

*Office of the Select Board  
Town of Orange, New Hampshire  
Select Board Minutes of November 7, 2023*

*Present:* Tamara Fairbank, chair; Aaron, Allen, Betsy Coble, Catherine Souza (clerical)  
*Others:* Sharon Proulx, Tax Collector, Marcello Shelzi

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

*Pledge of Allegiance*

*Minutes:*

Aaron Allen motioned to approve the minutes of the public meeting of October 17, 2023, second by Betsy Coble. Motion passed 3/0/0.

*Finalize the Property Tax Rate:*

The Board reviewed the Final Tax Rate breakdown as provided by the DRA.

Tamara Fairbank motioned to set the overlay at \$3,000 (abatement revenue), which would set the final tax rate at \$23.47 per \$1,000 of valuation and sign the tax warrant to the Collector, second by Betsy Coble. Motion passed 3/0/0.

Tax commitment and rate breakdown:

Town	Mascoma School District	State Education	County	Total Tax Rate
\$4.75	\$16.12	\$1.45	\$1.15	\$23.47

Motion made by Tamara Fairbank to raise the daily deposit requirement for the Tax Collector to \$15,000, second by Betsy Coble. Motion passed 3/0/0.

*Mascoma School District Residency:*

Tamara Fairbank signed the 2023-24 school residency list for Orange.

*Capital Reserve Fund deposits:*

The Select Board signed a letter authorizing the Trustees of the Trust Funds to deposit all revenue into the respective capital reserve funds that were voted on in favor at the March 15, 2023 town meeting.

- Highway Equipment CRF: Eight thousand dollars and 00 cents (\$8,000.00)
- Town House CRF: Ten thousand dollars and 00 cents (\$10,000.00)
- Revaluation CRF: Four thousand dollars and 00 cents (\$4,000.00)
- Town Road Improvement and Repair CRF: Fifteen thousand dollars and 00 cents (\$15,000.00)
- Bridge CRF: Twenty-six thousand five hundred seven dollars and 49 cents (\$26,507.49)

*Update FEMA 2019 Disaster Project Award:*

The Town received notification that the final monetary awards for the 2019 disaster will be issued imminently. In addition, the State of NH has determined that the Town of Orange is eligible to receive reimbursement for

interest paid on the loan taken out for disaster-related repairs. Lastly, the Town has been notified that additional reimbursement is available for administrative work associated with the management of the program.

*2023 Budget review and expenses to date:*

The Select Board reviewed the municipal budget report as of November 1, 2023. Total expenses to date are \$174,440.11 versus a budget of \$275,889.00 which is 63% spent.

*Other Select Board business and action items:*

Other:

- Building Ordinance requirement and questions
  - Building permit application for a 420 sq ft cabin that was denied by the Building Inspector because the Town of Orange building ordinance has a minimum dwelling requirement of 750 sq ft. The Select Board upheld the building ordinance. The next step is for the property owner to go to the ZBA within 15 days of the denial.
- School Deliberative session
  - The Mascoma Valley Regional School District has set their 2024 Deliberative Session date for Saturday February 3, 2024, 9am at the Mascoma Valley Regional School District Auditorium.
- Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
  - As a member, the Town of Orange is eligible to appoint 2 commissioners to sit on the UVLSRPC Commission. The Select Board declines at this time to join the commission. If anyone in the Town is interested please contact the Select Board.
- DES approval of ISDS
  - An approval for construction of an Individual Sewage Disposal System has been received for Shank at 627 Tuttle Hill Rd, map 4 lot 20.
- FEMA copy of revised Flood Insurance Study materials
  - The Town has received a copy of the revised Flood Insurance Study material for Grafton County prepared by FEMA. The documents are available for inspection in the Select Board office.
- Any other business: Motion by Tamara Fairbank for the Historical Commission to investigate and quote the cost of adding a heater for the second floor, second by Betsy Coble. Motion passed 3/0/0.
- Action Items Completed:
  - Select Board to review next steps on ZBA terms for 2024 Town meeting
  - Contact NH Electric about next steps for internet and phone service
  - Quantify amount of nonpublic sealed minutes to be reviewed
- Action Items open:
  - Change locks and combinations: Exterior doors, SB office, TC office
  - Disposal of old safe in Town Clerk's office
  - ARPA Grafton Co funds: Septic project. Secure bids
  - ARPA Grafton Co funds: Bathroom renovation. Secure bids
  - Town Wide email to residents about winter snow and expectation of removal
- Action Items New:
  - Catherine to report back on status of the switch to NH Electric for phone and internet

- Select Board review of nonpublic minutes to determine if any could be unsealed (House Bill 321)

*Secretary's report:*

- Consolidated and NH Electric Fiber cost comparison: NH Electric Fiber Broadband will be available for the Town House location on or around Dec 21, 2023. The Select Board requested Catherine to pursue the change including a change in the Town Clerk email.
  - ACTION: Catherine to report back on status of the switch to NH Electric for phone and internet
- Community fundraising requests: Catherine shared the recent fundraising requests with the Select Board. Catherine to send to the Budget Committee.
- Primex Property Inspection: An Inspector is to visit the Town House to review the property on Thursday November 9. Expect the visit to be less than 30 minutes.

*Reports from Boards and Committees:*

- *Cemetery trustees:* Next meeting is November 13 at 6pm.
- *Road Agent (Marcello Shelzi):*
  - Roads update:
    - Brock Hill Rd: Remacle has completed the following work: Work was completed right up to the border of Grafton. The washed-out section of the road was graded. Significant trenching was done on the on the side including multiple cuts to allow storm water to be diverted into the woods.
    - Burnt Hill: Some grading was done to help mitigate pot holes
  - Other:
    - Town Truck at Dyers for repairs (estimate is \$4000 for multiple issues including new tires)
    - Resident requested work on Cross Road
- *Planning Board:* none
- *Conservation Commission:* none

*Public comment:*

- None

*Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.*

*Next Select Board meeting date confirmation:* November 21, 2023 at 6pm.

*Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.*

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Tamara Fairbank, Chair

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Aaron Allen

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Betsy Coble