

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of October 13, 2020*

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

Other: Alasdair Dunlap-Smith and Daniel Hazelton

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

Minutes: The minutes of September 22, 2020 were approved.

Election update:

- **Masks:** Moderator Dan Hazelton discussed a mandate for residents to wear masks while in the Town House when voting on November 3rd. He said that mask can be mandated by Select Board by requiring their use in the building as a whole or the Moderator can require it during voting. Dorothy, citing the overall safety for all who come to the Town House for any purpose, spoke in favor of the Board requiring the wearing of masks when inside the Town House. Tamara spoke in opposition saying voters may feel ostracized or not welcome to vote. After discussion, Dorothy motioned that the Select Board require the wearing of masks when in the Town House. [Not only during voting, but at all times until further notice.] Aaron seconded. Dorothy and Aaron voted in favor. Tamara voted in opposition. Motion passed 2/1.
- **Voting observers and political party certified poll watchers:** It was noted that certified political poll watchers are allowed in the voting area by law. The Moderator will allow self-appointed observers in the voting room in cycles. All observers and watchers will be required to maintain appropriate distance, will be in hearing distance, and be identified.
- **Law enforcement:** It was agreed by the Moderator and the Board that law enforcement should be present during voting hours. It was noted that the State Police provides onsite duty at an hourly rate. After discussion it was agreed that Dorothy will follow up with the State Police.
- Dan requested to be on the next meeting agenda to finalize any election discussion that may be necessary.

MS-60 (Financial Audit) and MS-535 (Financial Report of the Town): The Board revisited proposals to prepare the town's MS-60 and MS-535 from Plodjik and Sanderson at a cost of \$3,250 and Cohos Advisors at a cost of \$2,500. DRA representative Jamie Dow recommended getting a quote from Cohos Advisors because they are providing those services for other small towns in the area. On the strength of the DRA's recommendation, Tam motioned to contract Cohos Advisors. Aaron seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Building permit: The Board reviewed and approved a building permit application for Stephen Finocchi/110 Cardigan Mountain Road/Map 3, Lot 61-C. The application is for renovations and was already signed by the building inspector.

Treasurer's Report: The Board reviewed the September 2020 Treasurer's report and Select Board's reconciliation. All figures were on target and the Chair signed the report.

Timber tax: The Board reviewed and signed a yield tax warrant to the tax collector for \$965.91 for Robert and Judi Kuhn/William Road/Map 3, Lot 61.

Other:

- A notice was received from the State that they have deposited \$1,448.26 into the town's account for municipal aid.
- A notice was received from the town of Thornton re: continuation of a public hearing for a tower application.
- An Approval for Septic Operation was received from NHDES for Tim and Judith Connelly/107 Cardigan Mountain Road/Map 1, Lot 16-A
- A letter was received from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission stating that the dues for fiscal year 2021 will be \$463.73. This an increase of \$9.27 from 2020.
- A letter was received from the Public Health Council requesting a 2021 donation of \$250.00. This is the same as 2020.

Other Select Board business:

- Dorothy reported that the new Rinnai heater has been installed in the Select Board's office by Inov8ive Energy. The technician reported to her that the existing Rinnai in the back room is not a safety hazard but it is nearing its demise and that the Board may wish to replace it in the near future. Dorothy reported that a problem with the old Rinnai heaters has been condensation build-up due to the necessary length of the vent. On the new model, any condensation will drain into a humidifier tray. After discussion, the Board concurred to recommend including the second heater replacement in the 2021 budget.
- Aaron said the propane tanks from Inov8ive Energy is scheduled to be placed at the Town House next week.
- Aaron said that he would have preferred the road agent discuss with the Select Board the disposal of the old sander before it was traded in. He said he would have preferred the sale of it be put out to bid. The Board concurred that they will ask the road agent to discuss the disposal of highway equipment with them before it is disposed of.
- Dorothy recapped a teleconference that she, Tamara, Sandi, and Scott Sanborn had with State representatives from FEMA and personnel from other surrounding towns regarding the unexpected denial of funding for flood-related stream work in Rumney, Dorchester, and Orange. FEMA was requesting further information including photos of the flood-damaged stream areas before the flood. All towns agreed that the request for such photos was unreasonable because the flood was completely unexpected. Scott Sanborn is working on the situation and Dorothy has contacted U.S. Representative Annie Kuster for assistance.
- Aaron stated that there is an Owner Unknown, 1.4-acre property that runs between Williams Road and Orange Brook. He said that he would like the town to accept formal ownership and keep the property.

