

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of October 22, 2019*

Present: Bob Ells, Tamara Fairbank, and Sandi Pierson (clerical). Dorothy Heinrichs was out of town.

Others: Bev Ells, Aaron Allen, Justin Rose, Jessie Stark, Anita Garland, and Doug Weekes.

Meeting opened by Vice Chair Tamara Fairbank at 6:00 p.m. Attendance taken by the secretary.

Minutes:

- The minutes of October 8, 2019 were unanimously approved.
- The nonpublic minutes of October 8, 2019 were unanimously approved.

Town Clerk: The Board reviewed and signed two appointment forms for the town clerk's office as required for their annual State audit.

Unanticipated revenue: The town received \$2,147.25 as State Aid from the 2020-2021 budget. The amount of aid to each municipality was based on how many school children are eligible for the lunch program, though towns may use the revenue however they deem appropriate. The NH Municipal Association recommended that the Board vote to accept the revenue and specify how it is being used. After discussion, Bob motioned to accept the State Aid revenue of \$2,147.25 and use it to reduce the 2019 property tax rate. Tam seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Property assessment: The Board was in receipt of the 2020 Annual Assessors Agreement and Revaluation Contract from Avitar Associates of New England. Because 2020 is full revaluation year for the town, the cost is estimated at \$21,900. Tam requested the Board table signing the contract until the next meeting so that she can have time to fully review it.

Highway:

- Tam read an update emailed from Road Agent Scott Sanborn. Scott reports that the road crew has finished expanding the temporary fill to two full lanes on the New Colony washouts, and have filled in the worst of the "canyons" on the roadsides. Access to the turnaround at the State Forest gate has been restored as well. They have moved the crew over to Tug Mountain Road and are currently in the process of doing the same there. They will lay down some crush gravel and smooth up both sections before snowfall. They have completed the detailed damage inspections with FEMA personnel on Friday, October 18, and should have their numbers pretty soon. Scott will report on the subject of the stream embankment repairs after the meeting with Paul Hatch and a DES representative scheduled for Wednesday, October 23.
- The Board reviewed the proposed road maintenance contract for Richard Remacle Construction ending December 31, 2021. After discussion, the Board decided to ask legal

counsel if the contract limited the town from using other contractors as well. The signing of the contract was tabled and will be on the next meeting agenda.

Other:

- Tam requested that the veteran's credit question be on the next meeting agenda. An inquiry had been received at the Select Board's office asking if the Board would consider putting an article on the 2020 warrant asking the voters to approve giving the veteran tax credit to all veterans in town pursuant to NH RSA 72:28-b, which are those who served a minimum of 90 days and were honorably discharged.

Other business: n/a

Secretary's report:

- It is time to renew the propane contract with Young's Propane in order to avoid an automatic non-contract price increase. Sandi to follow up.

Reports from other boards and committees:

- Tamara recapped the upcoming programs of the Historical Commission, which include the contradance on October 26 and the Veteran's Appreciation Day on November 10. The Historical Commission has sent out a town-wide mailing for these events.
- Building Inspector Doug Weekes submitted his recommended amendments to Section VI (Permits) of the Building Ordinance. The amendment would add the word "construction" as one of the improvements necessitating a driveway permit. He said he had shared this amendment with the Planning Board and that they were recommended it. Aaron Allen suggested that the required frost depth for new construction be amended from five feet to four.
- Doug Weekes, speaking as the health officer, spoke about the home well water testing program that will be available to all residents. The company doing the testing, Endyne, of Lebanon, NH, gives a discount for group testing. Depending on the scope of what the water is tested for, the cost may be between \$135 and \$325. People interested in participating in the program will bring their water samples to the Town House at a specific time and Doug will bring them to Endyne. Detailed information about the program will be mailed to every homeowner in town. The Board unanimously voted to approve the home water testing program and to include the town's water source.
- Anita Garland recapped the success of the Harvest Festival. She said the Harvest Festival Committee would like to make a donation to the Town House Restoration Account, which primary purpose is for a LCHIP matching grant. The Board concurred that the treasurer should set up a separate account for the Town House restoration projects and that the Select Board be the sole authority of disbursing funds from that account.

Public comment: n/a

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Nonpublic session: At 7:44 p.m. the Board unanimously voted in favor of going into nonpublic session with Health Officer Doug Weekes pursuant to RSA 91-A:3-c re: tax deeded property.

Motion to come out of nonpublic session at 8:10 p.m. Tamara stated that a decision was made to have Health Officer Doug Weekes follow up with a site visit at the recently tax-deeded property at 200 Tuttle Hill Road.

Meeting adjourned 7:26 PM.

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

Robert Ells

Tamara Fairbank