

*Office of the Select Board  
Town of Orange, New Hampshire  
Minutes of March 10, 2020*

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

*Others:* Alasdair Dunlap-Smith, Alex Smith, Chris Hausfeld, Trish Weekes, Doug Weekes, Judith Lindahl, Amy Tirpaeck, and Danny Hazelton.

*Meeting opened at 10:07 a.m. Attendance taken by the secretary.*

*Minutes:* The minutes of February 25, 2020 were unanimously approved as submitted.

*Treasurer's report:* The Board reviewed the February 2020 treasurer's report and Select Board reconciliation. All figures were on target and Dorothy signed the report.

*2019 Audit (MS-60):* The Board was in receipt of the 2019 audit as submitted by the town's auditor, Ruth Conwell. Each member of the Board will review it before it is submitted to the DRA.

Dorothy reported that the DRA has informed the Select Board that the town auditor is required to be a resident of Orange, even if it's an appointed position. The present auditor lives in Canaan. Dorothy asked Sandi to follow up with the Local Government Center to see what options the town has.

*Town Clerk:* The Board reviewed a request from Town Clerk Amy Tirpaeck and candidate for town clerk, Michelle Goffreda, to have the town clerk's annual stipend paid in monthly disbursements. The Board unanimously concurred contingent on Michelle assuming the office. Sandi will follow up to be sure the payment schedule is in accordance with the Department of Labor timeline protocol.

*Roads and bridges:*

- The Board was in receipt of a municipal nodal map from the NH DOT requesting it be reviewed for updates relative to reclassifying, accepting, and/or discontinuing town roads. This will be forwarded to Road Agent Scott Sanborn for review.
- The Board was in receipt of the annual bridge report from the NH DOT. The only bridge listed as "red lettered" is on Brock Hill over Brown Brook, which is weight-posted. The DOT reported that no further posting nor closure actions needs to be taken by the town.

*FEMA:*

- Dorothy said she met with Scott Sanborn and NH Emergency Management representative Paul Hatch regarding the road and brook reconstruction process. Dorothy will sign a letter asking for a six-month extension on the debris removal from Orange Brook in the

vicinity of New Colony Road and Williams Road. She stated that by the time the reviews and discussions were completed with FEMA and DES, winter had set in.

- Dorothy said that Scott expects to have the RFPs (road work specifications for the bidding process) ready at the end of the week.
- Dorothy requested that all officers in town keep track of time spent on FEMA-related administration. This can be reimbursed by FEMA for up to 5% of the overall project costs without a 25% liability to the town.
- After discussion, the Board unanimously voted to have the town treasurer open a Mascoma Savings Bank account to manage FEMA funds so they can be accounted for separate from the municipal budget. The Board will sign a letter to the bank authorizing the opening of the account and open it with a balance of \$100 from the highway department budget.
- Chris Hausfeld asked if the cost of the surveying of the brook reclamation was included in the project. Dorothy affirmed it was.

*Septic:* Aaron reported that the town's septic tank has been pumped out. He said the issue is that during a town-wide event, the usage of the water drainage surpasses the rate of drainage into the leach field (percolation process). After discussion, it was agreed that Aaron will get together with Brent Stevens to evaluate the effectiveness of the leach field.

*Town meeting warrant:* Dorothy summarized the articles on the 2020 warrant. The following discussions ensued:

- Answering questions from the audience about the article that would expand the qualifications of the veteran exemption, Dorothy noted that presently the town is issuing \$1,600 in veteran credits. Veterans that were denied, but would be eligible for the expanded criterion (should they reapply) totaled an additional \$1,200. That does not include veterans in town that may apply for the first time. This was included on the warrant by the Board upon the request of a resident.
- Regarding the article about repurposing the Road Improvement Capital Reserve to be for the July 11 flood-related road reconstruction, Chris Hausfeld asked if that meant no capital reserve funds would be targeted for overall road improvements. After discussion, the Board affirmed that presently the Road Improvement Capital Reserve is aimed toward the repaving of roads, and that was intent of the \$30,000 deposit approved by the voters in 2019. Tam said that at this time the priority is defraying the 25% cost to the town of food-damaged roads, which is the reason they are asking the voters to repurpose the capital reserve. This led into a discussion about the need of an overall capital improvement plan that would encompass the long-range planning of the town's needs, including the improvement of gravel roads as well as paved ones.

*Other:*

- A notice was received from the State that they have deposited a FEMA reimbursement payment of \$68,825.06 into the town's account.
- The Board reviewed the Drummond Woodsum attorney hourly fee rates effective April 1.
- The Board was in receipt of a letter from Governor Chris Sununu asking them to tell their representatives to support House Bill 1402 which establishes procedures for municipal host customer-generators of electrical energy.

*Secretary's report:*

- The Board voted unanimously in favor to abate the 2019 \$88.72 excavation tax for Robert Senter. Sandi will follow up with the paperwork.

*Public comment:*

- Judith Lindahl noted that she would no longer be on the Planning Board after town meeting. She said it was her opinion that no action needs to be taken by the town on the Standard Mine property in regards to checking for land use changes that would affect its current use status.

*Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.*

*Meeting adjourned 11:a.m.*

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Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

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Tamara Fairbank

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Aaron Allen