

*Office of the Select Board  
Town of Orange, New Hampshire  
Minutes of November 9, 2021*

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

*Others:* Sharon Proulx

*Meeting opened at 5:30 p.m. Attendance taken by the secretary.*

*Property Tax Warrant:* The Board reviewed the 2021 tax rate as finalized by the NH Department of Revenue Administration. Per \$1000 of valuation the rate is: Municipal: \$4.13; County: \$1.45; Mascoma Schools: \$16.07; and State Education: \$1.70. Total is \$23.35, a decrease of \$1.46 from 2020. Tam motioned to approved the tax rate and sign the warrant to the tax collector. Aaron seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

*Minutes:*

- The minutes of September 26, 2021 were approved as submitted.
- The minutes of November 3, 2021 were approved as submitted. (A brief meeting to set the 2021 overlay as recommended by the NH DRA.)

*Town road speed limits:* A resident was on the agenda to discuss the legal speed limit on Cross Road but did not attend the meeting. The agenda item led to a discussion on what the legal speed limit is town-wide and whether it should it be adjusted. Aaron said the speed limit on town roads is 35 mph unless otherwise posted. A discussion ensued on whether to recommend the speed limit be 25 mph on all town roads and the modification be approved by way of a warrant article. The Board concurred they would need wide-ranging public input before making a decision to make a town-wide change.

*Capital Reserve Funds (CRF):* The Board signed a letter to the Trustees of the Trust Funds directing them to deposit all revenue into the respective capital reserve funds as voted on at the March 9, 2021 town meeting.

- Highway Equipment CRF: \$8,000.00
- Town House CRF: \$5,000.00
- Revaluation CRF: \$4,000.00
- Town Road Improvement and Repair CRF: \$1,000.00

*Highway:* The Board reviewed an email with road updates from Road Agent Scott Sanborn. Paving is in progress and New Colony Road should be finished promptly and then the paving company will move on to Eastman Road and Tuttle Hill Road. Non-FEMA work will then commence. Scott has completed compiling the FEMA expenditure documents and are ready for submission. They should be in the State's hands next week for their review. Scott has posted road signs at both ends of Cross Road.

*Mascoma School District:* The 2021 student residency list for Orange was reviewed and approved. The Chair signed the report. The SAU reports there are 39 students from Orange in the school district: 8 at Canaan Elementary, 18 at Indian River, and 13 at Mascoma High School.

*Intent to Cut:* The Board signed an Intent to Cut for Ossipee Mountain Land Company for the continuation of their 50-acre cut in Mount Cardigan State Forest. Access is New Colony Road.

*Other:*

- A notice was received from the NH Municipal Association (LGC) that the 2022 membership dues is \$1,104.00. This is a \$22.00 increase from 2021. Refer to Budget Committee.
- A request was received from the Canaan Town Library for a 2022 contribution of \$4,000.00. Same as 2020. Refer to Budget Committee.
- A request was received from the Visiting Nurse and Hospice of NH & VT for a 2022 contribution of \$1,300.00. Same as 2020. Refer to Budget Committee.
- A notice was received from the State that they have deposited \$10,428.91 into the town's account for the October Block Grant payment.

*Other Select Board business:*

- Dorothy thanked the Conservation Commission for the excellent program on northeast trees with presenter Michael Wojtech. She said the community had not had a gathering for a long time and it was wonderful to join together for the outdoor program and the hot dog roast and campfire that followed.
- Dorothy expressed her concern that the flood of 2019 destroyed the fire pond at the end of Tug Mountain Road and therefore there is no water source for fire trucks in that area of town. She suggested the concern be brought to the NH Department of Environmental Services.

*Secretary's report:*

- Cohos Advisors report there are ARPA funds for emergency equipment, with the town being responsible for 10% of the cost. After discussion the Board concurred they would follow up on two-way radios for the road agent, Select Board's office and emergency management.

*Reports from Boards and Committees: n/a*

*Public comment: n/a*

*Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.*

*Meeting adjourned 6:25 p.m.*

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Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

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Tamara Fairbank

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Aaron Allen