

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of March 23, 2021*

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

Others: Doug Weekes, Trish Weekes, and Michelle Gofredda.

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

Minutes: The minutes of March 9, 2021 were unanimously approved as submitted.

Fire protection request for information: The Board signed a cover letter accompanying a collection of photographs and information of the area fire departments that cover Orange. This was for a student from Boston who requested this information for a school project.

Razor Hill Excavation (Bobby Senter):

- The Board received Bobby Senter's Report of Excavated Material from April 2020 to May 2020. Because of the impromptu, gratuitous work Bobby has done on behalf of the town, the Board voted unanimously to abate the \$100.62 in excavation taxes.
- The Board signed Bobby Senter's Notice of Intent to Excavate for 2021-2022.

Treasury:

- The February 2021 Treasurer's report and Select Board reconciliation were reviewed. All figures were on target and the Chair signed the report.
- TAN: The paperwork was finalized by the Select Board, Treasurer, and Town Clerk for the 2021 Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$510,000.00. Tamara motioned to accept the TAN as processed; Aaron seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.
- Trish Weekes recapped the financial report of the FEMA Recovery Anticipation Note as included in the 2020 town report. She reiterated that the one-year note is due to Mascoma Savings Bank on June 12, 2021. After discussion, the Board concurred that Tamara will follow up with Road Agent Scott Sanborn to see where he is on the process of submitting the financial documentation to the State for FEMA reimbursement and to ask that he attend the next meeting to update the Select Board.

Legal Counsel: The Board, Treasurer, and Secretary discussed the legal work and legal counsel done for the town since the local law firm of Gardner, Fulton and Waugh was absorbed by the multi-state law firm of Drummond Woodsum. All concurred that legal work that has always been processed in a routine, straightforward manner by Gardner, Fulton and Waugh, such as deed preparation, town meeting counsel, and tax anticipation notes, with Drummond Woodsum has become complex, extremely protracted, and much more expensive. Dorothy reiterated conversations she has had with personnel from other area small towns who are using the local law firm Mitchell and Bates, and how satisfied they have been with their representation. The

Board concurred that Dorothy will follow up with Mitchell and Bates and report back to the Board for further discussion on the matter.

200 Tuttle Hill (town-owned property): Per the Select Board's request at the last meeting, Sandi reported on the expenses to the town to date for the property at 200 Tuttle Hill Road that the town currently has on the market. Payments made for clean-up, legal counsel, health officer time and expense, and miscellaneous total \$11,393.62. Back taxes with penalties and fees are \$8,300.20. Total is \$19,693.82. The property is listed with Vanessa Stone Real Estate; a contract that expires on November 17, 2021. The Board concurred that a sale of the property would need to cover the expenses, back taxes, realtor fee, and closing costs.

Other:

- A Report of Timber Cut was received from Guy Sanborn for the Bachelor property. There was no cut made during the year thus no yield tax warrant to process.
- The Board affirmed that the Broadband Committee was an ad hoc committee working on behalf of the town toward internet options for Orange residents.
- Dorothy and Jay Heinrichs collected a full bag of litter on the Tuttle Hill/Cardigan Mountain Road area. There are four discarded tires that need to be picked up.

Other Select Board business:

- Dorothy said that the first zoom meeting of the Hazardous Mitigation Update Committee is scheduled for April 12 at 7 p.m.

Secretary's report:

- Drummond Woodsum attorney Matt Decker sent an email saying we should follow up on the two town-owned properties recently sold by the town to determine if the proceeds outweighed the cost to the town, thus compensation may be due to the former owners. Sandi said that the sale to Chuck Baldwin was previously tax-deeded from "Owner Unknown" thus no individual exists. The 0.65-acre sold to the Moores for \$2,946.00 was tax-deeded fifteen years ago from a person who purchased it directly after World War II. The tax collector affirmed to Sandi that back taxes, penalties, and fees have surpassed the selling price.
- Aaron had asked to purchase a 2020 copy of Knowing the Territory, a publication of the New Hampshire Municipal Association. Sandi said the 2021 edition should be available by April 7. Aaron agreed the 2021 edition is preferable.
- The 2020 Cares grant payment for absentee ballots was never received by the town. Bud Fitch from the Secretary of State's office said the \$366.16 payment was sent to the town on December 21 but never cashed. He will resubmit the payment to the town.

Reports from Boards and Committees: n/a

Public comment:

- Trish said she and Doug are continuing to follow up on LCHIP and other grants that may be available for town house restoration purposes.

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 7:45 p.m.

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

Tamara Fairbank

Aaron Allen