

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of May 12, 2020*

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

Others: Gulley Dunlap, Michael Skuhersky, Trish Weekes, Doug Weekes, and Danny Hazelton.

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

Minutes: The minutes of April 28, 2020 were unanimously approved as submitted.

Warrant: Dorothy reported that Superior Court has approved the town's petition for a special town meeting to be held on May 27, 2020. The Board reviewed the warrant for the special town meeting. At the previously-held public hearing, Tam and Dorothy had voted to recommend both articles. Aaron did not attend the hearing. Therefore, Aaron voted for the Board to unanimously recommend the two articles and sign the warrant. Tamara seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor. Sandi will post warrant, publish notice of it in the Valley News, and include it in the town-wide mailing.

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

Tuttle Hill Road property: The Board discussed with Health Officer Doug Weekes an eventual clean-up of the town-owned property at 200 Tuttle Hill Road. It was agreed the clean-up cost could be considerable because of the excessive amount of junk on the property and the derelict condition of the structure. Doug will contact a couple of contractors who have dealt with total property clean-ups in other towns and will report back to the Board.

Trash concern: The Board discussed with Health Officer Doug Weekes the situation of excessive trash and junk cars at a Peaslee Road property. After discussion, it was agreed that Doug will speak to both the tenant and property owner and try to arrange a clean-up plan, including how to recoup any cost incurred by the town.

Voting procedure: The Board discussed with Moderator Danny Hazelton the procedure for the May 27 special town meeting, specifically in regards to the Covid 19 limitations. After discussion, the Moderator and Board concurred with the following procedure: There will be two zoom meetings conducted by the Moderator: one to open the meeting and invite subsequent public comment by various means, and a second zoom meeting to announce the comments. On May 27 the ballot box will be open between 6 and 7 p.m. for drive-thru voting. Full details are posted on www.orangenh.us and will be included in the town-wide mailing. Also in the mailing will be a FAQ sheet about the warrant articles and the annual informational directory. Danny stated that he endorses and approves the meeting plan. He thanked Jay Heinrichs for

coordinating the zoom meetings. Dorothy thanked Sandi for the work she's done on the town meeting process.

MS-535 (Financial Report of the Town): The Board discussed the necessity of finalizing the 2019 MS-535. The town auditor had reported that the DRA will not approve the final balance sheet. The auditor feels she has gone as far as she can with the report because of the problematical discrepancies from years past. Dorothy said she has spoken to CPA Mike Campo from the firm Plodzick and Sanderson, and he has given an estimate of between \$2,000 and \$2,500 to research and complete the report. This will include an analysis of the town's accounting methods and recommendations on how to proceed in the future. After discussion, Tam motioned to approve having Mike Campo proceed at the projected cost. Aaron seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor. Sandi recapped that the DRA has disqualified Ruth Conwell as the town auditor for future years because State statute requires the auditor be a resident of the town, which Ruth is not.

Note of appreciation: The Board signed a note of appreciation to Ken Guanieri of Burnt Hill Road for cleaning up the litter on his road.

Secretary's report: Avitar has requested all asset inventories from the utility companies due to the complexity of the change to their valuation for the tax year 2020. Sandi has compiled the data and mailed it to them.

Reports from Boards and Committees: n/a

Public comment: n/a

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 6:45 p.m.

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

Tamara Fairbank

Aaron Allen