

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of January 3, 2023*

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

Other: Doug and Trish Weekes, Judith Lindahl

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: Betsy motioned to approve the minutes of December 20, 2022. Aaron seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

LCHIP: The Board recapped the Moose Plate and LCHIP grant work done by Trish and Doug Weekes on behalf of the Town House Restoration Committee which generated a total of \$63,501.00 that, along with existing town funds, will be used to complete essential work to the Town House. Trish noted that the volunteer hours put in by Doug, Aaron, and herself will be considered part of the matching funds to the LCHIP grant, called “payment-in-kind”. Doug summarized the work which will include the structural reinforcement of the roof, new roof, and the exterior painting of the building. Doug said he would prepare a detailed summary of the work for the town report. Doug and Trish are presently procuring individual project costs and contractor bids. Work is expected to commence in 2023; the painting may be done in 2024. After discussion, Tamara motioned for Doug and Trish Weekes to be duly authorized to enter into contracts or agreements or otherwise bind the Town of Orange for contractual obligations, and further are authorized to execute any documents which may in their judgement to be desirable or necessary to affect the purposes of the Town House Restoration Project. Betsy seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Animal complaint: The Board reviewed a letter from David Wilson regarding a neighbor’s animals coming onto his property and damaging the vegetation. After discussion the Board concurred to forward the information to the appropriate agency.

Other:

- A notice was received from the State of NH that they have deposited \$24,135.42 into the town’s account for the 2022 Meals and Rooms revenue.
- A notice was received from the State of NH that they have deposited \$26,507.49 into the town’s account for the one-time bridge payment in accordance with Senate Bill 401. On this year’s warrant, the Board will ask the voters to place these funds into a newly-established Bridge Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of maintenance, construction, and/or reconstruction of municipally-owned bridges, which is in compliance to the purpose of the funds as specified by the State.

- Metal signage was received from the State of NH Moose Plate program displaying their grant contribution toward the Town House restoration project. The Board concurred to have this posted on the Town House during construction and at the front door entryway afterwards.

Other Select Board business and action items:

- Action items:
 - Updating tax maps: The Board asked Sandi to get a quote from Avitar both with and without access to Scott Sanborn's database.
 - Richard Remale's contract has expired as of December 31.
 - The culvert near Kip Riley's residence needs to be addressed by the highway department.
 - Monthly road agent reports have not been forthcoming.
 - Betsy and Tamara made appointments to visit Hilary Allen's property in order to make a decision on her abatement application.
 - The first order of 9-1-1 signs has been received.
- Aaron asked the Board to consider doing the town report in color. The Board asked Sandi to check with Gnomon Copy on the cost.

Secretary's report:

- Addressed to the Orange Police Department from Galaxy Publishing, are two boxes of books and DVDs written and produced by L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of Scientology. An enclosed letter noted they were complimentary. The Board concurred they can be disposed of.
- A first-draft copy of the 2023 warrant was distributed. The Select Board and Budget Committee will take it up at their joint budget meeting.
- The financial summary of the 2022 budget from the Select Board's office was distributed in anticipation of the joint budget meeting.
- Sandi requested a five-week leave of absence at the end of March for recreational purposes. She recommended Lynne Paul to fill in. Lynne works with Sandi at the Grafton Library, is the Grafton town treasurer, and runs a small business. The Board concurred.

Reports from Boards and Committees:

- Tamara stated that the Historical Commission will meet on February 6 at 7 p.m.

Public comment: n/a

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 7:06 p.m.

Tamara Fairbank, Chair

Aaron Allen

Betsy Coble