- Aaron said he would like the Board to consider asking Tim McCarville if he would consider selling the small parking area on the corner of New Colony and Cardigan Mountain Road. Presently the whole property is for sale.
- Aaron said the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission is doing a region-wide culvert and water quality assessment. Information will be forthcoming.
- Dorothy reported that Scott Sanborn has marked the boundaries of the town-owned land at 200 Tuttle Hill Road and that a sketch map and invoice is forthcoming.
- The Board asked Sandi to send them an itemization of payments to FEMA contactors to date. They will request that Scott attend the next Select Board meeting to discuss the timeline of pending work.

Road update: Dorothy recapped a road update sent to her by Scott Sanborn:

- Scott has been in contact with Richard Remacle about submitting his invoices.
- New Colony Road FEMA work: Razor Hill Excavation has had to depart for a few weeks to address other obligations. He is planning to return before winter sets in. The most critical areas are completed, or nearly complete. We will likely need to ask for a time extension on some of the more minor shoulder and ditch work but Scott doesn't anticipate any problem with that.
- Tug Mountain Road FEMA work: Conkey has completed the bulk of the long stretch and the beginning that was completely washed out except for the surface wear-course and "dressing" some of the shoulders and ditches. There are a few more culverts to replace, one of which includes some embankment work, but to the best of Scott's knowledge he still has the rest of the work on his schedule for the fall.
- Other FEMA roads: These are Richard Remacles's, and he is running a little behind schedule, but making some progress. The long stretch on Williams Road is pretty much completed, and he has just started work on the Tuttle Hill Road shoulders and culverts. He has assured Scott that he still has Eastman Road and Cross Road (the latter only having a couple of relatively small projects on the list) on his radar for the fall. Scott expects we will need an extension for some of sites under this project.
- Embankment work: Both the New Colony and Williams Road embankment washouts have been repaired and armored and look great. Removal of erosion control measures and a little site clean-up is all that is left on these.
- Stream channels: Bill Wanner has completed Number Seven Brook off of New Colony Road. Orange Brook off of Williams Road is in progress and nearly complete. These sites also look great.
- On the embankment and stream channel work, Scott will be following up in the next couple of weeks to get the "as built" information to NHDES as required under the emergency authorizations.
- Scott has been in touch with Blaktop to see if we can still get a couple days out of them this fall for paving. All of the areas under the FEMA projects will not be ready for them, but Scott hopes to get the top of New Colony done, and also a few non-FEMA areas patched under our regular budget. Scott has not yet heard back from Blaktop. At the top of New Colony Road, Scott would like to pave all the way to Bruce Murray's driveway even though it's not all FEMA. The FEMA portion will cover getting the equipment up there and Scott is pretty sure we'll be able to cover the difference from our regular highway budget. He will know better after he talks with Blaktop.

- The new town truck is completely outfitted for the winter and ready to plow and sand. Scott will now clean up the old town truck so it can go out to bid.

Secretary's report:

- Regarding the proposed sale of the 3.9-acre Tuttle Hill parcel, Sandi asked that the Board consider having legal counsel review the draft of the letter that will be sent to abutters and to clarify what type of deed will be issued to the grantee. The Board concurred.
- Regarding the 0.65-acre lot that the Board would like to offer to an abutter with the stipulation it be merged with their property and not be retained as a separate lot, Sandi asked that the Board consider having Avitar give them an assessment of the land as a merger instead of a separate building lot. Presently it is assessed as a separate building lot at \$29,000. The Board concurred to have Avitar advise them what the acreage is worth as a merged parcel.

Reports from Boards and Committees: n/a

Public comment:

- Alasdair Dunlap-Smith spoke about the Grafton County Committee's goal towards county-wide broadband coverage. He said that presently Canaan Town Administrator Mike Sampson is the liaison. Alasdair said Mike would like to know if the Orange Select Board supports broadband internet being available to all residential localities in town or just specific areas. After discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to support a broadband effort that would serve all residents in Orange. Alasdair stated that the next Commission meeting is October 28 and is open to the public.

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 7:15 p.m.

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

Tamara Fairbank

Aaron Allen