

# TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes – Work Session

April 6, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Jen Carter Chase Kling

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Terry Straight

## Call Meeting to Order

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

**Paving Bids** – Five (5) bids were received for the paving project-

J. Hutchins, Inc.       \$272,819.05

GMI Asphalt            \$243,660.00

R&D Paving             \$252,771.50

Blaktop Paving        \$228,812.50

Pike Industries        \$217,303.50

The Road Agent will review the bids against the specs and report back to the Selectboard at the 04/13/2022 meeting with his recommendation.

## Approval of Minutes:

- *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kling to accept the minutes of 03/16/2022 Motion Passed 3/0*
- *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Carter to accept the minutes of 03/23/2022 (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0*

## Updates:

- **Streetlight Project** – Because there were no funds allocated in the 2022 budget or with a special warrant article at the annual meeting, any grant funds received over \$10,000 would require a public hearing to accept the funds, and approval from the Town to move forward on the project would also be needed. Options to pay for the project would be thru a grant, or loan. There is also an option offered from Eversource Municipal Smart Start program which is an on-bill financing option. Adams will research this option further.
- **Broadband** – the second payment from the ARPA funds should arrive within the next 6 weeks. Adams completed an overlay of Topsham optic fiber network which leaves 3 areas in town not covered by NH Co-op or Topsham Communication – the north end of Route 10 and the start of Grimes Hill road, Route 10 south from approximately Tullar Farm/River Road area, and one at Creamery road towards Tillotson Road. It's possible Topsham will add these three sections to their area, but there's some fine print that Adams needs to review. Will the Town pay the cost (\$30,000-\$40,000 per mile) to install in remote areas? Carter just had StarLink installed at her home and the internet speed is excellent, and while she had to pay to install, it might be an option for remote residents. Also, the Grafton County Broadband committee has had to pivot on their plans because of what the NH Co-op is planning.
- **Archertown Road/Jacobs Brook** – Kling had a conversation with the Dooley's regarding the Archertown Road/Jacobs Brook bridge replacement project. They have

similar concerns that were addressed at the meeting with the engineer-vibrations, noise, how to address the speeding onto a two-lane bridge, and where equipment will be stored. (Lawrence Hibbard's property is a possibility).

- **McGoff Salvage** – Jim McGoff expressed his appreciation of the junkyard license renewals to Kling. McGoff acknowledged vehicles currently stored off site from the junkyards, but is working to clean up that area. Carter will contact McGoff to set up a time when she and Kling can meet with the McGoff's to work together to start on an estimated timeline to complete this task.
- **Mountain View Hideaway Engineer Study** – at the 03/30/22 work session the Selectboard voted for the Town to authorize DuBois & King to complete the plan review and for the Town to pay for the engineering fee of \$3,000. However, it was brought to the Selectboard attention that the Planning Board Regulations do in fact address who pays the fee, and it was felt the applicant is responsible. Carter suggested having the Planning Board re-address the issue, as she feels the regulation doesn't apply to this road as it's already constructed.

*Motion made by Carter, seconded by Kling to rescind the authorization to DuBois & King to complete the plan review, and reject the condition from the Planning Board for the engineering review. Motion Passed 2/0 (Adams abstained)*

**Employee Handbook 1<sup>st</sup> Reading** – Sections I, II, III, V and VI – the first reading occurred with a few minor changes to these policy sections.

#### **Correspondence:**

- An email was received from Amy Beston regarding the illegal dumping and trash along Orford's roadways. She feels this year the trash is excessive from past years – beer cans, tires and plastic containers. Members of the public can get Green-up bags at the Selectboard office, and Floyd's Rubbish Removal will be notified to look for them alongside the roads for pick up.
- NH Electric Co-op and its contracted consultant, Vegetation Control Services, will begin to apply herbicides to undesirable vegetation within power line right of ways in Orford. A copy of the map depicting the location of power lines of intended treatment areas was also included.
- Vermont Generator System completed its spring preventative maintenance on the Town Office generator. There were no issues reported. While the battery is currently in working order, it is scheduled to be replaced in the fall.

#### **Manifests, Payroll and Accounts Payable folders**

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

#### **Adjourn**

*Motion made by Kling, seconded by Adams adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed 3/0*

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh