

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Fred Kidder II, Tom Steketee

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh,

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to accept the work session minutes of 03/04/2020 Motion Passed

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to accept the minutes of 03/11/2020 as amended. Motion Passed

Emergency Management – Mike Gilbert phoned into the meeting to discuss COVID-19 and steps being taken within the state and other local areas. Predictive models are estimating the peak should start to level off within the next three weeks. The worse-case scenario for NH is currently estimating 150,000 cases, with 5,000 being admitted to hospitals. Hanover is working on a mobile hospital with capacity of 150 beds. Vermont has instituted the Stay at Home, and most likely NH will soon. In Orford, Eva Daniels & Ann Green are organizing volunteers to deliver meals, groceries, and prescriptions to residents that don't want to venture out during this pandemic. The Selectboard administrative assistant is also maintaining lists of these volunteers. Currently the Orford schools, libraries and churches are closed. The transfer station is open, with some restrictions and new guidelines. Kidder will send this information out on List Serve and Dobbins-Marsh will add this information to the Website

Gilbert will send a website link to Dobbins-Marsh to add to the Webpage and also asked if information on COVID-19 could be moved the Town's Website home page. Dobbins-Marsh will work on these changes. While the Town has not had additional expenses due to COVID-19, it's important to track any related charges as FEMA will reimburse 75% of these expenses.

New Business

A. Appointments

1. Police Chief – the appointment document was corrected to reflect his town of residence as Piermont. *Motion made by Kidder, seconded by Adams to appoint Jason Bachus as the Police Chief. Motion passed*

2. Trustees to the Trust Funds Alternates (as requested by the Trustees of the Trust Funds) *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to appoint Vicki Schwaegler and Bartlett Harwood III as alternates to the Trustees to the Trust Funds. Motion passed*

B. Approval of Received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood”

Intent to Cut Wood for the 4/1/20-3/31/21 term were signed

1. Owner Theodore Eck #8-93-46, 8-93-37, 8-29-73, and 8-29-69, logger Theodore Eck
2. Owner Stacey Thomson #8-93-24E, logger Stacey Thomson
3. Owner Clinton, George & Juanita Schwarz #8-31-49, logger Stacey Thomson

C. Property Tax Credit applications

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to approve the application for Veterans Tax Credit of \$500 for Thomas Hurd and Justin Putnam. Motion Passed

D. Contracts

1. **DuBois & King – Inactive Solid Waste Inspection/State Report** – The Selectboard will address at the next Selectboard meeting. Dobbins-Marsh will contact with Paul Goundrey to see what information he may have on filing requirements for the closed solid waste landfill.
2. **Eversource/Consolidated Energy Rewards** – every four years Eversource offers the option to lock in a rate for Energy Rewards. *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to approve the contract with Consolidated Communications for this service. Motion Passed.*
3. **Easement for the Town Road #100 culvert replacement project** – Adams met with Theodore Eck and documents were signed and witnessed. Dobbins-Marsh will meet with Eck to finalize the documents at a future date.

E. Other

1. McGoff Salvage License Renewals - *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to approve the McGoff Salvage Junkyard License renewals effective 4/1/20. Motion Passed.*
2. Adams reported on purchasing an audio conference calling system to allow board and committees to meet via conference calling. From his research, the best deal to date is “Go to Meeting”. The “organizer” (most likely Dobbins-Marsh) would set the meeting and call-in information will be posted on the agenda. Presenters, and residents wanting to listen to the board/committee meetings, would call in using the posted codes. The cost would be approximately \$200 per year. If for some reason those calling in (as a whole) can’t hear the meeting conversation, the meeting would have to be adjourned until the issue is resolved, and if not, the meeting would need to be rescheduled. The meeting would be audio only per the Governors Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04

3. The Selectboard received an update on the status of our Trust Fund accounts. Most (24) remain unaffected by the present volatility, however, three have been affected significantly, but have unaffected reserves (cash or CD's) to for 2020. Those accounts are the Common Cemetery Trust Fund, the Niles Fund and the Alice Mann Fund. The Trustees of the Trust Funds continue to monitor these accounts and will be reporting monthly to the board with updates.
4. The Selectboard agreed for the current Selectboard liaisons to remain with their assigned committees and departments.

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder, to re-elect Fred Kidder as the Ex-Officio to the Orford Planning Board. Motion Passed.

Manifests, Payroll and Accounts Payable folders

The manifest, payroll and accounts payable folders were reviewed and signed where necessary.

V. Adjourn

Motion made by Kidder, seconded by Adams adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh