

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2021

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Todd Haywood, Jason Bachus, John Miller, Tiffani Vance

Call Meeting to Order

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

The meeting recessed for the Public Hearing at 5:31 pm

The meeting reconvened at 5:35 pm

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to accept the minutes of 07/12/21

Motion Passed 3/0

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to accept the minutes of 07/14/21 as amended

Motion Passed 3/0

Reports

- A. **Assessor**-Todd Haywood called into the meeting to discuss the abatement for Sarah Schwaegler. This is just a document for the Selectboard to sign, as they approved the abatement during the 07/14/2021 Selectboard meeting.

Haywood prepared a Land Use Change Tax form to remove 2.2 acres from Current Use for Kenneth & Anne Miller. The Selectboard will address this as their 08/11/2021 meeting, to allow for more time to look over the documents.

The last item was a letter to Moosilauke-Merriwood Inc. regarding the lack of assessment of waterfront property. The Selectboard will address at their 08/28/21 meeting to allow for more time to look over the documents and property information. Haywood will process the MS-1 once these changes have been made.

- B. **Police Department** – Chief Bachus presented his June report – there were 69 calls for service (NH State Police responding to 2), and included 1 accident, 8 assists to other agencies, 4 animal control calls, and 1 criminal arrest for assault. Motor vehicle enforcement included 17 stops with 4 summonses being issued.

The cruiser is back in service. Bachus expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Town of Fairlee for the use of the Fairlee Cruiser. He also thanked Erik's Auto Body in Haverhill for the quick turnaround on the cruiser repair, and Julie Donnelly for the cruiser lettering.

Bachus reported on the continued complaints/concerns of speeding on Bridge street, Route 10, Archertown Road and Upper Baker Pond road. He has begun directed patrols in these areas, varying times and days. He will be requesting the purchase of speed signs at the next annual meeting as the signs collect specific data as well as be a visual deterrent and reminder for violations.

Kling said concerns have been raised about unregistered vehicles of new Orford residents, and the loss of income to the Town. Also, there is concern about the number of motor boats/water skiers on Lower Baker Pond and the impact on the loons. Bachus will reach out to the Wentworth Chief as well as NH Lake Patrol to keep an eye on this.

Old Business

A. Agreement and Release permit for Construction on a Class VI Road application –

The Selectboard discussed the application with property owner Tiffani Vance. They went over what she can and cannot do on the Class VI portion of Prettyman road, and should discuss work with the Road Agent prior to the start of road maintenance. The board discussed the importance of knowing where boundary lines are for the Town of Orford, Town of Piermont and abutters. Vance is planning on replacing a culvert, and filling in some holes on the road this year. Vance will reach out to the Road Agent to discuss her plans. *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to approve the permit application. Motion Passed 3/0*

B. Update of Outstanding Projects

- a) Orfordville Bog/Culvert Project – the Selectboard received the permits, map and survey for this project. Dobbins-Marsh will contact Horizons Engineering to request the cost to create bid specs and for an estimation of the project costs.
- b) FEMA Updates
 1. Town Road #100 – no activity on the installation of the guard rails
 2. Sawyer Brook headwalls – the contractor is hoping to start the project in the first week of August 2021
 3. Mousley Brook Culvert replacement – the Road Commission will look over this project and make recommendations to the Selectboard on the best course of action
- C. **Other** - *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to appoint Herbert Austic as a member to the Road Commission. Motion passed 3/0*

New Business

A. Review of received bids for the Highway Storage addition – one estimate was received from Steve Welch in the amount of \$42,340. The Selectboard will invite Welch to attend the 08/11 meeting to discuss the estimate and determine possible changes to the plan to help lower the anticipated cost of the project.

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

C. Correspondence

- a) An email was received from the Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) regarding the funds the Town of Orford will receive under the American Rescue Plan act (ARPA). The state received \$112 million in Local Fiscal Recovery funds to help NH towns meet pandemic response needs. Each towns’ budget determined the percentage it would receive. There are several categories the funds may be used for, including investing in Broadband. The project must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and be expensed by December 31, 2026. Any funds not used by this date, or for unapproved projects will be required to be repaid to the federal government.
- b) NH Department of Safety – an email was received regarding new safety rules – this was given to Chief Bachus to review.

- c) An updated photo of a junky yard on Route 10 was provided to the Selectboard. However, it still does not meet the definition of an illegal junkyard, so no action was taken
- d) The 2020 Financial Report draft was received and the Selectboard reviewed. The auditors recommended that all cash accounts held by the Treasurer (that are not reported as separate funds such as the Conservation and Firefighter's Memorial funds) be maintained in the Town's general ledger accounting system. Dobbins-Marsh will request detailed clarification on this issue from the Auditors and request suggestions of various ways to handle these accounts.

D. Other

- a) Steve Griffin, NH DES Gravel Tax Appraiser, will meet with Kling and Tom Thomson during his next visit to the area to discuss and review the sand pit area.
- b) The Free Library installed a "Little Library" at the Congregational Church, however the location of the installation falls within the Town's right of way on the West Common. The Selectboard agreed to allow the Little Library to remain at the location.
- c) Adams discussed the possibility installing a Bulletin Board on the common by the Post Office to be used for official Town business. When posting various notices of meetings in the Post Office, they can easily get lost with all the other flyers on their bulletin board. Adams asked the other Selectboard members to think on the possibility of this.

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 tax deferral matters at 7:15 pm. A roll call vote of member's present was taken with a decision in the affirmative 3/0

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 7:26 pm. A motion was made by Kidder, seconded by Adams to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Motion Approve 3/0.

Adjourn

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed 3/0

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh