

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Fred Kidder II

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Jason Bachus, Todd Haywood, Harry Pease

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Kidder, seconded by Adams to accept the minutes of 02/10/2021 (as amended)

Motion Passed

Reports

- A. **Assessor**-The new assessor for Orford, Todd Haywood of Granite Hill Municipal Services, provided an update to the Selectboard on his work to date for Orford. He's completed all land change applications received since April 1, 2020, and will start pick up work after the inventory cards are returned. He completed the land use change for Map 8, Lot 93-66 for the Selectboard to review and sign. He will review the exempt properties for religious and charitable organizations next month to verify if they still meet the criteria. The deadline for filing an abatement for 2020 is March 1, 2021 – he will review any received during his day in the office on March 24, 2021 – to date none have been received. He reviewed the 2020 Assessment Manual completed by Steve Allen, as well as the ration study which reflects acceptable ranges.
- B. **Police Department** – Chief Bachus presented his statistics for January 2021. There were 49 calls for service (3 were responded to by the NH State Police). Orford PD calls included paper service, various assists and criminal investigations, resulting in 2 arrests, 5 warrants and 3 on-going investigations. The investigations include sexual assault, thefts and juvenile offenses. The 2 arrests were for criminal mischief for vandalism, and disorderly conduct at Rivendell. There were 14 motor vehicle stops with 1 citation issued. Chief Bachus has started the research for a replacement cruiser, currently scheduled to be replaced in 2022. The current cruiser has just over 77,000 miles on it, and is at the garage more frequently for additional maintenance. Bachus has signed up for an in-person training class on Juvenile Delinquency and Justice in NH, to be held at the Tilden NH Police Department.
- C. **March 9, 2021 Official Voting Day** – Harrison Pease discussed the upcoming Official Voting Day, to be held in the Niles Room of the Town Office building. Pease will be posting a notice of when absentee ballots will be opened – it will be posted on the Orford Website, Orford Post Office and the Town Office. It is strongly recommended that masks be worn when coming to the Town office to vote, however, should a resident choose not to wear a mask they may have to wait for a period until the Niles Room can be cleared of other voters before being allowed to enter. The Election of Officials will not become

effective until after the May 22, 2021 business meeting portion of the annual meeting. *(The NH Secretary of State later confirmed that the results of the 03/09/2021 were to be effective immediately. This was in opposition to the Governor's Emergency Order #83 which was interpreted to say the election results would not be effective until after the business meeting).* Pease requested being added to the agenda for late March/early April to start the planning for the May 22, 2021 business meeting portion of the annual meeting.

Old Business

A. Update of Outstanding Projects

a) FEMA Updates

1. Town Road #100 – the construction company had an issue with the pump, delaying the work for several days. On March 4, 2021 the concrete culverts will be delivered and installed. Within the next week, stone and gravel will be put down, and the temporary bridge removed. The construction company will return late spring to review the project and adjust as needed.

- b) Annual Meeting – the business portion is scheduled for May 22, 2021 – Dobbins-Marsh obtained pricing from 4 companies for tent rentals finding the least expensive rental from Scenic Rentals out of Lyndonville. The 40 x 100 tent will rent at \$2,500

Motion made by Kidder, seconded by Adams to reserve the 40 x 100 tent at a rental price of \$2,500. Motion Passed.

Portable toilets have been reserved from K&R Portables. Dobbins-Marsh will contact Rivendell to inquire about using their podium and chairs. She will also contact Jane Hebb to inquire about what the election workers will need for tables, etc. Adams is looking into the rental or use of a sound system.

New Business

- A. **Road Postings** – As neighboring towns have begun to post their roads, the Selectboard agreed to allow the Road Agent to coordinate with those towns to determine when the Orford roads should be posted. In 2020, the roads were posted on March 2nd. *Motion made by Kidder, seconded by Adams to authorize the Road Agent to determine when the roads will be posted. Motion Passed*

Dobbins-Marsh reminded the Selectboard to remind the Road Agent to give her a few days' notice to allow for posting at the Post Office, Town Office, Web Page and in the Valley News. The Road Agent will also coordinate the delivery of the concrete culvert at Town Road #100 with the delivery company.

- B. **Review of received "Notice of Intent to Cut Wood"** – none submitted

C. Complaints

1. A complaint was received concerning the condition of a house on Route 10. There is an accumulation of junk, plus a tractor trailer that's being used to store more junk. The neighbor is concerned that the junk piles will continue to grow over time. Adams said the board has reached out to the NH Municipality to see what can legally be done in this situation, as the current condition doesn't necessarily meet the definition of an illegal junk yard.
2. Snow being pushed onto public roads – when property owners plow their yards across a public road, they need to make sure ALL snow is removed from said public road. Leaving trails of snow can create a hazard. The Road Agent will

address the situation with this specific property owner, and others as the situation arises.

3. Road Condition – Samantha Perry filed a complaint on the condition of Orfordville Road near the Lyme border. She felt the road needed more sand as it was all ice following a February snow storm. Kidder said he'd driven the road and it was slippery, but once sand was added the road condition was resolved.
4. Road Condition – Deb McGoff filed a complaint on the condition of Grimes Hill road, specifically around the timing of when the road is plowed and sanded. As a school bus route road, it should be a priority when school is in session. Also, there are several businesses on that road, and when the road isn't plowed properly, UPS and other delivery trucks won't make the trip, which impacts those businesses. Adams will drive Grimes Hill road, then address the situation with the Road Agent. The complaint also addressed a frozen culvert that Jim McGoff cleared out. This will be addressed with the Road Agent as well.

D. Correspondence – none to review

Manifests, Payroll and Accounts Payable folders

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

Non-Public Session

A motion was made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(c) for public assistance matters at 6:40 p.m. A roll call vote of member's present was taken with a decision in the affirmative

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 6:50 p.m. A motion was made by Kidder, seconded by Adams to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Motion Approved.

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh