

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Fred Kidder II (called into meeting), Chase Kling

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Tom Thomson

Call Meeting to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to accept the minutes of 08/25/2021 (as amended)

Motion Passed 3/0

Reports

- A. **Fire Department** – Chief Straight was at an accident and could not attend the meeting. Kling discussed the propane event the fire department responded to, along with mutual aid from Lyme, Piermont and Fairlee. 16 loads of water were needed to knock down the fumes in order to prevent a bigger issue.
- B. **Highway Department** – Terry Straight was not at the meeting, but did provide his report for August. The department rented an excavator - it was used to ditch and replaced a culvert on Blackberry Hill road. Cold patch was added to paved roads, as needed. Some of the gravel roads were graded and material added as needed. The roadside mowers started their work mid-August. Unfortunately, the diesel fuel pump stopped working (it has now been replaced), so temporarily fuel was purchased at Wings Market. Dobbins-Marsh will submit an application to the NH DOT which if approved will allow the Town of Orford to purchase diesel from NH DOT locations when access to the Town's diesel isn't available.
Kidder said he spoke with the road agent regarding Bean Brook road and asked him to have a conversation with the Piermont road agent to determine which town is responsible for the road maintenance, as the work is shared by seasons. Once the two road agents agree on the schedule, the town responsible for the summer grading needs to have the work done. Adams said he knew Straight had contacted the Piermont road agent, and the Orford highway crew will be working on this road.
Kling discussed the condition of the Quinttown Road network. He said the town needs to make a good faith effort by ditching and grading, which will most likely be a 2-3 week project. Adams will meet with road agent Straight to get a plan for that area of town by Friday, September 10th

Old Business

A. Update of Outstanding Projects

- Orfordville Road Clough Brook culvert project – Kling reported he'd met with various residents with interest in this area. While the screen does clog up, the headwall isn't leaking, and work done by the highway department is helping to prevent leaking. Kling said the current water level is good, and the culvert is in relatively good condition. For now, Kling would recommend leaving as is, and if future leaks occur the town can look what options are available.

- Sand Pit Reclamation Plan – Kling has marked the 50’ setback around most of the pit. There are a few sections that are less than the 50’ setback, and Kling will have road agent Straight and Tom Thomson meet and review these areas. The town can add materials from ditching and chips to create a slope and maintain the 50’ setback. Kling said a response was received from Terry Harwood (abutter) stating he wants to maintain the 50’ setback and would like to see the transition zone be a gradual slope that will allow trees and scrubs to grow and help prevent erosion and would be more natural and visually appealing. Thomson said he’d reached out to Steve Griffin, NH DRA regarding a meeting in Orford to review the site, but has not heard back from him yet.
- Town Road #100 FEMA Project – on September 14th at 9:00 am, the contractor, engineering firm and Selectboard will meet to review the punch list to finish the project. Dobbins-Marsh will send letters to abutters to notify them of the meeting in case they want to attend. Kling said the road surface was fixed by the road crew and it is now drivable.
- Mousley Brook Culvert FEMA project – the extension for addition time to complete the project has been filed and is under review by FEMA. Kling will follow up with the Road Commission to see if they’ve had a chance to look at this project.

B. Safety Hazard Properties (RSA 155-B) – After a brief discussion of the property condition and possible action to take, Kidder will look into the best way to approach the situation and discuss at the 09/22/21 Selectboard meeting

C. Town Hall Heritage Center Capital Reserve Account – The Historical Society said there are no immediate plans to access the Capital Reserve funds for work on the building, therefore, the Trustees of the Trust Fund can move forward with the change to the investment account.

New Business

A. Review Schedule for 2022 Budget meetings – Kling asked if any of these meetings interfered with committee meetings already scheduled for the Niles Room. Dobbins-Marsh said Selectboard meetings with department heads take place in the Selectboard office, and will verify the dates selected for other budget meetings do not interfere with other committee meetings using the Niles Room.

B. Review the 2021 MS-434 Estimated Revenue report – after a brief discussion of the estimated revenue for 2021 (MS-434), the Selectboard agreed with the numbers presented.

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to authorize the estimate of revenue for 2021. Motion passed 3/0

C. Review Actual vs Budget Expenses report as of 08/31/21 – Expenses are under spent to date, with nothing standing out as an issue. The Selectboard will review and address any questions or clarification needed with Dobbins-Marsh.

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

E. Complaints/Concerns

- Parks & Playgrounds are concerned with the lack of a portable toilet at the playground area near the boat landing. Dobbins-Marsh said K&R didn’t have any available for this location. The Selectboard will budget for a portable at this location for 2022, and Dobbins-Marsh will notice K&R to schedule for this.
- Walter Lipton and Jude Parker submitted a concern about the large pine tree on Archertown Road that is diseased and near a power line and needs to be taken

down. Kling has discussed with Thomson Excavation, and will have a quote by Monday 09/13/21. Dobbins-Marsh will contact two other vendors to obtain an estimate for the project with a deadline of September 17,2021

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kling to approve spending up to \$5,000 for this tree removal project. Motion passed 3/0

Once a date for removal is scheduled, abutters will be notified.

F. Correspondence – none received

G. Other – Kling said the Orford-Wentworth perambulation will begin within the next month.

Estimated costs to be between \$250 and \$300

Manifests, Payroll and Accounts Payable folders

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

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh