

# TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2021

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Jason Bachus, Jim McGoff, Deb McGoff, Jonathan McGoff, Mark Blanchard

## 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 10/13/2021 (as amended)*

*Motion Passed 3/0*

*Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kling to accept the minutes of the 10/20/2021 Budget Work Session (as amended) Motion Passed 2/0 (Kidder was not present at this meeting)*

## Reports

- A. **Police Department** – Chief Bachus presented his September activity report to the Selectboard. Bachus responded to 79 calls for service, NH State Police responded to 3. Included in the 79 calls were residential alarms, animal complaints, assist to other agencies and citizen calls, and following up on 5 open criminal investigations. Motor Vehicle stops totaled 31 with 4 summonses issued.  
Bachus has signed up for a week-long training course, at no cost to the Town. The “Basic Death & Homicide Investigations” will be held at the NH Police training facility in early February. This course will ensure the proper handling and procedures of natural, accidental and other types of deaths that occur in NH.

## Old Business

- A. **Grimes Hill Road culvert condition** – Jim McGoff had several issues with the maintenance of Grimes Hill road to discuss with the Selectboard.  
Plowing and Sanding - McGoff asked the board to confirm that the road will be plowed and sanded timely as it's a school bus route, and in past years he's had to plow the road himself. Adams said the plowing policy will be adhered to, and if there are issues with this McGoff should contact him directly.  
Culverts – McGoff said there are 5 culverts on Grimes Hill road between McGoff Salvage and where John McGoff lives - most have not been cleaned out this summer. If we have a major rain storm, the water will wash out the road as the culverts are clogged. Last year, Stacey Thomson spent two days working on the road due to a storm causing a washout. McGoff also feels that several of these culverts need to be replaced as they are in poor condition. Adams will work with the Road Agent to generate a plan to inspect and clean out the culverts, and determine which ones need replacing. The Road Agent will present his plan at the 11/10/21 Selectboard meeting. The McGoff's were also concerned regarding past Selectboard minutes that reference toxic fumes coming from culverts near their business. The McGoff's feel like this is an

accusation against them. Kling discussed concerns the highway department had with a culvert on Grime Hill road regarding strong smells and concerns from their employees if working on the culvert. Kling had photos of rust colored liquid flowing into the culvert and had requested the NH DES test it, but to date no one has come to Orford. McGoff felt the likely cause of the odor was caused from rust from the ground, leaf build up and possible dead animals in the culverts. McGoff referred to a recent article in the Valley News addressing the situation of rotting leaves create the emission of methane gas. Kling said it was not his intention to infer the McGoff's were to blame. Jonathan McGoff said they have their junk yard tested by Geo Insight and have been told they have one of the cleaner junkyards in NH. Kling will look over the culverts to help with the determination of action needed. The Selectboard made a commitment to the McGoff's to solve this issue.

## **B. Update of Outstanding Projects**

- a) Safety Hazardous Property update – no response has been received as of this date. The Selectboard will re-address at the November 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
- b) Archertown Bridge at Jacobs Brook – Adams has requested from the Town attorney to review the abutting property deeds to determine the road width of the bridge. Once that is determined, the information will be sent to DuBois & King
- c) FEMA Updates
  1. Town Road #100 contracted work was completed as of 10/13/21. The invoice for this work was submitted to FEMA for 75% reimbursement. The utility company still has work to complete, but there will be no charge to the Town for this.
  2. Mousley Brook – no reply from the engineering firms as of this date

## **New Business**

- A. Orford Energy Committee – Streetlights**-Mark Blanchard of the Orford Energy Committee (OEC) presented information to the Selectboard regarding updating the streetlights to LED. The initial cost for this project to convert 33 streetlights would be \$10,000, but the annual savings would generate a pay back in 1-1/2 years. If the Selectboard wants to move forward with this project, the OEC asks what the next steps should be. The board agreed that community input is essential, and suggest some type of questionnaire/mailer that outlines the project and allows the OEC to collect data/suggestions from the public. Examples of questions: Do we still need streetlights? Should some lights be removed – if so, which ones? Do we need more streetlights, etc. The Selectboard will review the survey results at their 11/24/21 meeting, providing results are available.
- B. Review of the 2022 Tax Rate** – the Selectboard reviewed the 2021 tax rate and agreed to accept as presented. *Motion made by Kidder, seconded by Kling to accept the 2021 tax rate of \$26.46 per \$1,000 of value. Motion Passed 3/0*
- C. Boston Post Cane recipient update** – Kling spoke with Alexandra Moffit about the Boston Post Cane, and she is happy to accept it. She will speak with her family to determine what type of presentation event they would like. A Boston Post cane replica has been ordered.
- D. Review of received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood”**  
Property Owner: Green Woodlands, map & Lot #08-31-06, Forrester: John Fogarty
- E. Complaints** – address under Grimes Hill road culvert (old business)

## **F. Correspondence**

1. Email received requesting an update on the illegal junkyard property abutting theirs. They feel the section behind the house is in no better shape than when they filed the original complaint.
2. Request received from Bob Nelson to name the Orford soccer field to the Bob Thatcher Soccer Field in recognition of Thatcher's many years as the boys' soccer coach at both Orford High School and Rivendell. As this is a Town Community Field the Selectboard respectfully declined this request.
3. The iron sign markers taken for restoration are ready to be picked up
4. The Floodplain Development application for James Feuille and Nancy Murray was approved and signed

## **G. Other**

### **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 Kling to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed 3/0*

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh