

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Select Board Minutes of July 5, 2023*

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

Absent: Betsy Coble

Others: Don Burke, Joe Franzino, Chris Hausfeld, Judith Lindahl, Karen McFarlane, Brent Stevens, Renee Theall

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

- Aaron Allen motioned to approve the minutes of the public meeting on June 20, 2023. Tamara Fairbank seconded. Motion passed 2/0/0.

Timber:

- Select Board approved and signed 2023 Timber applications for two locations on Eastman Road (Fellers and Baldwin). Motion to accept Aaron Allen, seconded by Tamara Fairbank. Motion passed 2/0/0.
- Baldwin completion of 2022 Intent to cut. Select Board approved and signed tax warrant. Motion to accept Aaron Allen, seconded by Tamara Fairbank. Motion passed 2/0/0.

Building permit applications: TABLED to next meeting

Municipal Services Reporting:

- The Select Board reviewed and signed the MS-535 Financial Report of the Budget. Motion to accept Aaron Allen, seconded by Tamara Fairbank. Motion passed 2/0/0.
- The Select Board reviewed the MS-60 Report of Auditor. Motion to accept Aaron Allen, seconded by Tamara Fairbank. Motion passed 2/0/0.
 - Recommended Action on how monies are to be secured in the Select Board office
- The Select Board signed the MS-60-W Audit Waiver Request. The waiver is allowed due to the population of the town RSA 41:31-c. The Select Board will contract with Cohos Advisors to prepare Parts 1 and 2 of the MS-50 and MS535 for 2022. Motion to accept Aaron Allen, seconded by Tamara Fairbank. Motion passed 2/0/0.

Avitar Assessment Updates:

Select Board reviewed letter from Avitar concerning Current Use applications.

May 2023 Treasurer's report and Select Board Reconciliation: The final report of the Treasurer is not available. The delayed data was received from the Town Clerk on July 1. The transition to online version of Quick Books has been less than smooth. The Treasurer expects the issues to be resolved and be ready for the July 18th meeting.

Other:

- *Tax Payer Assistance letter:*
The Select Board approved and signed a letter to be sent to Orange Residents advising of help for Homeowners who are behind in paying property taxes. The same information was sent via email on May 17.

- *DES Solid Waste Report:* The Select Board reviewed a letter from the Department of Environmental Services related to a concern about a Solid Waste Permit for Hammond Grinding & Recycling. A response was received from Hammond's with a copy to the State. No further action is required.
- *Town of Boscawen Public Notice:* The Select Board reviewed a Public Notice from the Town of Boscawen concerning a request for a Conditional Use Permit and Major Site Plan to construct and operate a 120' wireless communications facility. The permit was submitted by Nixon Peabody for Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems (d/b/a Version Wireless).
- *ARPA Grafton County application update:* The Town's application has been approved for \$40,000. The check was received July 3rd. TABLED to next meeting for final discussion on project timeline.
- *FRAN update from Treasurer:* The Select Board viewed a report from the Treasurer about the FRAN status as of June 30, 2023. It is for informational purposes only. Additional payments are expected.

Other Select Board business and action items:

- Any other business: None
- Action Items Completed:
 - Share outcome of NH Municipal legal team about minutes of meetings to all Board chairs
 - Advise residents of Select Board meeting change (to July 5)
 - Research best practices on how to share NH Municipalities Article re: residents behind on taxes
 - Apply for The Town of Orange to be part of the Coaching Assistance group for Grants
- Action Items New:
 - Research who others towns are using as an assessor
 - Post all Town boards and committees approved minutes on Town website
 - Post Select Board meeting dates on website and advise residents
 - Confirm date for Town wide Bulky Waste Disposal date
 - Road Agent questions to Marcello (Tuttle Hill, Wheeler Road)

Secretary's report:

- Action required:
 - Eastman Slow Down sign removed – A resident spoke to Marcello. Road agent to review 'Hard Road to Travel' document.
- Catherine provided a recommendation to post all Town boards and committees approved minutes on the Town Website. Motion to accept Aaron Allen, seconded by Tamara Fairbank. Motion passed 2/0/0.
 - ACTION: Post approved minutes on website (Catherine)
- Town of Orange Select Board meeting dates – Catherine provided a recommendation to post the 2023 Select Board meeting dates on the town website. Motion to accept Aaron Allen/Tamara Fairbank. Motion passed 2/0/0.
 - ACTION: Post meeting dates on website and advise residents (Catherine)
- Town Large Trash Pickup date – Catherine provided the cost and availability of dumpsters from Casella's. Date to be confirmed at next meeting.

Reports from Boards and Committees:

- *Cemetery trustees:* None
- *Road Agent:* None (Could not attend the meeting)
- *Planning Board:* At the June 27 meeting, the Planning Board approved a subdivision of land at 342 Tuttle Hill Road.

Public comment:

- Joe Franzino shared questions on tax map with Aaron Allen. Joe submitted a new driveway application. Road Agent to review. To be discussed at the next Select Board meeting.
- Chris Hausfeld: Question on Avitar action - was it performance or cost? Is there a high speed internet option for the Town House? When is Tuttle Hill to be graded? The road is in bad shape. Catherine took the action to reach out to Marcello for information.
- Don Burke – What is the status of paving for Wheeler Road? The dirt at the beginning of the road is causing a mess for the residents. The people who use the rail trail are also impacting the status of the road. Aaron Allen responded that the Road Agent will review and advise options for clean-up of the first part of the road or paving and the budget implications.
- Renee Theall – Same question as Chris on the Avitar action. Exciting news on the ARPA funds.
- Brent Stevens – Backup generator is 8-10 years old and Brent services the generator. Brent has purchased and installed a new 12-volt battery in the generator.

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed

Next meeting date confirmation: July 18th at 6pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Tamara Fairbank, Chair

Aaron Allen

Betsy Coble