Town House Restoration Project. They discussed the availability of matching funds for the LCHIP grant of \$43,501.00. After discussion the Board concurred that the remaining ARPA funds (\$26,290.70) could be accessed. Available revenue is also existing from the Moose Plate Grant (\$20,000.00) and the Town House Capital Reserve Fund (\$33,509.50). (A warrant article, if approved at town meeting, will place an additional \$10,000 into the Town House CRF.) Work on the restoration project is expected to begin in the spring. If exterior painting cannot be done by the end of this year, that part of the project can be postponed until 2024. Doug will prepare the bid packages for the work. Trish will check with LCHIP to affirm that ARPA revenue can be used as part of the matching funds.

Abatement: Due to Tamara's absence, the Board tabled Hilary Allen's abatement application.

Other:

- A notice was received from the State of NH that they have deposited \$8,186.74 into the town's account for the January Block Grant payment.

Other Select Board business and action items:

- Action items:
 - Updating tax maps: Avitar has not yet given a quote.
 - Richard Remale's contract has expired as of December 31. Scott Sanborn reports he is following up.

- 9-1-1 signs: Sandi is near completion of listing the properties and areas in town that should have a 9-1-1 sign. A number of places will need to get designated 9-1-1 addresses.
- Changing the locks at the Town House was tabled until after town voting.
- Aaron said he was told that the State was replacing the fire tower on Mount Cardigan. They will be upgrading the old Ranger Trail. He suggested the town acquire the present tower for historical purposes and place it at Williams Park. He suggested not using the full height, instead, only a single section of staircase.

Secretary's report:

- Accept for a suggested minor word change, Attorney Mitchell feels the warrant is in accurate order.
- Sandi asked if a small humidifier could be purchased for the Select Board's office due to the low humidity level the heaters cause during the winter. Projected cost is \$61.00. The Board concurred.
- Sandi felt that the overflow of parked cars at the Cardigan Mountain winter parking area, along the side of the road, would obstruct the passage of emergency vehicles. At times there up to 20 cars parked alongside the road, which is more narrow than usual due to the snow plowing. The Board will bring this to the attention of the State.
- Sandi asked if she could be excused from the office on Monday, February 13 due to a commitment. The Board concurred.
- There are no copies of Mae Williams Historic Building Assessment in the office. Scott and Aaron reported that they will return to the copies they have. Sandi will hold off on getting more printed.

Reports from Boards and Committees: n/a

Public comment:

- Doug Weekes asked if anyone signed up for the road agent position. No one has.
- Kathleen Stacy (referring to the Cardigan parking area issue) said that the town roads presently do not meet their required specifications.

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting recessed to reopen Budget Public Hearing

Select Board meeting reopened

Warrant: After a revision was made to the operating budget per the Budget Hearing, Aaron motioned for the Board to sign the warrant. Betsy seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

At 7:30 p.m. Sandi requested to go into nonpublic session in regards to a town-related telephone call she received at home. Betsy motioned to go into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3-c. Aaron seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

At 7:40 p.m. Betsy motioned to come out of nonpublic session. Aaron seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor. Aaron stated that no decisions were made in nonpublic session.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Tamara Fairbank, Chair

Aaron Allen

Betsy Coble