

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

October 29, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Fred Kidder II, Tom Steketee

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Terry Straight, Kevin Follensbee, Tim Hebb, John Berryman, Ruth Hook, Tom Thomson, Paul Goundrey

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

Fire Department Budget

Chief Straight presented the fire department's 2020 budget and possible warrant articles. As with the police department, the dispatch line item was removed and dispatch expenses will be reflected under Emergency Services. Comparing the original budget to the 2019 budget, it was an increase of just under \$1,000. The primary increase was for hose & ladder testing.

Possible warrant articles:

- Add a side by side UTV with a 20' trailer. The cost of this vehicle would be around \$40,000.
- Replace the rescue truck with a smaller vehicle at a cost close to \$200,000. (To replace the rescue truck similar to the current truck would run close to \$800,000) The current rescue truck will be sold at an estimated price between \$60,000 and \$80,000

Highway Budget

Berryman presented the highway budget for 2020 and possible warrant articles. The overall budget request reflects an increase of over \$200,000, primarily due to extensive work the roads and culverts need. The plan for 2020 includes replacing 20-22 culverts, upgrading and widening several roads, and various other small projects. Line items for this work include equipment rentals for an excavator and rollers, contracted services for roadside mowing and possible help with snow removal this winter, hot top, culverts and gravel. The board discussed the road salt line item and if it could be lowered some – currently at \$35,000. The department is budgeting for required personal protection items and high-viz uniforms. Current road signs should be upgraded with signs that are compliant with MUDCD (which the state of NH has adopted). The department added funds for training for the employees as well.

Possible warrant articles:

- Replace the 2008 International with a new truck. The net cost for the truck will be between \$134,000 - \$142,000
- Trade in the backhoe for an excavator with a net cost of \$42,000.
- Request funds to improve 8.5 miles of road at an estimated cost of \$275,000
- Pave the apron of gravel roads that connect onto paved roads – cost unknown at this time

Other

Adams reported passing the sand pit on the way to the meeting and noticed shooting occurring while Kevin Sawyer was working there. He spoke to the people at the pit about shooting while highway employees were working. They told Adams they were given permission by the person working in the pit. Adams spoke with Sawyer and reprimanded him for allowing this to occur.

Adams also spoke to Sawyer about working at the pit alone – when this occurs he needs to check in with Berryman every 15 minutes (via text or phone call), and Berryman will act accordingly if no message is received. This is a requirement of the highway department.

Adams discussed the percentage of increase for eligible employees – the cost of living was 2.8%, with average increases being 3.2%

A motion was made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II(a) for personnel matters at 9:12 PM. A roll call vote of member's present was taken with a decision in the affirmative

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 10:24 PM. A motion was made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Motion Approved.

Adjourn

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Steketee adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh