

# TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes – Work Session  
June 30, 2021

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Todd Haywood

## Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

**Abatements** – Todd Haywood called into the meeting to discuss the abatements presented to the Selectboard for properties owned by Andrew Schwaegler and Sarah Schwaegler.

Haywood recommended the approval of the abatement for Andrew Schwaegler, map & Lot #007-034-03C. Originally the room above his garage was rated as complete and was actually only partially done. *Motion made by Kidder, seconded by Kling to accept the abatement recommendation*

Haywood recommended the denial of the abatement for Sarah Schwaegler, map & lot #007-034-03B. The Selectboard wanted more detail for the reason behind the denial. Haywood said he reviewed the method used by Steve Allen, Orford's previous assessor to determine the new assessed land value. The method Allen used is not the method Haywood would use, but is still valid. Water front property is rated based on the lot size and the # of feet of water frontage. The Selectboard is concerned about why this property increased in assessed value significantly when other lots did not. Haywood said assessors need to consider the entire land value of the property owners, and neighboring properties are much smaller in size than the Schwaeglers. The Selectboard asked Haywood to take a deeper look into the method used by Allen and report his finding back to the Selectboard before the July 14, 2021 board meeting.

Concern was expressed about the deadline for the Selectboard to act on this abatement – Haywood said no action taken as of 7/1/2021 equates a denial, however, the Selectboard can decide to grant the abatement up to September 1, 2021. *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to postpone a decision on this abatement until additional information of lake front property assessments, provided by Haywood, can be reviewed. Motion passed 2/1 (Adams-yes, Kidder-yes, Kling-no)*

## Other

- **Agreement between Fairlee and Orford for use of the Fairlee Cruiser** – The Town of Fairlee is lending their cruiser to the Town of Orford. The contract from the lender lists requirements from the Town of Fairlee for the Town of Orford. The only expense to the Town of Orford is for mileage reimbursement to Fairlee. *Motion made by Kling, seconded by Kidder to accept the contact between Fairlee, VT. And Orford, NH for the use of Fairlee's cruiser. Motion passed 3/0 Adams signed the contact as the chair.*
- **Appointment Letters to the Road Commission members** – the appointment letters for the five (5) Road Commission members were signed. Dobbins-Marsh will mail out tomorrow.

- **Dead River Diesel Fuel Contract for 6/29/21 – 5/31/22** – Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kidder to accept the Dead River contract for diesel fuel at a fixed rate of 2.6534 per gallon for the term of 06/29/21 – 05/31/22. Motion Passed 3/0
- **Property encroaching onto the Community Field** – Kling was notified of a fence that was erected and is encroaching on the Community Field by an abutting property owner. This property is currently for sale, and Kling said the fence should be removed before new owners take possession. The Selectboard agreed for Kling to contact the realtor and the sellers to discuss the situation and request the fence be removed.
- **Possible Sub-Division of property on Archertown Road** – Kling mentioned to Kidder (Planning Board Liaison) about a property on Archertown Road that's being cleared for a potential sub-division. Just wanted to give him a heads up.
- **Grimes Hill Road culvert** – Kling reported that he left a message with the NH DES as a follow up regarding the Grimes Hill Road culvert
- **Trees on Common** – Kling reported on the trees on the common that need to be removed. Lawrence Hibbard is willing to cut the trees that are in the NH right of way. Kling reminded them to first see the section leader of the NH DOT at the state highway garage for permission to remove. Bill Wilson can push trees to the side of the road, and have a logger remove. Adams said if the trees are within the State's right of way, they state should take care of the removal. If the Town of Orford does the work, who pays? P&P does have some funds in their budget to remove trees, and Kling felt the expense will most likely only be for the use of a log truck to remove the trees after they've been cut down. Parks & Playgrounds are primarily concerned with the safety issue. The Selectboard agreed for the Town to pay for the tree removal due to safety concerns, as long as the state approves the work.
- **Sand Pit Reclamation** – Kling met with Tom Thomson to walk the sand pit. Per previous correspondence with Mary Pinkham-Langer, it was suggested the Town apply for the Alteration of Terrain Permit, and to have Letters of Agreement with the abutters. The Highway department needs to make sure the pit is more than 50' from the abutters property line.
- **Public Hearing for Baker Brook bridge replacement** – Dobbins-Marsh said that NH DOT wants to hold a public hearing on the Baker Brook bridge in the Niles Room on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The NH DOT will publicize the meeting, and Dobbins-Marsh will post on the Orford Listserv and Website.

**Complaint/Concerns:** A suggestion was received to send a member or members of the Highway Department to the River Bend school for Grader Operator Training. Adams will discuss with the Road Agent and determine who and when this might occur.

### **Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh