

*Office of the Select Board  
Town of Orange, New Hampshire  
Select Board Minutes of March 19, 2024*

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

*Others:* Glenn Miller, Kathy Stacy, Dave Stacy, Trish Weekes

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

*Pledge of Allegiance*

*Introduction of New Select Board:*

- Welcome to the newest Select Board member, Sandi Pierson.
- Betsy Coble nominated Aaron Allen to be the Select Board chair, seconded by Sandi Pierson. Motion passed 2/0/1 with Aaron abstaining.
- Aaron Allen nominated Betsy Coble as Select Board Vice-chair, seconded by Sandi Pierson. Motion passed 2/0/1 with Betsy abstaining.

*Minutes:*

Betsy Coble motioned to approve the minutes of the public meeting of March 5, 2024, seconded by Aaron Allen. Motion passed 2/0/1 with Sandi abstaining as she was not present.

*New Loan Documents:*

As approved at the Town Meeting, Warrant Article 10 details about a new note:

With FEMA reimbursements now largely complete, and the FEMA Repayment Anticipation Note (FRAN) due April 4, 2024, the Select Board will refinance that note of \$151,945.43, as permitted by the 2020 Warrant Article 6. The Select Board and Budget Committee recommend a new, three-year note, first payment due 2025, and \$84,000.00 from the Unassigned Fund Balance applied to reduce the note principal, beginning in the first year.

The Board reviewed and signed the new loan papers for a Mascoma Bank loan total of \$151,945.43 with an interest rate of 6%.

Betsy Coble made a motion to apply the expected administrative funds reimbursement from FEMA to the principle of the loan, seconded by Sandi Pierson. Motion passed 3/0/0.

*Avitar Updated Map Status:*

The draft of the updated maps are in process of being reviewed by Catherine Souza, Aaron Allen and Scott Sanborn. Avitar will not bill the Town until the maps are complete.

*MS 232: Report of Appropriations:*

The Select Board signed the MS-232, the Report of Appropriations Actually Voted. Since no amendments were made to the 2024 budget at the Town meeting, the MS-232 is the same as the MS-7 Budget report.

*Letter to residents (internet and phone change):*

The Select Board signed a letter informing residents of the phone and internet service provider change at the Town House. The Town Clerk and Select Board office will be on the same line with extensions. The Town

Clerk email has changed. The letter will be sent with the 2024 Orange Informational Directory and posted on the Town website.

*Razor Hill Excavation (Robert Senter)*

The Board reviewed the 2023-2024 Report of Excavation and the Tax Collector's Warrant of \$73.20. Motion made by Aaron Allen, seconded by Sandi Pierson to abate the \$73.20. Motion passed 3/0/0. The Select Board signed the abatement documentation.

Motion made by Aaron Allen, seconded by Sandi Pierson to accept the 2024-2025 Intent to Excavate. Motion passed 3/0/0.

*2024 Orange Informational Directory approval:*

The Select Board reviewed the draft document and asked Catherine to add Kathy Stacy as the lead for the newly established Parks & Recreation Commission. Motion made by Aaron Allen, seconded by Betsy Coble to have the document printed by Gnomon Copy. Motion passed 3/0/0.

*Select Board Assignments to Committees & Boards:*

The first meeting of the Town Boards and Commission for the new year, shall be called to order by the Select Board ex-officio representative.

*2024 Board and Commission assignments (Select Board as ex-officio):*

- Planning Board – Betsy Coble. First meeting March 26<sup>th</sup> where officers will be elected.
- ZBA – Sandi Pierson. First meeting March 25<sup>th</sup> where officers will be elected.
- Budget - Sandi Pierson. First meeting at April 2<sup>nd</sup> Select Board meeting for officer election.
- Parks and Recreation – Aaron Allen. First meeting at April 2<sup>nd</sup> Select Board meeting for officer election.
- Conservation - Aaron Allen. First meeting at April 2<sup>nd</sup> Select Board meeting for officer election.
- Road Agent liaison – Aaron Allen

Motion made by Sandi Pierson, seconded by Betsy Coble to accept the above Select Board ex-officio 2024 Board and Commission assignments. Motion passed 3/0/0.

Motion by Sandi Pierson, seconded by Betsy Coble for Sandi to be the interim ex-officio for the Historical Commission meeting on Monday April 1.

*Action Item list review:*

- Action Items Completed:
  - Select Board review of nonpublic minutes
- 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)
  - Final decision on Historical Commission reorganization: Society or Heritage Commission
  - Town Warming Center Policy
- Action Items New:
  - Investigate options for a possible cell phone for the Road Agent
  - Catherine invite Board and Commission members to the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Select Board meeting.

*Secretary's Report:*

- ZBA hearing scheduled for Monday March 25<sup>th</sup>. Topic is the variance requested for 127 New Colony Rd. Catherine will be the ZBA Secretary.
- Resident update: Chester (Chet) Orban - 324 Burnt Hill Rd. Unforeseen circumstances forced him to stay in FL beyond his planned date of end Dec 2023. He wanted the Town and the Select Board to know he would be returning in mid-April and welcomes visitors. He is not a hermit!
- Catherine to share last year's snow removal contract with the new Road Agent.
- Inov8v Energy sent a bill for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor heater.
- Catherine has a vacation planned for April 25 through May 8. The May 7<sup>th</sup> Select Board agenda will be managed via email. Catherine to secure a note taker substitute for the meeting.

*Reports from Boards and Committees:*

- *Cemetery trustees:* none
  - *Road Agent report:* none
  - *Historical Commission:* none
  - *Planning Board:* none
  - *Conservation Commission:* none
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- Thank you to Glenn from Sandi Pierson for the gravel spread on Burnt Hill Rd.
  - Aaron noted that the No Trespassing sign has appeared again on Town House Road. Aaron to follow up with Town House Rd residents.

*Public comment:*

From Kathy Stacy:

- Thank you to the Select Board and Road Agent for the road work done on Tuttle Hill Rd.
- Would the town would sponsor a cell phone for the Road Agent? Betsy asked Catherine to investigate options.
- Noted that the February 20<sup>th</sup> minutes omitted Kathy and Dave Stacy from the attendees.

*Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.*

*Next Select Board meeting date confirmation:* Tuesday April 2, 2024 at 6pm.

*Meeting adjourned at 7:14pm*

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Aaron Allen, Chair

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Betsy Coble

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Sandi Pierson

Select Board  
Town of Orange, NH