

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Select Board Minutes of March 21, 2023*

Present: Tamara Fairbank, Chair; Aaron Allen, Sandi Pierson (clerical)

Absent: Betsy Coble

Other: Marcello Shelzi, Michelle Goffreda, Fred Hammond

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: Aaron motioned to approve the minutes of March 7, 2023. Tam seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Property assessment: Fred Hammond came before the Board to discuss the newly-assessed 0.275 acre-lot owned by the Estate of Annie Hammond. He questioned why the tax bill is \$671.35 when the abutting lot that he owns is 1.5 acres with a tax bill of \$86.70. He would prefer to relinquish the lot to the town but not through the process of nonpayment of taxes. After discussion, the Board agreed to contact Avitar and ask them to justify the assessment.

FEMA Recovery Anticipation Note (FRAN): Tamara motioned to have Treasurer Trish Weekes request of Mascoma Savings Bank to roll the FEMA loan which is due on April 12, 2023. Aaron seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Razor Hill Excavation (Bobby Senter):

- The Board reviewed the 2022-23 Report of Excavation and tax collector's warrant of \$93.60. After discussion, Aaron motioned to abate the \$93.60. Tamara seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.
- The Board reviewed and signed the 2023-24 Intent to Excavate.

Intent to Cut: The Board reviewed and signed an Intent to Cut for Robert E. Lee/Cardigan Mountain State Forest contract/Tug Mountain Road access. Mr. Lee submitted a bond last year but did not do any cutting due to the terrain conditions. The treasurer still has the bond in escrow and will be applied to this year's timber taxes.

Treasurer's report: The Board reviewed the February 2023 Treasurer's report and Select Board reconciliation. All figures were on target and the Chair signed the report.

Other: n/a

Other Select Board business and action items:

- Action items:
 - Updating tax maps: Sandi is following up with Avitar.

- Richard Remaclé's 2023 contract has been received and signed.
- 9-1-1 signs: Aaron has completed 130 signs to date.
- Changing the locks at the Town House: Tamara to follow up.
- Need to follow up on the culvert by Kip Riley's house in the spring.
- Hilary Allen's abatement application: Avitar reported that the applicant has decided to withdraw the application.
- Secretarial job applicant: Tamara to make preliminary phone calls to the applicants and set up appointments to meet with the Board.
- Aaron recapped the issue of the rest room that is out of order. The Board concurred that it is time for both toilet units to be replaced and use the Town House capital outlay line item to pay for it. Aaron will contact Martin Mechanical. He will also have a septic camera used to determine why that particular toilet has had ongoing issues.
- Tamara spoke about a protocol for new town employees that would include background checks.
- The Board discussed having a five-year improvement plan for roads.

Secretary's report:

- Charles Baldwin requested an Intent to Cut extension to June 30 as allowed by the State. Aaron motioned to approve the extension. Tamara seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.
- WaveComm has not yet paid their 2022 tax bill of \$666.90 and no longer has taxable property in Orange. Sandi suggested that during the pick-up process, to bring their present value down to zero but not delete the company out of the system until the tax issue is resolved. The Board concurred.
- Following up to a question at town meeting, Sharon Proulx reports that no one does a prepayment of taxes for a year or two ahead. If anything, a credit (overpayment or abatement) may be applied to the following year, but even that is negligible.
- Sandi said that the Moderator and Supervisors are paid for both voting day and town meeting because it is mandatory that they attend. She questioned why the town clerk is not given a similar stipend considering her attendance is required to record the minutes. Tamara asked Michelle to follow up on the protocol.

Road Agent: Town Clerk Michelle Goffreda administered the oath of office to newly-elected road agent Marcello Shelzi. The Board thanked Marcello for assuming the position.

Reports from Boards and Committees:

- n/a

Public comment:

- Michelle Goffreda said she would like to apply for the secretarial position. Tam said she would include her in the applicant interviews.

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed

Nonpublic session: At 7:00 p.m. Tamara motioned to go into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3-c to review two veteran credit applications. Aaron seconded. Motion passed unanimously

in favor. Motion to come out of nonpublic session at 7:15. Tam seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Tamara Fairbank, Chair

Aaron Allen

Betsy Coble