

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Fred Kidder II, Chase Kling

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Jason Bachus, Bill Saffian (NH DOT), Sam White (McFarland-Johnson Consultant), Andrew Schwaegler

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 06/09/2021 (as amended)

Motion Passed 3/0

Reports

- A. **NH DOT Bureau of Bridge Design** – Bill Saffian and Sam White presented a power point presentation on the NH DOT Baker Brook bridge replacement project. Currently the bridge replacement is scheduled for completion in 2025-2026, along with the Brackett Brook bridge. The Selectboard discussed how parking around the Appalachian Trail would be impacted, as well as concerns about the raised height of the Baker Brook bridge, and how the wetland area surrounding this area will be impacted. A public hearing will be scheduled for some time in July 2021
- B. **Assessor**-Todd Haywood was not available for the meeting
- C. **Police Department** – Chief Bachus presented his report for May 2021. There was a total of 76 calls for service (NH State Police responded to 5 calls for service). Orford PD calls included the normal calls for service as previous months, as well as 3 accidents, 10 assists to other agencies, 6 paper service and 3 suspicious persons/activity calls. The April burglary and theft complaints are at the Grafton County Attorney's office for prosecution, as is the habitual offender arrest. Criminal investigations continue to take office time, but Bachus foresees more patrol hours becoming available as the investigations get to the prosecution state, barring any new criminal cases.

Motor vehicle enforcement for May included 24 stops resulting in 4 summonses being issued. The new body-worn camera has been received and is operational. As previously discussed, Bachus will look to add a backup camera to his 2022 budget. Bachus reported on the police cruiser damage when it collided with a moose. Most of the damage was to the windshield and the passenger side of the cruiser, and no injury was sustained to Bachus. He has contacted Fairlee to see about using their cruiser (until Orford's cruiser can be repaired) for urgent and emergency situations only.

Plans are in place for the July 4th parade – permits received and Grafton County sheriff's department will be at the event as in years past. Fireworks are also scheduled in Fairlee the night of July 4th.

Old Business

- A. **Review applicants to serve on the Orford Road Commission** – Applications were received from Paul Goundrey, John Berryman and Ivan Stanhope. The Budget Advisory Committee recommended Mike Wright and Alan Bean to serve on the Road

Commission, and recommended the Selectboard consider Clifton Taylor as a member. After some discussion, *a motion was made by Kidder, seconded by Kling to appoint Mike Wright, Alan Bean, Paul Goundrey, John Berryman and Clifton Taylor to serve on the Road Commission. Motion passed 3/0* The committee will need to schedule an organizational meeting to elect a chair and secretary. Dobbins-Marsh volunteered to serve as the secretary for the Commission during the set-up period.

B. Update of Outstanding Projects

- a) FEMA Updates – Adams reported the guardrails are still not installed. He contacted Bob Durfee, DuBois & King, to contact the construction company about the completion of this project.
- b) Archertown Road Bridge over Jacobs Brook project –Adams is waiting to receive paperwork regarding this project - he will follow up with Bob Durfee regarding this.

C. Other

- a) Health Officer – Adams attended a webinar in the roles and responsibility of Health Officers. The rules have changed, and health officers are now required to attend a 3-hour training, and pass the test. Another change is health officers no longer need to be a resident of the State of NH, but are required to complete a background check and take an annual confidentiality test. A Board of Health should be established for the Town and members would consist of the health officer and Selectboard members. They will meet annually and file an annual report. Adams will research what the options will be for Orford.
- b) Water Testing – the e-coli testing was high at Upper Baker Pond – signs are now posted there.

New Business

A. Review received bids for the Sawyer Brook Culvert Headwall project – none were received

B. Review received bids for the Quinttown Road apron paving – Only one bid received – Blaktop for \$18,250

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to accept the bid from Blaktop for the Quinttown Road apron at \$18,250 upon verification of the durability of materials being used by Kidder. Motion passed 3/0

C. Review of received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood” – none received

D. Complaints – none received

E. Correspondence

1. Documents required to complete the application for access to Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) funds were signed by the Selectboard Chair. This pool of funding may be used for several financial impact situations due to COVID, including broadband services. At this time the Town will submit its application to hold the funds for future use.
2. Abatement Approval/Disapproval – The Selectboard reviewed two Abatement Recommendations from Todd Haywood, assessor. Andrew Schwaegler spoke on his concern about the increase in the valuation of his parents place on Indian Pond, as the land assessed value increase significantly more that other property owners on the lake. As Haywood was not available to address his recommendations, no action was taken at the meeting. The Selectboard will address the recommendations at a future meeting.

3. Land Use Change Tax – the Selectboard reviewed and signed the Land Use Change tax for Wilkes McClave.
4. Use of Town Property use – approved for the requests from Orford-Fairlee Lion's Club, and the OMNI Zumba Classes to use the common near the Gazebo.
5. Sign at the intersection of Bridge Street and Route 10 – the Selectboard reviewed a request to remove the "We stand with Wayland" posted sign. Because this area is in the State of NH right of way, the Selectboard has no authority to remove it.

F. Other

1. Kling mentioned a tree on the Common across from the Post Office that needs to be removed. Parks & Playgrounds contacted Bill Wilson, Tree Warden to look into it. Wilson feels special equipment is needed to remove the tree as it's leaning towards the wires. Kling asked what the process was in order to hire the job out. Adams said P&P should ask for estimates from various vendors (as per the purchasing policy requirements), then go with the best option. Kling said many tree companies are booked for several months, but Stacey Thomson could do the job sooner. Kidder said this tree was looked at some time ago, and because it's within the State right of way, it should be suggested to Wilson to contact the NH DOT in Orford to see about its removal, or to obtain the state's permission for Orford to remove the tree.
2. Kling commented on the Capital Improvement program the Planning Board discussed at their last meeting. He feels it's important this is being discussed again, and would like to see a timeline developed for the many projects within the Town that need to be addressed.

Manifests, Payroll and Accounts Payable folders

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

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh