Town of Orford,

Selectboard meeting 10/9/2013

Meeting Minutes

Draft

Members present: Tom Steketee, John Adams

Others present: Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion), Charles Waterbury (Road Agent), Chris Kilmer (Chief of Police) Tim Cole, Judy Miller, Dennis Streeter

I Call meeting to order: 5:30 PM

Paving Bids for paving a portion of Archertown Road from Route 10 were received and opened.

* 1. R & D Paving Co: $101,986.00
  2. EME Management-Springfield Paving: bid not complete as required.
  3. Pike Industries: $55,552.00
  4. Blacktop: $63,949.20

Paving contract was awarded to Pike Industries as a result of their low bid of $55,552.00. The work is expected to be completed this fall (2013).

Charles Waterbury reported that the State of New Hampshire has red listed our Creamery Road Bridge as a result of deteriorated deck boards and requires us to lower the weight limit to 6 tons. The Board voted to decrease the weight limit on Creamery Road to 6 tons immediately.

The Selectboard instructed Charlie to obtain a cost for the replacement of the deck. This information will be available for a warrant article at next Town Meeting. Charlie was also instructed to contact the independent engineer Tim Ruggles to review the bridge to make an assessment of what needs to be repaired . Funds for this long range repair would be requested from the State as part of the State Bridge funding plan. This bridge fund plan is currently funding bridges in year 2022.

Chief Kilmer reported that the new police cruiser has been received from the dealership and is being lettered and electronics added (radios, tablets) and is expected to be on the road by the end of the month. Chief Kilmer also reported that Officer Foster would be leaving. The Selectboard authorized expenditures to advertise the position as the Chief sees fit.

Judy Miller of Upper Baker Pond reported on the road conditions on the stretch of road near her home and camp as being “horrible”” itemizing speeding vehicles, stones, rocks and dust since the road was converted from worn out blacktop to gravel in 2011 as authorized by 2010 Town Meeting.

She requested the Board to do something about it. Charlie reported that the main cause of rocks is the thin layer of gravel on the surface and in future years as more gravel is build up through routine maintenance to loose gravel the surface will pack as tight as the other gravel roads in town have done. He also reported that the dust situation is about the same as any other gravel road in town, and that the application of a surface treatment could keep the dust down. The Selectboard instructed Charlie to look into an appropriate surface treatment and the cost of applying it to all gravel roads in town and report back to the Selectboard at a future meeting.

Dennis Streeter reported being harassed at work by The Town Tax Collector Louise Mack concerning his delinquent Taxes. He reported that she also harassed his wife the night before while she was registering a vehicle.

Tom Steketee reported that he had obtained guidance from Local Government Center and that this type of activity is illegal in that it is not part of the charge of that elected official. Dennis does have a grievance with the elected individual, not the Town. The Selectboard does not have the authority of oversight of elected officials.

II. Minutes of September 25, 2013 were approved as amended.

III. Old Business:

A. Board reports:

Adams reported that the recent Public Information Meeting concerning the Bridge at Archertown Road result in no opposition being expressed to the recommended design which was submitted by Dubois & King, with an estimated cost of $578,000.00. At the Selectboard meeting which immediately followed the informational meeting the board agreed to the D&K recommendation. D& K will be notified and the bridge design will go forward, the state will be notified and if they approve the design, FEMA will be notified, and the DOT bridge fund will be notified. The project will go forward in 2014 with a road closure of about 12 weeks and a completion date of the end of September, assuming no procedural or permitting delays between now and then.

Steketee reported on a follow up discussions he had with the School Athletic Direct, School representatives, and River Valley Landscaping concerning the use of Town property by representatives of the School. All were reminded it is River Valley’s responsibility to work with the School to keep the fields in good order for the games, the School to report all discrepancies to the Selectboard for their action and the School will not authorize others and their equipment onto the Town’s fields without Selectboard approval.

Adams reported there has been no response from the Fire Department to the Boards written request for the updated information concerning employee rosters/status,; that no invoices had been turned in for payment since May, and no budget has been turned in for next year.

B. Tax deed

Dennis Streeter reported he is working with a new mortgage company and will have more to report to the Selectboard by the end of October concerning his delinquent taxes.

IV New Business

1. Correspondence: no action needed at this time.
2. Accounts Payable

A duplicate invoice, with appropriate supporting documents, was presented for payment by NAPA in the amount of $200.93 for parts/services provided to the Orford Volunteer Fire Department in July 2013. The Town had no record of the expense since no invoices were submitted for payment by the Fire Department. The Selectboard approved payment of the invoice without approval by the Fire Department.

The Board discussed the lack of inputs from the Fire Chief that results in the Selectboard being not able to carry out the Town’s business.

The Board discussed the unique arrangement whereby, as a result of votes at Town Meeting, it was established that the Fire Chief was not appointed directly by the Selectboard but by the Fire Department.

The Board discussed the possibility of holding a Special Town Meeting to change the previous warrant article so that the Selectboard has direct appointing authority of the Fire Chief and can thus carry out the Town’s business.

The Selectboard will request that the Fire Chief attend the next Selectboard meeting October 23, 2013

C. Other: (none)

V. Non public session (not needed)

VI. adjourned 7:45

Respectfully submitted

John Adams