

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of May 25, 2021*

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

Others: Judith Lindahl and Brian Rogers

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

Approval of minutes:

- The minutes of May 11, 2021 were unanimously approved as submitted.
- The nonpublic minutes of May 11, 2021 were unanimously approved as submitted.

Sale of the old town truck: The Select Board opened three sealed bids for the sale of the old town truck. Minimum bid was set at \$3,500. (Previously it was set at \$5,000 but no bid had been received for that amount.) The bids for the \$3,500 minimum were as follows: Brian Rogers: \$3,855; Cory Roberts: \$5,000; Dyer's Welding: \$4,201. Dorothy motioned to accept the high bid from Cory Roberts. Tamara seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor. Aaron will notify the bidders of the Board's decision. Aaron motioned to appoint Sandi as the agent to sign over the truck title on behalf of the Board. Tamara seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

School residency: The Board reviewed the Orange student residency list for the Mascoma School District. The Board concurred it was correct and the Chair signed the cover page.

Treasurer's report: The Board reviewed the April 2021 Treasurer's report and Select Board reconciliation. All figures were on target and the Chair signed the report.

Revaluation: The Board signed a letter to the Trustees of the Trust Funds directing them to withdraw \$11,700.00 from the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of paying for phase two of the 2020-21 town-wide revaluation. The measure and list phase of the revaluation was held off until 2021 due to COVID-19.

200 Tuttle Hill Road: The Board revisited the Purchase and Sales Agreement approved and signed at the May 11 meeting for the sale of the tax-deeded property at 200 Tuttle Hill Road. Mitchell Municipal Group, the town's attorneys, recommended that the property not be sold with a warranty deed (as stipulated in the Purchase and Sales Agreement) but instead be transferred with a quit claim deed, the latter being the standard procedure for selling town property. Sandi contacted the buyer, Bill Van Orden, who agreed to the issuance of a quit claim deed. Mr. Van Orden signed an addendum to the Purchase and Sales Agreement for a quit claim deed and the Board approved and signed it. The Board said the attorney may proceed with preparing the deed for the closing.

Mr. Van Orden had asked Sandi if he could begin work on the property before the closing and offered to sign an indemnification form, which legally protects the seller from claims or liabilities prior to the transfer. After discussion, the Board declined to sign the indemnification, noting that that closing will take place without delay.

Town House mask mandate: After discussing the Health Officer's input and the current State guidelines, Tam motioned to lift the mask mandate at the Town House effective June 1 and that people choose for themselves whether to wear masks. Aaron seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor. The Board encourages unvaccinated people to wear masks when inside the building. If the weather permits, Select Board meetings will convene outside as they did last year.

MS-535 (Financial Report of the Town) and audit: The Board reviewed an email from Tammy Letson of Cohos Advisors, the town's auditing firm, asking for clarification on FEMA expenditures and the reimbursement expectations. The Board concurred with Ms. Letson's assumptions that FEMA payments are being paid by the FEMA Recovery Anticipation Note (Mascoma Savings Bank) and that the town anticipates an eventual 75% reimbursement from the federal government. Because a 75% reimbursement on the \$48,500 spent on stream bed mitigation was unexpectedly revised by FEMA as not being part of the disaster work, at this time no reimbursement anticipation for that project can be included in the MS-535. Scott Sanborn is working with local FEMA representatives to put the cost of this essential work back into the scope of reimbursement. The Board also concurred with Ms. Letson's understanding that no portion of the project can come from the town's fund balance, as they did not get taxpayer permission for this. At this time, FEMA payments can only come from the anticipation note or the Road Improvement and Repair Capital Reserve Fund. The Board directed Sandi to let Ms. Letson know that she can proceed with the Financial Report of the Town and audit using the above information.

Other:

- A notice was received from the State that they have deposited \$3,583.15 into the town's account for the 2020 Forest and Lands reimbursement (Cardigan State Forest).
- The proposed budget of the Grafton County Commissioners was received.

Other Select Board business:

- Dorothy and Sandi will follow up on the letter to be sent to Drummond Woodsum requesting the justification of the exorbitant cost they are charging the town for their review of the tax anticipation note.
- The Board asked Sandi to send out a town-wide email asking the townspeople to fill out a survey on behalf of the broadband efforts of the Grafton County Broadband Initiative. The survey is presently on the Canaan town website.
- The sofa perched on a front lawn for a long time has been disposed of.
- It was noted that a resident expressed concern about the August 14th relay road race, of which part of their 100-mile route is via Tuttle Hill and Cardigan Mountain Road. After discussion, the Board felt the sponsor of the race has arranged sufficient safety measures for their run through Orange.

Secretary's report:

- Because of his annual travels, Brent Stevens has asked Doug Weekes to assume the role of Emergency Management Director for the town. Doug, who has been the Assistant Director, agreed to take the position. Brent will assume the role of Assistant. The Board expressed their appreciation for the continuous work that Brent has done for the town during his years as director.
- Sandi is following up with the ARPA federal grant of which Orange is eligible for 30,591.26. This is considered a COVID relief grant. Whether the town automatically receives the money and how it is spent is still up in the air. Sandi will report back when more information is available.
- Scott Sanborn has submitted all 2020 FEMA expenditures for Tug Mountain Road to Paul Hatch and Vanessa Uranga.
- FEMA work on the roads will resume in about two weeks.
- Road grading is in progress.

Reports from Boards and Committees: n/a

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 6:45 p.m.

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

Tamara Fairbank

Aaron Allen