

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of September 24, 2019*

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

Others: Bev Ells, Aaron Allen, and Judith Lindahl.

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM. Attendance taken by the secretary.

Minutes: The minutes of September 10, 2019 were approved.

MS-1: The Board reviewed and signed the MS-1 (Summary of Valuation). This is a summary of the values of the entire town as assessed by Avitar.

Intent to Cut: The Board reviewed and signed an Intent to Cut for Robert and Judi Kuhn/48 Williams Road/Map 3, Lot 61C. Logger is Dalton Mountain Forestry.

Tax deed: The Board signed the tax deed for 200 Tuttle Hill Road as prepared by Tax Collector Sharon Proulx.

Road update: Dorothy stated that Road Agent Scott Sanborn could not attend tonight's meeting. She read the following road update that he emailed her:

Repair work on ditches and shoulders along the bus route has progressed from Tuttle Hill Rd to Cross Road. While the equipment is in that neck of the woods, we will be smoothing up a couple spots on Williams Road, then the crews will be moving up to Tug Mountain and New Colony Roads, probably later this week.

After my most recent discussions with Richard, we feel it is very unlikely that we'll be able to get much into the permanent repairs this fall (which is no surprise), so our focus over the next 2-3 weeks will be to improve on the temporary repairs over the badly damaged sections of Tug & New Colony, widening to a full two lanes with a little shoulder where needed for safety, replacing the more critical culverts that were damaged, and beefing up and grading the surface so it will handle winter. This will all still qualify as "initial response" work under the FEMA guidelines, so the costs will not count toward the permanent repair costs.

Updates on the FEMA process: I took part in the "exploratory call" with the FEMA "program delivery coordinator" (along with Sandi, Paul Hatch and one or two others from FEMA/HSEM) last Monday, and the Recovery Scope Meeting, where we will begin to hammer out the details of the repair "projects" is scheduled for next Monday (9am at the Town House). All is on schedule on that front.

On an unrelated subject, with regard to Bobby Basset's offer to assist with finishing up the shoulders on the newly paved portion of Razor Hill Road, I have left him a phone message expressing that we would like to take him up on that and will be glad to either deliver material, or compensate Grafton for theirs, whichever is the most convenient for him. I assume we'll connect soon to work out details.

I will update again, or attend the next meeting.

--Scott Sanborn

Other:

- An approval for septic construction was received from NH DES for Bree Camber/94 Cardigan Mountain Road/Map 3, Lot 4-A.

Secretary's report:

- Sandi distributed to the Board information published by the NH Municipal Association about the procedures for property taken by tax deed. Attached were all annotated RSAs.
- All municipal forms required by the town to set the tax rate have been filed with the DRA.
- The NH Municipal Association reports that because the State budget is at an impasse, the tax rates set by the DRA may not be correct, and some form of adjustment may be required this year or next. State funding in question that would affect the tax rate are the appropriation amounts for municipal aid and education funding.

Reports from other boards and committees:

- Dorothy stated that the Orange Conservation Commission will meet on Wednesday, September 25 at 7 p.m. at the town house.
- The Historical Commission will meet on Monday, October 7, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Public comment:

- Judith Lindahl submitted to the Board information on tax exemptions for energy systems, which the town has the option to adopt by warrant articles. RSAs allowing municipal tax exemptions include solar systems, wood heating, and wind power. Judith also included a spreadsheet of towns in NH that have adopted these exemptions and how each town assesses them.

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 PM.

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

Robert Ells

Tamara Fairbank