

*Office of the Select Board  
Town of Orange, New Hampshire  
Minutes of May 17, 2022*

*Present:* Tamara Fairbank, Aaron Allen, Betsy Coble, and Sandi Pierson (clerical)

*Other:* Gulley Dunlap, Anita Garland

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

*Pledge of Allegiance*

*Minutes:* The minutes of May 3, 2022 were unanimously approved as submitted.

*Timber taxes:* The Board signed two timber tax warrants:

- John Morse/New Colony Road/Map 6, Lot 6: \$3,205.54. Sandi noted that Spruce Ridge LLC has just purchased the Morse property.
- Ossipee Mountain Land Company (OMLC)/Mount Cardigan State Forest Cut on New Colony Road: \$1,347.30. OMLC still has \$2,004.42 remaining in their bond account. The Board signed a letter to the treasurer requesting she submit a check to the tax collector for the timber taxes and, because the job is complete, to return the balance of \$657.12 to OMLC.

*Abatement:* Tamara and Betsy signed a letter to Aaron Allen and David Allen notifying them that they approved payment of a 2021 property tax rebate of \$270.86 for 127 New Colony Road as voted on May 3, 2022.

*Treasurer's report:* The Board reviewed the April 2022 Treasurer's report and Select Board reconciliation. All figures were on target and the Chair signed the report.

*Culvert Grant:* The Board reviewed information about a culvert grant offered by NH-DES. Municipalities may apply for up to \$400,000 for culvert replacements to mitigate flooding. After discussion, the Board concurred that they should proceed. Because the road agent may not be able to fit another project into his schedule, the Board agreed they could do a town-wide review. Sandi said that she offered to Scott that she would do the application process. The Board will follow up with Scott.

*Other:*

- Alex Smith has signed his oath of office to be on the ZBA. Anita signed her ZBA oath of office following the meeting.
- The annual report of the Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice was received.
- A draft of Grafton County's 2023 proposed budget was received.
- Information was received about NH DOT bridge aid and mitigation.

*Other Select Board business and action items:*

- Aaron shared estimates he received for remodeling the Town House bathrooms to make them more ADA compliant. Sandi will submit the project details and cost to the Local Equipment Grant to see if the project is eligible. The grant would pay 90% of the \$21,265.13 projected cost.
- Tamara said that Gatekeepers declined on the job of opening the safe in the town clerk's office. They referred her to another vendor.
- The Board expressed appreciation to Ken Guarnieri for assisting Aaron in unplugging the culvert on Burnt Hill which has been subject to beaver activity.

*Secretary's report:*

- All information requested by Attorney Mitchell regarding the residential junk issue has been submitted.
- Alice Smith emailed the town to say she has decided not to continue as a ZBA member. The ZBA presently has five members, which is the quorum. There should be a couple of alternates. After discussion, the Board asked Sandi to send out a town-wide email asking if anyone is interested.
- Sandi asked if the Board wanted to take responsibility for calculating the logging job matrix which is used to set the high-low range of timber tax rates. After discussion, the Board concurred to leave the process as is.
- Last year the Board approved an air purifier for the Select Board's office to be paid from ARPA funds but it was not followed through. After discussion the Board approved the purchase of a Medify-25 air purifier at a cost of \$127.99 (not including an extra filter).

*Reports from Boards and Committees:*

- Anita said that they will be hosting another Old Graveyard Association workshop on Sunday, May 21. Participants will meet at the Common Cemetery on Tug Mountain Road. Sandi will send out a town-wide email in regards.
- Tamara said the Historical Commission book sale is scheduled for Friday, June 4 for residents and Saturday, June 5 for the general public.

*Public comment: n/a*

*Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.*

*Meeting adjourned 7:15 p.m.*

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Tamara Fairbank, Chair

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Aaron Allen

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Betsy Coble