

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Tom Steketee

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENT: Lawrence Hibbard, Ruth Hook, Bob Palifka, Bill Paxton, Tom Thomson

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh

Call Meeting to Order

The GoToMeeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Roll call taken (members listed above were all present)

Review of the proposed 2021 Budget

Adams asked the BAC if there were any additional questions or concerns around the 2021 proposed budget. Thomson asked for clarification on the Conservation Commission e-coli testing and what action is taken when readings are high. Adams said this year reading were on the normal schedule, so when a reading resulted in a high count, it didn't allow for a quick turnaround to test again. A weekly testing schedule at the beaches will allow for quick action to determine if the reading is an aberration or a consistent issue that need addressing. This past year high readings resulted in closure of the beaches, and results are posted on the webpage.

Review of the proposed 2021 Warrant Articles

- **WA #3-Capital Reserve Account Funding** – no comments
- **WA #4-FEMA Funds received allocating to Road Improvement CRF** – no comments
- **WA #5-Creating a Broadband Development Capital Reserve Fund** – no comments
- **WA #6-Charitable Appropriations** – no comments
- **WA #7-Purchase of a 10-wheel dump truck**
 - Adams explained the language of the warrant article was rewritten to eliminate specifics pertaining to items such as the width of a plow and wing. This would make changes at the annual meeting easier if the Town wants to change to a 6-wheeler – all that would be needed is to amend the truck description and amount to be raised.
 - Does the road agent have a trade in value yet? Dobbins-Marsh will check with the road agent on this.
 - Should we look at a stainless-steel body to help prevention of rust? Purchasing a steel body will require painting on a regular basis. What would that cost?
- **WA #8-High Bridge Road bridge**
 - The warrant will ask the voters to revise the purpose of the bridge to become a biking/walking bridge. Do we know if the original estimate of \$22,000 is still a good? The road agent is verifying.
 - Will any of the I-beams be removed? Adams said the I-beams will remain in place. The design of the walking bridge will include decking of the entire bridge, but adding railing/barriers to keep the bridge for walking/biking only

- **WA #9-Funding to replace the Archertown Road over Jacobs Brook bridge**
 - Adams said the warrant article needs to reflect the total project costs, then itemize where funding will come from (80% from the State, 20% from the Town). The State will provide 50% of their responsibility to the Town to use to pay for contractors and materials. After the project is complete, the State will reimburse the Town for the balance of the State's responsibility. Adams said cash flow will be tight, but manageable.
 - Has the Selectboard verified the State has the funding for this project? Adams said he has verified the funding is there. It was suggested the Town request this in writing.
- **WA #10-Discontinuing the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund**– no comments
- **WA #11-Discontinuing the Community Fields Expendable Trust Fund**– no comments
- **WA #12-Discontinuing the Community Fields 1 (Hazen Morey) Expendable Trust Fund**– no comments

Various outstanding Town projects and associated costs

- Sand Pit Reclamation
 - Thomson expressed his concern around this project not being higher on the priority list. The conversation started on the project back in 2018, with little to date to show for it. Adams said the Selectboard will make this a priority prior to the March 2021 annual meeting. Thomson suggested speaking with the abutting landowner to see about the possibility of purchasing additional land for the Town to use. Thomson also offered his assistance with this project.
- Garage Grader Cover
 - If this project is going to cost more than originally quoted, should a warrant article be added for the additional funds needed? Fred Kidder is working on this project, and the Selectboard will discuss with him at their next board meeting.
- FEMA projects
 - Town Road #100 – Adams said the electrical poles will be repositioned by December 21st, then the contractor can put in the temporary bridge, remove the existing culverts, and have the concrete culvert delivered and installed. The project is scheduled to be completed this year
 - Quinttown Road Dual Culverts – Steketee reported this project was completed

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh