

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Chase Kling

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Jason Bachus, Terry Straight (call in)

Call Meeting to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Kling, seconded by Adams to accept the minutes of 09/08/2021 (as amended)

Motion Passed 2/0

Reports

- A. **Police Department** – Chief Bachus presented his report for the month of August. There was a total of 61 calls for service (NHSP had 5 calls). Service calls included 2 residential alarms, 2 animal complaints, 8 criminal investigation follow ups, 2 suspicious persons and 3 fraud cases. In August, 19 motor vehicles stops resulted in 6 summonses being issued. Bachus continues to patrol on Route 10 and Bridge street. Overall speeds on these 3 roads are consistently not more than 5 mph over the speed limit. The few that were over the speed limit by 10-15 mph were stopped and warnings or summonses were issued. Bachus said while no speed sign is required when the speed limit doesn't change, the State of NH has agreed to add a speed limit sign on Bridge street as drivers go towards the bridge. The branches around the speed limit sign on Bridge street, as you enter Orford, have been trimmed so it's more visible.

The Upper Valley Prosecutorial Association, the towns' prosecutor, is working on finalizing a Grafton County attorney contract to take over these services in December 2021, as the current prosecutor will be retiring then. Once the contract is finalized, Orford and other member towns can expect a slight increase for this service.

The new records management and dispatch system has been selected by Hanover Dispatch with a projected "go live" date of mid-December 2021. The system selected will not have a licensing fee (originally projected at to be between \$25,000 - \$29,000), but the estimate for the new program is currently projected between \$6,000 - \$6,500 per year for Orford starting in January 2022. (Orford is currently paying approximately \$2,800 for the expiring system). The fee per Town is based on the number of users in each Town. Our current contract will expire November 2021 – most towns will rely on Hanover in the event they need to access data in order to avoid paying a 6-month renewal fee for the expiring plan.

Adams asked about the recall for the cruiser – Bachus has an appointment to have the cruiser looked at. Adams said the letter indicates it's a recall but not parts are available. Bachus said this letter is a follow up to the original recall notice to again make sure current equipment/parts are still serviceable.

- B. **Highway Department** – Terry Straight called into the meeting to discuss work to be completed before mid-November. Kling said he was disappointed that neither Adams or

Straight discussed the Quinttown Road network (Quinttown, Marsh and Mousley roads) work plan with his as he'd requested. Because of this, he generated his own workplan for that area. Adams apologized to Kling for the oversight. Straight said the highway crew was working on ditching, adding fill and grading from the Quinttown Road 4-corners to Dixon's camp, Mousley Brook and Marsh roads. The crew will continue grading from the Quinttown Road 4-corners to Route 25A, as well as flushing out culverts on this road. Kling asked if Straight has spoken with the Piermont road agent. Straight said they are playing phone tag, but he will try to meet with him early one morning to review the maintenance agreement of this road between the two towns.

Work to be completed prior to Mid-November (as weather permits) will include grading and adding fill, as needed, on Bean Brook road, Grimes Hill road, Indian Pond road. If time permits other roads will be added to the grading schedule. The status of the culvert on Grimes Hill road was discussed and Kling asked if the Town should take a water sample and send off for testing, as there has no response from the NH DES on the matter. After further discussion, it was agreed that Kling will provide the testing company's name to Dobbins-Marsh and she will contact them to obtain a testing kit for water and soil.

Straight asked about the possibility of requiring bonds for logging operations as loaded log trucks often cause damage to the roads. Dobbins-Marsh will look into the process. Straight discussed comments made at the 08/25/21 Selectboard meeting regarding the document presented to the Selectboard, signed by Kevin Sawyer, Highway crew employee, regarding Straight instructing the road crew not to grade the section of Quinttown Road from the 4-corners to Dixon camp. Straight said that was a decision made by Sawyer.

- C. **Broadband Committee** – Adams attended the Grafton County Broadband committee (GCBC) meeting on 9/23/21. This committee has been extremely active - the premise for operating their Broadband would be to run fiber optic lines to each town hall, or another designated central location, as a central point for towns to build their broadband system from. The GCBC wants to do this work without impacting taxpayers – ARPA funds are being used and grants are being applied for to cover the installation of the fiber optics in Grafton County, estimating \$25,000,000 to be allocated for this project. Grafton County has hired a consulting service to do the leg work of this project, and their grant writers are applying for federal grants to cover installation costs. Grafton County will also be offering access to their grant writers by smaller towns to help with grant writing in order for towns to apply for federal grants to cover the cost per town. New England Electric Co-op recently changed their business model to include broadband services. They are committed to providing broadband services to all their current customers within 6 years.

Old Business

A. Update of Outstanding Projects

- a) Tree Removal on Archertown Road – Three companies were contacted for estimates to remove the pine tree on Archertown Road. The only estimate received was from Thomson Tree Service for \$3,500.

Motion made by Kling, seconded by Adams to accept the quote from Thomson Tree Service of \$3,500 to remove the pine tree by Walter Lipton's on Archertown Road. Motion Passed 2/0

“Road Closed” signs will be put out the day prior to the work. Dobbins-Marsh will post on Listserv and send letters to the abutters to notify them of the work.

- b) Safety Hazardous Properties (RSA 155-B) – Kidder will address at the October 13, 2021 Selectboard meeting
- c) Archertown Bridge at Jacobs Brook- The design proposal from DuBois & King will be mailed to the Town office for the Selectboard to review. There will be 4 design options and pricing. After reviewing and deciding on the best option, DuBois & King will hold a public hearing on the project. DuBois & King would also like written confirmation from the Selectboard of the road width.
- d) FEMA Projects
 - 1. Town Road #100 – A change order was received, as requested by the Selectboard, which will substitute $\frac{3}{4}$ ” Stay Pak in place of 304.3 crushed gravel, as per the original contract. DuBois & King approved the change. The project will be completed by October 13, 2021
 - 2. Mousley Brook – Adams said two engineering firms have recently requested the spec sheet for the design of this project. Dobbins-Marsh will send them out this week.

B. Other - Adams wants to invite the Road Improvement Committee or representative of, to the October 13th Selectboard meeting. Dobbins-Marsh will contact the group.

New Business

- A. Review of received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood”**- none received
- B. Complaints** – none received
- C. Contracts** – RSD contract for DOT random drug and alcohol testing of drivers employed by the Highway department with a CDL license. *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kling to accept the RSD Companies 2022 contract for DOT random drug & alcohol testing. Motion passed 2/0*
- D. Correspondence** – an FYI e-mail was received from Vickie Davis of the Orford Planning Board between herself, the town attorney and the attorney for Mark Miller regarding construction on landlocked property. Kling indicated there is correspondence from Attorney Waugh as requested from David Bischoff (past Selectboard member) giving an opinion of approval for Tom Thomson to construct on his landlocked property. Kling will provide a copy to the board.
- E. Other** – Lawrence Hibbard, Parks & Playgrounds member, asked if he could trim the bushes at the intersection of Huckins Hill and Route 25A to help with visibility of on - coming traffic. The Selectboard agreed this would be okay. Dobbins-marsh will notify Lawrence of the decision.

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 Kling to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed 2/0

The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh