

*Office of the Select Board  
Town of Orange, New Hampshire  
Select Board Minutes of November 21, 2023*

*Present:* Aaron, Allen, Betsy Coble, Catherine Souza (clerical)  
*Absent:* Tamara Fairbank, chair  
*Others:* Kathy Stacy

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

*Pledge of Allegiance*

*Minutes:*

Betsy Coble motioned to approve the minutes of the public meeting of November 7, 2023, second by Aaron Allen. Motion passed 2/0/0.

*Abatement corrections to tax charges:*

The Select Board reviewed and signed two abatements. The abatements are to correct errors made in the recent tax calculations.

*Cohos Advisors 2024 Engagement letter and contract:*

The Town of Orange has received an Engagement Letter and a renewal contract from Cohos Advisors, PLLC. The packet contained a summary of services, payment schedule, and terms of service. Cohos is the auditing firm that prepares the Town of Orange financial statements and the auditor's report that are filed with the State of New Hampshire.

In the chair's absence, the topic was tabled until the next meeting.

*Other Select Board business and action items:*

Other:

- Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Commission 2024 Hazardous Waste Agreement:
  - The Board reviewed the proposal to provide Hazardous Waste collection services for all the municipalities who are members of the Commission. Motion made by Betsy Coble and seconded by Aaron Allen to decline to participate since Orange residents are able to participate in the Hazardous Waste collections provided by the Town of Canaan Transfer station. Motion passed 2/0/0.
- One time Highway Payment notification:
  - The Town received a one-time highway payment of \$6,013.43 based on the passage of House Bill 2. HB2 directed the department to divide and distribute a one-time \$10 million payment to all municipalizes based on the distribution methods of Block Grant Aid Apportionment A.
- Action Items Completed:
  - Schedule a nonpublic session with resident and Select Board (deed related)
- 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
  - Question: Why the Historical Commission funds are separate from the Town funds
- Action Items New:
    - Actions based on Parks & Recreation discussion

*Secretary's report:*

- Demolition Permit – A Demolition permit was received and reviewed by the Select Board for property at 48 Cross Rd (map 1 lot 53). The demolition permit was signed by the Building Inspector. A motion was made by Aaron Allen and seconded by Betsy Coble to accept the demolition permit. Motion passed 2/0/0.
- Primex Property Inspection – An inspector visited and toured the Town House building as a matter of record on Thursday November 9. An in-person inspection is to be done every 3-5 years. No further action required.
- The Annual Town Christmas Party – A decision was made to not hold the Town Christmas Party due to COVID concerns.

*Reports from Boards and Committees:*

- *Cemetery trustees:* No update
- *Road Agent (Marcello Shelzi):* No update
- *Planning Board:* Public Hearing Tuesday November 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm to consider proposed amendments to the Orange Zoning Ordinance for a 2024 ballot vote.
- *ZBA Public Hearing:* Tuesday November 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm for a variance requested for 438 Razor Hill Rd (Map 4 Lot 4).
- *Conservation Commission:* none

*Public comment:*

Kathy Stacy brought several comments and concerns to the Select Board:

- Kathy did not agree with the way her portion of the Public Comment section was recorded in the October 17, 2023 minutes.
  - After discussion a motion was made by Betsy Coble and seconded by Aaron Allen to amend the October 17 minutes to read as follows: ‘Kathy has requested that the Select Board establish a Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee as described in RSA 35-B:5’. Motion passed 2/0/0.
  - Catherine apologized for inadvertently misrepresenting the conversation.
- Kathy would like the Select Board to establish a Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee.
  - Kathy shared the following RSA's with the Select Board:
    - RSA 35-B:4:Recreation or Park Commission
    - RSA 35-B:5 Organization and Procedures for Operation of Recreation or Park Commission
  - The Select Board is concerned about having enough residents that are willing to participate on the committee. The Select Board wanted Kathy to gather the required number of signatures for a

warrant article to be presented to the town in order to establish the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee. Kathy disagreed that a warrant article is needed since there is an RSA in place.

- ACTION: Catherine to obtain advice from NHMA on next steps
- Further discussion on the subject is tabled until the December 19 meeting. Kathy to attend.
- Kathy shared her concern about the Town owned properties specifically that RSA 35-B:6 has not been enforced.
  - Kathy shared the following RSA's with the Select Board:
    - RSA 35-B:6 Use of Public Property
    - RSA 31:95-e: Acceptance of Personal Property Donated to Towns and Village Districts
  - Further review is needed and will be addressed at a future meeting.

*Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.*

*Next Select Board meeting date confirmation: December 5, 2023 at 6pm*

*Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.*

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Tamara Fairbank, Chair

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Aaron Allen

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Betsy Coble