

*Office of the Select Board  
Town of Orange, New Hampshire  
Minutes of September 22, 2020*

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

*Other:* Scott Sanborn

*Meeting opened on the front lawn at 6 p.m. Attendance taken by the secretary.*

*Minutes:* The minutes of September 8, 2020 were approved.

*FEMA:* Dorothy recapped the phone call she received from Paul Hatch regarding the unexpected suspension of streambed work approval due to FEMA sending the town a letter and requiring further information. She said that Dorchester and Rumney received similar letters and that Paul Hatch was also puzzled by it. Scott stated that it is \$48,000 of the FEMA grant (including the town's 25%) and that the contractor was ready to begin work. He suggested using the Road Improvement Capital Reserve to get the work done. Dorothy stated that Paul is setting up a group meeting with road agents and Select Board members from the three towns at which time they will draft a letter to FEMA to address the delay.

*Road Construction:* Scott gave an update on the FEMA work to roads. Conkey has almost finished the main section of Tug Mountain Road. Remacle has shimmed and stabilized Williams Road. Bobby Senter has the upper section of New Colony completed and has just finished stabilizing the lower stream embankment. Bill Wanner has his excavator on site and is ready to do the streambed work. Scott feels all critical work on the roads will be complete before winter. Aaron and Scott discussed the procedure of working on the historic stream bed channels.

*Mascoma School District:* The Board reviewed a copy of a letter from the Grafton Select Board to the Mascoma School Board and Budget Committee requesting they use surplus funds to offset taxes instead of the existing practice of using them to grow revolving accounts. The Grafton Select Board asked that the Orange Select Board consider sending the school district a similar letter. Scott Sanborn spoke in opposition of sending a similar letter. He stated that school appropriations are approved by the voters. After discussion the Board unanimously concurred not to send a letter.

*Tax Deferments:* Per the previous Board meeting, the Board reviewed a draft of a qualification letter to accompany applications for a tax deferment. After revising some wording, Aaron motioned to approve the letter as amended. Tam seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

*MS-1 (Summary of Valuation):* The Board reviewed and signed the 2020 MS-1 as prepared by Mark Stetson of Avitar. The overall value of the town based on market sales (2020 statistical update) increased by \$3,665,779. Sandi gave each Board member the MS-1 data sheets for 2019 and 2020 that delineated the increases.

*MS-60 (Financial Audit) and MS-535 (Financial Report of the Town):* The Board reviewed proposals from Plodjik and Sanderson and Cohos Advisors to prepare the town's MS-60 and MS-535. The Board will individually review the proposals and make a decision at the next meeting.

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

*NH Electric Co-op:* The Board unanimously concurred to vote in favor on a ballot sent to them by NH Electric Co-op. A vote in favor will allow the co-op to amend their bylaws to give them flexibility to pursue funding opportunities for providing high-speed internet.

*Town-owned property:*

- The Board concurred to offer the 0.65-acre town-owned parcel on Tuttle Hill Road to the abutter at assessed value with the condition that it be merged with his lot and not remain a separate lot.
- The Board concurred to offer the landlocked, 3.9-acre Tuttle Hill property to the seven abutters with a minimum bid of \$5,000.00 with the condition that it be merged with their lot and not remain a separate lot.

*Other:*

- The Board was in receipt of an Approval for Septic Construction from NHDES for Steve Firing/647 Tuttle Hill Road/Map 4, Lot 21.
- The Board was in receipt of a copy of NHDES permission for John Morse to begin logging. (Logging is at the end of New Colony Road at the Groton town line. Access will be from Sculptured Rocks Road in Groton.)
- Dorothy stated that the September 8 ballot results were promptly emailed to the Valley News after the count was completed.

*Secretary's report:*

- 90-day repurchase options for town-owned properties: 200 Tuttle Hill Road expires on October 28. Owner Unknown expires on December 11.
- Sandi conferred with NHDES regarding septic system documentation they have for 200 Tuttle Hill Road. NHDES reports that the 2012 application for septic construction was denied and a state-approved system was never authorized. The tax card notes there is no septic. Aaron said the former owners did put in some kind of septic and leach bed.
- Skip will install a letter dropbox in the town clerk's office door this week.
- COVID reimbursement program from the State: The Board reviewed required documentation necessary to submit reimbursement request for COVID reimbursement, and signed authorization for the secretary to submit allowable expenses. The State said that compensation for town clerk training is allowable because they had cancelled all State training for new town clerks due to the pandemic.

*Reports from Boards and Committees: n/a*

*Public comment: n/a*

*Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.*

*Meeting adjourned 7 p.m.*

---

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

---

Tamara Fairbank

---

Aaron Allen