

# TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2022

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Terry Straight

## 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 the 01/24/2022 Public Hearing (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0*
- *Motion made by Kidder, seconded by Adams to accept the minutes of 01/26/2022 (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0*
- *Motion made by Kidder, seconded by Adams to accept the minutes of the 02/07/2022 Work Session (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0*

## Reports

- A. **Fire Department** – Chief Straight presented his report for January 2022. There were 6 calls (there were 10 calls in January 2021) – 3 Medical, 1 Fire and 2 Mutual Aid calls. The department spent extra time on equipment maintenance to avoid freeze ups of the pumps. The department held an officers meeting, and the Chief attended a Mutual Aid Chiefs meeting. Adams asked about shoveling out of hydrants – Straight said hydrants are shoveled out by property owners, the Fire department and/or Highway department. Straight wants residents to be aware that skating on the Conn. River is not safe – the department will be posting signs regarding this at the Route 10 boat landing.
- B. **Highway Department** – Terry Straight presented his report for January 2022. The department has been busy with snow plowing, sanding and salting the roads, plus clean up following the storms. Frozen culverts are opened up using calcium chloride. The department can also use a pressure washer/steamer to clear culverts. Routine maintenance on the trucks is done as needed – changed the oil in truck #1 and replaced a brake cam on truck #3. Straight would like to place the bids for the 10-wheeler truck out to bid in order to have firmer pricing for the annual meeting. The bid will specify the authorized purchase is contingent on the passing of the warrant article at the 2022 annual meeting. Straight also requested authorization from the Selectboard to post the Road Closure legal notice as its needed. *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to allow the Road Agent to post the road closure notice when necessary. Motion passed 3/0* Straight said the 2-way radio in the backhoe needs replacing. It's been repaired several times, and Ossipee said it can no longer fix it. The cost will be approximately \$600.
- C. **Orford-Wentworth Perambulation Report** – after a brief discussion of the Orford/Wentworth perambulation report, *a motion was made by Adams, seconded by Kling to accept the report. Motion Passed 3/0* Adams thanked those that participated in the perambulation process.

## Old Business

**A. Action Items from Prior Board Meetings** – the Selectboard reviewed a list of outstanding action items from previous Selectboard meetings including the written work plan for the Quinttown area from last fall, creating a written document between Orford and Piermont on which town maintains the Bean Brook road, posting the room capacity for the Niles and Selectboard offices, posting “Road End Here” signs (where Class VI roads begin), and contacting Herb Austic to fine tune the specs for the Highway storage addition and grader cover.

### B. Update of Outstanding Projects

- **Highway Garage Primex outstanding items**
  - Additional outside lighting – work to be done in the summer of 2022
  - Fire Detection system -Straight has left a message with Tasco to discuss pricing
  - Add second means of egress in the garage office – work to be completed spring 2022
  - Replace eye wash station – Straight to obtain quotes
  - Take storage trailer #1 out of service and dispose of it
  - Bring current fuel station up to code
- **Mousley Brook culvert replacement** – meeting is scheduled for 2/16/22 to discuss option with Paul Hatch, NH DES
- **Mousley Brook bridge guardrails** – Straight said this will be a Spring/Summer 2022 project
- **Archertown Bridge at Jacobs Brook** – Adams discussed the survey with Pioneer Surveyors – the Archertown Road was determined to be 3 rods, and Dublin Road 2 rods in width. *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder, to accept Pioneer Land Surveying, LLC’s survey for the Archertown Road/Dublin Road in the vicinity of the Archertown Road/Jacobs Brook bridge. Motion passed 3/0*

An introductory letter will be sent, along with a copy of the survey, to the abutters and any mortgage/lienholder of said property, the NH Secretary of State and the Orford Town Clerk. Dobbins-Marsh will contact the town attorney to confirm future actions to take.

Straight said the bridge railing are in bad shape and suggested placing jersey barriers along both sides. Straight will obtain prices and weight of the barriers.
- **Orfordville Road Bog culvert** – Straight said this should go out to bid as the culvert does need to be replaced.

**C. Employee Handbook – First Review Section VII (pages 34-40)** – deferred to the work session scheduled for February 16, 2022

**D. Employee Handbook – First Review Sections I, II, III, V and VI** – deferred to the work session scheduled for March 2, 2022

## New Business

**A. Current Use properties reappraisals** – Kling wanted to discuss the work the assessor does as it pertains to properties in Current Use. He wants to make sure the assessor reviews properties to verify they are still in compliance with the Current Use regulations, and adjusted accordingly if found in violation of the statute. Dobbins-Marsh will email our assessor to relay this concern and request he discusses in greater detail at the February 23, 2022 Selectboard meeting.

**B. Orford’s Hazard Mitigation Plan renewal** – Adams said a group needs to be created to review and update the Mitigation Plan. Members of the group should

consist of Selectboard Members, Road Agent, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Emergency Management director, Health Officer and members from the Planning Board and possibly the Conservation Commission. There is a grant available to cover the costs of this project, and June Garneau (mapping and planning solutions) will work with the group as well. The group will need to hold between 8-10 meetings.

**C. Review of received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood”**

Property Owner: William Wilson, Map & Lot #8-95-1, Forrester: William Wilson

**D. Complaints – none received**

**E. Correspondence**

- An email was received asking if a commercial building can be constructed in a residential neighborhood along Route 25A. As there is no zoning in Orford, the commercial building is allowed.
- The Rivendell (RISD) Board voted to authorize the mailing of ballots to all active registered voters in the school district towns, provided the legislative bodies (Selectboard) concur. RISD provided a resolution for the Selectboard to sign agreeing to this. Under the RISD Articles of Agreement, meetings and voting fall under Vermont law. Dobbins-Marsh discussed with the Bud Fitch (elections attorney at the NH Secretary of State) and the Town’s attorney – both agreed that the Articles of Agreement are the governing document pertaining to how Rivendell holds its elections and meetings. Kling strongly opposed the Resolution – he feels the school should hold a public meeting to discuss the budget and have in-person elections. He feels Vermont has no legal right to impose its will on how to vote in NH. Adams and Kidder agreed to sign the resolution.

**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 7:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh