

# TOWN OF ORFORD

Orford Road Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlie Smith, Michael Wright, Herb Austic

OTHERS PRESENT: Chase Kling, Selectboard

## **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

Approval of draft minutes from 1/11,2024

Committee approved the petition as written for a warrant article

Charlie discussed Title LX111 Chapter 669:7 Incompatibility of offices. He felt the board was in violation of said law as they hold two positions in the town. He gave Chase the contact information at the State Attorney General's office where he inquired. He stated that the select board has 30 days to respond to that office.

Charlie discussed the Warrant Articles for the town meeting, noting that many of them were part of the highway budget. He noted that the Article #8 amount had been increased by \$25,000. He was told that increase was due to the permit for that project is \$32,000? Chase noted that the warrant articles were not part of the committees' concern, that #14 was of no concern to the committee. Charlie replied he was only updating the proposed Articles with the committee.

Pictures were presented as to the condition of the Phase I Archertown Hill Project. They show a failure of the road base and a significant issue with the pavement. The committee feels these are signs of the road failing, and these issues should be addressed before any further work (monies) are expended on Phase 2. They feel that if Phase 1 is paved with a 1-1/2" overlay, it will continue to fail causing a need to reclaim that section of road or even a full reclamation.

Because those pictures are concerning, the committee feels that the engineer should return and give her recommendations for resolution of the failing road. The committee feels the possible deterioration cause could be the gravel product that was specified (high % of fines 12.6%) that is not normally used in areas with high water table or underground springs, which were evident in the borings. We also feel that an independent review is warranted, noting that the engineering firm was also the project manager, hired by the select board, acting as road agent.

Mike thought he may be able to get a pavement expert to come out and give his assessment. Charlie and herb agreed and would look forward to any comments.

Charlie stated for the record that he and Herb were at the January 12<sup>th</sup> phase 2 work session. They both signed in on the attendance sheet, but were left off the work session minutes.

Charlie asked Chase if the town was bound to accept the lowest bid on a contract. Chase replied not that he was aware of, but would confirm and get back to the committee.

Chase asked for the committee's input on the aggregate for phase 2 of Archertown Rd. The committee feels that the correct gravel was not used in phase one, and should not be repeated in phase 2. The committee has been concerned about the town's gravel purchases for months, and has gone on record in prior minutes.

Next meeting 3/14/2024 - Thursday@ 6:00 pm

Adjourned @7:23 pm

Submitted by Herb Austic