

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

December 22, 2021

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Bill Wilson, Jason Bachus, Mark Blanchard,

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 12/06/2021 (as amended)

Motion Passed 3/0

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to accept the minutes of 12/08/2021 (as amended)

Motion Passed 3/0

- After the vote, Adams added an additional change to the 12/8 draft minutes

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to re-accept the minutes of 12/08/2021 (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0

Reports

- Assessor**-Todd Haywood was not present at the meeting, but left his monthly report for the Selectboard to review. The cyclical data collection and entry will be completed by 12/31/21 The equalization ratio study has been completed and submitted to the NH Dept. of Revenue. The results should be available in February or early March.
- Police Department** – Chief Bachus presented his report for November. There was a total of 65 calls for service (NHSP had 5 calls). Calls included an arrest for burglary and theft case from earlier in the year, 6 various agency assists, and an assault investigation. Motor vehicle enforcement included 27 stops with 1 summons issued. The homicide in Orford was referred to the NHSP Major Crimes and the NH Attorney General's office. Bachus would like to thank the Orford Fire Department and Chief Straight for their response and assistance at the scene, along with the Upper Valley Ambulance, Hanover Police Department, Lyme Police Department, Grafton County Sheriffs office and the NH State Police.
- Tree Warden** – Bill Wilson briefly discussed the issue with the tree that was taken down on the West Common by the Post Office. Several residents have said they want to contribute to the cost to replace the tree. Adams said in the spring of 2022 the stump will be ground down, and a marker will be placed in its location to identify the common corner of the Congregational Church, Post Office and West Common properties. A replacement tree can possibly be planted at a nearby location on Town property. Wilson identified several more trees that will need to be taken down in 2022 – one on the west common by Brenda Smith's house, one on the Community Field and one in front of the Town Office building. Wilson said it's very costly to prune trees, and usually in a few years the tree needs to be taken down anyway. Wilson also recommends not replacing with maple trees but oak trees as they handle the salt better and grow very fast.

Wilson said it might be a good time to hold an Arbor Day ceremony where residents can help replant the tree. Adams thanked Wilson for responding to concerns being expressed by several residents regarding the removal of the tree by the Post Office. Kling expressed his thanks to Thomson Excavating for the efficient removal of the tree.

Old Business

A. Update of Outstanding Projects

- a) Archertown Bridge at Jacobs Brook – the attorney will move forward having the property surveyed. Adams will check with the Dooley's to see if they have documents pertaining to property lines.
- b) Mousley Brook Culvert FEMA Project – Kling will research the cost of a Bailey Bridge. To remove the culvert will require a plan for a second means of exiting the road by local residents.

B. 2022 Proposed Operating Budget and Warrant Articles

- a) Review the Budget Advisory's report - The Selectboard reviewed comments from the Budget Advisory Committee as they pertained to the 2022 Proposed Operating Budget and Warrant Articles
- b) Proposed 2022 Operating Budget – after a brief discussion, the Selectboard agreed to keep the budget as proposed.

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to accept the 2022 Operating Budget as proposed at \$1,203,037 Motion Passed 3/0

- c) Proposed 2022 Warrant Articles
 - #3 – Capital Reserve funding – the Selectboard agreed to leave the total at \$372,655 – this includes \$22,000 to fund the Police Cruiser CRF in order to have enough funds to purchase a new vehicle should the voters approve that Warrant Article.
 - #5 – moving the ARPA funds into the Broadband CRF – questions were asked about the hidden restrictions of accepting these funds. Adams said these funds were applied for and accepted several months ago – this article simply moves the funds into the Broadband CRF.
 - #11 – Highway 10-Wheeler Truck – after a brief discussion on the type of truck to be requested, the Selectboard agreed to leave as a 10-Wheeler. Adams reminded the board if the Selectboard decides to change this to a 6-Wheeler at the Public Hearing, a second Public Hearing will be needed.
 - #12 – Paving – the Selectboard discussed the cost breakdown by road. River Road to reclaim and pave - \$181,442, Brook Road shimming - \$44,718, Dublin Road shimming - \$17,835 = Total \$243,995. The Road Commission report indicated River Road could be shimmed – Kidder said possibly some of the road could be shimmed, but the first half definitely needs to be reclaimed and paved.
 - #14 – To create a Town Road Commission – the article was amended to read *“To see if the Town will vote to create an Orford Town Road Committee made up of five residents with road and bridge maintenance, and vehicle and heavy equipment experience. These five members will be elected for staggering three-year terms. The committee meetings will also be attended by the Road Agent and a Selectboard member, who will be non-voting participants. The purpose of this committee will be to assist*

the Road Agent with project planning, estimating for bids and other major items that impact the highway department.”

- #15 – Purchase of Property – this article was amended to read *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to four hundred thirty-nine thousand dollars (\$439,000) to purchase property in Orford for the purpose of gaining access to additional sand, and to authorize the issuance of not more than two-hundred thousand (\$200,000) of bond or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), and to authorize the Selectboard to issue and negotiate such binds or notes and to determine the dates, maturities, interest rate and other details of such bonds or notes. The balance of two hundred thirty-nine dollars (\$239,000) will come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. This will be a 5-year non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI. (A 2/3 ballot vote required)*

Motion made by Kidder, seconded by Adams to accept the 2022 Warrant Articles as amended. Motion Passed 3/0

- d) Plan for Public Hearing for the 2022 Budget/Warrant Articles – the tentative date for the Public Hearing will be Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Rivendell Multi-Purpose Room. Dobbins-Marsh will confirm the meeting place and will have mailers sent out to residents to notify them of such.

New Business

A. Street Light Survey – The Energy Committee presented a one-page survey to be mailed to residents regarding the streetlights in Orford. This will be sent out after the first of the year 2022.

B. Review of received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood”

- Property Owner: Tom & Sheila Thomson, Map & Lot #008-089-043/045, Forrester: Wesley Everts
- Property Owner: Stonehouse Mountain Realty, LLC, Map & Lot #008-089-001D, Forrester: Butternut Hollow Forestry

C. Complaints

- A complaint was received about the road condition on Upper Stonehouse Mountain Road in that only one lane was plowed and no sand was put down. Road Agent Straight will contact the resident regarding her concern.

D. Correspondence

- Email received from the Energy Committee regarding spray foam insulating the basement of the Town Office building. Most members are not in favor of this. The Selectboard will discuss at their next meeting.

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(a) for personnel matters at 7:25 pm. A roll call vote of member's present was taken with a decision in the affirmative

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 7:53 pm. *Motion made by Kidder, seconded by Adams to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Motion Passed 3/0*

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh