

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen
GoToMeeting Minutes
January 22, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Fred Kidder II

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Terry Straight

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

Roll call taken – board members listed above were present

The Selectboard reviewed the public hearing comments regarding the proposed 2021 budget and warrant articles

Operating Budget

No changes to be made. There was a brief discussion around expenses that may still not occur in 2021 due to the lasting effects of COVID (in person seminars, the swim program and the July 4th parade). The Selectboard agreed to leave these expenses in the budget as if the events are allowed, it's better to plan for them than not.

WA#3 – Capital Reserve Account Funding

The Selectboard discussed reducing the funding as suggested at the public hearing. Because \$26,530 will be added from the Unassigned Fund Balance (Warrant Article #4), the Selectboard agreed to reduce this article by \$26,000 by only funding \$120,000 into the Road Improvement CRF (originally was \$146,000). *Motion made by Kidder, seconded by Adams to reduce the Road Improvement contribution to \$120,000, leaving all other CRF contributions as originally funded. This will reduce this warrant article to \$311,146. Motion Passed.*

WA#4, 5, 6 – no changes to these articles

WA#7 – Highway Truck Purchase

Straight discussed the 2008 International truck – it is 13 years old and constantly requiring maintenance and repairs. It is out of warranty, and in fact broke down again leaking anti-freeze and is at Reeds. The body and running gears are in rough shape, hydraulic lines are steel where new lines are stainless steel. Reeds provided an estimate for the 10-wheeler and a 6-wheeler for the Selectboard to consider. Straight said he recommended the 10-wheeler, but the 6-wheeler would also work. Dobbins-Marsh suggested making this a two-year non-lapsing article.

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to amend this warrant article to request a 6-wheel truck at a total cost of \$193,000. This will be a non-lapsing article to expire on December 31, 2022 or until the truck is purchased, whichever is earliest. Motion Passed.

WA#8 – High Bridge road bridge

Adams said after consideration of comments made and received for the public hearing, this article will be too confusing to the voters. It is unclear the impact making this a pedestrian bridge will have on the status of the High Bridge road, and it might be a better option to remove the vote at this annual meeting and instead hold a public hearing sometime after the 2021 Town

meeting to discuss the options. This will also give the Selectboard time to gather information for all options.

Motion made by Kidder, seconded by Adams to remove the High Bridge reconstruction project as a warrant article for the 2021 Town Meeting. Motion Passed.

WA#9 – Replacement of the Archertown Road bridge over Jacobs Brook

In an effort to reduce the use of funds from the Road Improvement CRF, the Selectboard discussed splitting the Town's funding between the Road Improvement CRF and the Unassigned Fund Balance

Motion made by Kidder, seconded by Adams to amend the article to read "Of the appropriation, up to nine hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$960,000) will come from NHDOT State Bridge Aid, one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) will come from the existing Road Improvement Capital Reserve fund, and one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) will come from the unassigned Fund Balance". Motion Passed.

WA#10,11,12,13,14 – No changes

Planning for the Annual Meeting

The NH Secretary of State has published options for the 2021 annual town meetings. Option HB1129 outlines several steps the board must take prior to the vote. It involves holding two virtual meetings – on to inform the voters about the proposed optional meeting procedures and the second to discuss the warrant articles and finalize the warrant content. HB1129 outlines the steps required to be taken prior to these meetings. After the warrant articles are discussed, comments from registered voters are taken, with no discussion at that time. Voting on the warrant articles would be done in secret ballot via a drive thru process. However, the first question on the ballot is for the voters to approve this format. If that article passes, then all subsequent articles are deemed as disapproved. If the operating budget fails, the Town is allowed to revert to the 2020 budget until a new budget passes.

Harry Pease will call into the 01/27/21 Selectboard meeting to discuss the process, and hopefully will have additional information to share.

Non-Public Session

A motion was made by Kidder, seconded by Adams to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(a) for personnel matters at 6:00 pm. A roll call vote of member's present was taken with a decision in the affirmative.

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 6:23 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 Kidder adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh